



Indian economy a beacon of stability amid global volatility

THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

In his address to world leaders, business elites and economists gathered this week at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres stated: "Your focus this year is on 'Collaboration for the Intelligent Age', but let's face it. When many people look around the world, they don't see much collaboration. And, perhaps to their minds, not enough intelligence."

Despite progress on many fronts, many of our world's problems are getting worse, said the UN Chief. He added, "We face widening geopolitical divisions, rising inequalities and an assault on human rights... On every front, our systems of governance are often ill-equipped to deal with these challenges... but reforming institutions requires a reform in mindsets... and I am not convinced leaders get it."

Amid the global volatility and challenges, India appears a relatively safe haven offering stability, a collaborative environment, and continued economic growth. India has emerged



as the fastest-growing major economy in the world and is expected to be one of the top three global economic powers over the next 10-15 years, backed by its robust democracy and strong partnerships.

India's appeal as a destination for investments has grown stronger and more sustainable because of the current period of global unpredictability and volatility, and the record

amounts of money being raised by India-focused funds in recent years are evidence of investor faith in the 'Invest in India' narrative. A major attraction of India to investors is that the country is primarily a domestic demand-driven economy, with consumption and investments contributing to 70 percent of the economic activity.

With an improvement in the economic scenario and the Indian economy recovering

relatively quickly from the economic downturn brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, several investments and developments have been made across various sectors of the economy. Exports fared remarkably well during the pandemic and aided recovery when all other growth engines were losing steam in terms of their contribution to GDP.

Going forward, the contribution of merchandise exports may waver as several of India's trade partners witness an economic slowdown. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles Indian exports are expected to reach US\$ 1 trillion by 2030. During the period April-September 2024, India's exports stood at \$211.46 billion, with the three top export commodities being Engineering Goods accounting for 26.57 percent of exports, followed by Petroleum Products (16.51%) and electronic goods (7.39%).

Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices for the period Q1 2024-25 is estimated at \$524 billion against the \$491 billion during the same period in 2023-24.

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Highest priority on the welfare and well being of Indian Community

Message of India Ambassador Dr. Adarsh Swaika

On the joyous occasion of the 76th Republic Day of India, I extend my warm greetings to all Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin in the friendly State of Kuwait.

I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah for their patronage and support for a strong India-Kuwait partnership.

Today, as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our Republic Day, we feel proud of India's many achievements. Equitable development has been the corner-stone of socio-economic policies of India. Democracy, pluralism and unity in diversity are the traditional ethos of Indian society. India believes in its ancient philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family). This belief guides our foreign policy as well.

India today is a land of billion opportunities. Our collective resolve has ensured that the Indian economy is today the fifth largest economy in the world. And it is going to be the third largest global economy in the next couple of years. India is moving ahead with the spirit of 'Make in India, Make for the World'. The massive business

friendly reforms and policies have contributed in unleashing the true potential of the country.

The new India has made tremendous strides in science and technology; is one of the leading centers of innovation and Information Technology globally; is the 'Pharmacy of the World'; has world-class production and manufacturing capabilities; and is a leading global partner to address new age challenges facing humanity. Today, we are on the right track to build an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) with the goal of becoming a developed country by 2047.

In the international arena, India has been playing a significant role in contributing to world peace, stability and prosperity. India has championed many global initiatives with like-minded countries in recent years, including the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Global Biofuels Alliance etc to foster pro-planet action.

India has a multi-vector foreign policy that is designed to continuously strengthen its independence, freedom of choice and pursuit of national interest. India believes that dialogue and diplomacy is the only way to resolve disputes and conflicts.

In the region, India's relations with GCC countries have been growing rapidly with major economic, energy, diaspora, security and



political stakes. We are confident that India-GCC relations will be further strengthened under Kuwait's GCC Presidency.



The historic and successful visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to Kuwait in December 2024 has opened a new chapter in our bilateral relations with Kuwait. The conferment of the highest national award

of Kuwait 'The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer' on Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is a matter of pride for every Indian. The leadership of both countries attach utmost importance to relations with each other's country. This was evident from the exceptional gestures and hospitality accorded by the leadership of Kuwait to Hon'ble Prime Minister during his recent visit.


Our bilateral relations have been elevated to that of a 'Strategic Partnership'. This is expected to be reflected in various domains of cooperation. We look forward to greater engagement with Kuwait, both at Government and people-to-people level, in the coming times. The large Indian community in Kuwait remains a living and vital bridge of our bilateral relations.

The Embassy places highest priority on the welfare and well-being of the Indian Community in Kuwait. I thank all the community associations, professional bodies, cultural groups and members of the Indian community for joining hands with the Embassy, where required, for the welfare of the community in Kuwait and for contributing to the strengthening of our relations with Kuwait.


Once again, on this special and proud occasion of the 76th Republic Day of India, I convey my best wishes to every Indian in Kuwait and all friends of India in Kuwait for their continued success, happiness and good-health.


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Indian economy a beacon of...

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Rising employment and increasing private consumption, supported by rising consumer sentiment, is expected to support GDP growth in the coming periods. Strong domestic demand for consumption and investment, along with Government's continued emphasis on capital expenditure are seen as among the key drivers of the GDP.

Future capital spending of the government in the economy is expected to be supported by factors such as tax buoyancy, the streamlined tax system with low rates, a thorough assessment and rationalisation of the tariff structure, and the digitization of tax filing. In the medium run, increased capital spending on infrastructure and asset-building projects is set to increase growth multipliers. The contact-based services sector has demonstrated promise to boost growth, with the sector's success being captured by a number of High-Frequency Indicators that are performing well, indicating the beginnings of a comeback.

There are 113 unicorn startups in India, with a combined valuation of over \$350 billion. Several new startups are poised to list on stock exchanges in this fiscal year, with the fintech sector likely to generate the largest number of future unicorns in the country; currently India has the third-largest unicorn base in the world. Moreover, with India ranked 3rd in the renewable energy country attractive index, the government is focusing on renewable sources by achieving 40 percent of its energy from non-fossil sources by 2030, and achieving the country's ambitious target of net zero emissions by 2070.

However, India's growth story is not without its challenges. According to the McKinsey Global Institute, India needs to boost its rate of employment growth and create 90 million non-farm jobs between 2023 to 2030 in order to increase productivity and economic growth. The net employment rate needs to grow by 1.5 percent per annum from 2023 to 2030 to achieve 8 to 8.5 percent GDP growth between the same time periods. Meanwhile, India's current account deficit (CAD) narrowed to 0.7 percent of GDP in FY24. The CAD stood at \$9.7 billion for the Q1 2024-25 from \$8.9 billion in Q1 2023-24 or 1.1 percent of GDP. This was largely due to a decrease in

merchandise trade deficit.

The World Bank has also suggested that India should continue to prioritise lowering inequality while also putting growth-oriented policies into place to boost the economy. In view of this, several new initiatives were launched in the recent past that have resulted in positive developments, such as:

- As of October 11, 2024, India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$690.43 billion.
- In 1H 2024, India saw a total of \$31.5 billion in Private Equity-Venture Capital (PE-VC) investments.
- India secured 39th position out of 133 economies in the 2024 Global Innovation Index, rising from the 81st position in 2015.
- India ranks in 3rd position in the global number of scientific publications.
- In September 2024, the gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) marked its highest monthly revenue collection at \$20.83 billion.
- In August 2024, the overall Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 145.6, with the indices of Industrial Production for the mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors standing at 125.1, 147.1 and 219.3, respectively.
- India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation reached 5.49 percent (Provisional) for September 2024.
- Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) inflows between April-July (2023-24) were close to \$9.67 billion, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DII) sold around \$540 million in the same period.
- Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) invested \$13.89 billion during the first-half of 2024.

Over the years, the Indian government has introduced many initiatives as well as developed various effective policies and programs that have led to strengthening growth of the national economy, and improving financial stability benefiting citizens. Additionally, a number of the government's flagship programs, including Make in India, Start-up India, Digital India, the Smart City Mission, and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, have created immense opportunities in India, leading to India's rapid economic growth over the past decade and supporting the country's development going into the future.

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India's government is actively promoting the transition to a circular economy through various policies. Notable initiatives include the Plastic Waste Management Rules, e-Waste Management Rules, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, and the Metals Recycling Policy.

India is increasingly adopting circular economy principles, positioning itself as a key player globally. Adopting circular practices could save up to 11 percent of its GDP by 2030 and 30 percent by 2050. Adoption of a circular economy will also strengthen India's journey towards Viksit Bharat, and to achieve net zero goal by 2070.

India's focus on sustainability is evident, with its efforts to minimize environmental impact, create green jobs, and boost innovation. This transition promotes resource efficiency, waste reduction, and recycling, helping conserve resources, reduce carbon footprints, and foster economic growth through sustainable practices.

While globalization has connected economies and cultures, it has also led to significant environmental challenges. Increased consumption, production, and industrialization have resulted in resource depletion, rising greenhouse gas emissions, and climate risks. Circular economy principles, by contrast, promote sustainability by shifting from a linear model of 'take, make, dispose' to a regenerative approach that prioritizes the restoration and reuse of resources.

Annually, more than 100 billion tons of resources enter the global economy, yet only 8.6 percent is recycled. The 2021 Circularity Gap Report, published annually by Circle Economy Foundation, the Netherlands-based impact organization, noted that the global economy is only 8.6 percent circular, with a target to reach 17 percent by 2030, focusing on high-potential sectors. Achieving this goal involves fostering product designs that are durable, repairable, and recyclable, enabling a shift toward sustainability.

The circular economy is beneficial for supply chain resilience. By reducing reliance on scarce resources, businesses can shield themselves from global supply chain volatility. The recovery and reuse of materials reduce dependence on new raw materials, lowering price volatility and ensuring resources remain in use for longer periods. This approach decouples economic growth from resource consumption, making it

crucial for long-term sustainability.

India's government is actively promoting the transition to a circular economy through various policies. Notable initiatives include the Plastic Waste Management Rules, e-Waste Management Rules, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, and the Metals Recycling Policy. To expedite the shift, the government has formed 11 committees led by ministries and including experts to create action plans for transitioning to a circular economy in key sectors. These areas include



products and materials that present challenges, such as e-waste and construction materials, which require coordinated action.

NITI Aayog, India's apex think tank, has been pivotal in advancing circular economy initiatives. It has collaborated with the European Union delegation on resource efficiency, focusing on sectors like steel, construction, and e-waste. Progress has been made in using industrial byproducts like fly ash and slag in other sectors.

Additionally, NITI Aayog has worked on creating a perspective on recycling industries, identifying challenges in utilizing waste as a

resource.

India is also a member of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE), an international coalition promoting circularity and sustainable resource management. Launched in 2021, GACERE supports the transition to a global circular economy by encouraging governments to collaborate on sustainable solutions.

For Indian small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), transitioning to a circular economy offers significant opportunities

circular economy practices. These standards support interoperability, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and market access, promoting global circularity and consumer confidence.

The circular economy also presents significant economic potential. According to UNCTAD, it could create more than 7 million jobs and generate up to USD 4.5 trillion in global growth by 2030. For India, adopting circular practices could save up to 11 percent of its GDP by 2030 and 30 percent by 2050. Greenhouse gas emissions could also be cut by 44 percent. Currently, China is the world's largest emitter of CO2, contributing around 28 percent of global emissions. The United States is the second-largest emitter of CO2 globally. India is the third-largest emitter of CO2 in the world, but its emissions per capita are relatively low compared to developed countries.

India, as one of the largest economies and most populous countries in the world, plays a critical role in global efforts to combat climate change, the country has made significant progress and is committed to a low-carbon future. At this juncture, the circular economy practices are crucial to India's goal of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070.

By shifting away from resource-intensive practices, businesses can contribute to reducing emissions while fostering economic growth. Circular engineering can offer MSMEs a competitive edge in the global market, driving sustainability and innovation. For MSMEs, circular models offer a chance to reduce costs, improve efficiency, and build brand loyalty among environmentally conscious consumers.

In conclusion, the circular economy represents a paradigm shift that addresses the pressing environmental and economic challenges. By moving away from the traditional linear model, businesses, governments, and consumers can create a sustainable, resource-efficient, and economically viable future. As globalization and circularity converge, the principles of circular economy offer a way to balance economic growth with environmental responsibility, paving the way for a more equitable and sustainable world.





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India's Growth Story

Democracy, Development, Demand and Decisiveness



By Ashok Sajjanhar, Ambassador (Rtrd.)
 A diplomat in the Indian Foreign Service for over three decades, he has served as India's Ambassador to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia, and has worked in diplomatic positions in, among others, Washington DC, Brussels, Dhaka and Bangkok

India's multi-faceted progress and growth, particularly over the last decade, has been truly remarkable, placing the nation in a highly promising position to achieve its aspirational goal of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047 when it celebrates the centenary of its independence.

Democracy, which has been India's undeniable strength and leitmotif since independence, has stood it in great stead to achieve a peaceful, stable, secure and better life for its people. The last decade has also witnessed impressive growth in India's economic expansion and rise. In 2014, India was the tenth largest economy in the world. Today it has climbed five places to become the world's fifth largest economy. In another two years it is expected to move up to the third place by displacing Germany and Japan from their positions.

India is today the fastest growing major economy in the world, its GDP having risen by 8.2 percent and 6.4 percent in Financial Years 2022 and 2023 respectively. The projected figure for FY 2024 is 6.6 percent. It is expected to grow at impressive rates in the coming years and become a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2030. The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund has stated that India is the ray of hope in an otherwise gloomy global economic environment.

Nearly 70 percent of India's GDP is driven by domestic demand and private consumption. Its GDP is additionally fueled by government spending, investments and exports. This has been achieved through various structural reforms like the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. The GST streamlined the indirect tax system, fostering business ease and tax compliance.

Additionally, emphasis on digitalization (including the Digital Public Infrastructure) and innovation led to the rise of startups and expanded the digital economy, with initiatives like Digital India enhancing technology access. Initiatives such as Make in India and Product Linked Incentive Scheme have been pivotal in driving growth. Furthermore, the focus on renewable energy underscores India's commitment to sustainable development.

India enjoys a huge demographic dividend supporting its economic rise. About 65 percent of its population is below the age of 35 years with just about 5 percent being above 65 years. The median age is around 28 years which is much lower than the median age of other major economies like the



United States and China. While the whole world is aging and graying, India looks forward to its young population adding to its consumption and production and spurring its economic growth to new heights.

India is home to more than 600 million people aged between 18 and 35 years. India's demographic dividend is expected to persist at least until 2055-56 and will peak around 2041, when the share of the working-age population (20-59 years) is expected to hit 59 percent. It is an opportunity which India is fully determined to harness.

India's ambitions to become a global manufacturing hub and a technology leader are closely linked to the upskilling of its workers. Progress is already underway, as nearly 10 million youth are benefitting from the Skill India program annually. Getting more women to enter the workforce is pivotal for India's future growth. India is working assiduously to achieve this objective.

In the arena of foreign relations, India has pursued a bold, proactive and confident policy. In its ties with the United States, it has "overcome the hesitations of history" and is fostering a 'Partnership of Trust'. The US is India's largest trading partner in goods and services, and the second largest supplier of sophisticated defence equipment.

India and the US engage in around 60 substantive Dialogue Mechanisms spanning all conceivable areas of human endeavor including technology, cyber-security, energy, health, education, security etc. At the same time, India has maintained its time-tested and substantial ties with Russia by importing significant quantities of Russian oil, and not directly criticizing or condemning it for its attack against Ukraine.

India has stood steadfast against the aggressive and expansionist policies of China. It has followed a policy of 'Neighborhood First' and displayed strategic patience, and extended non-reciprocal, generous support to its neighboring countries in times of need and for their economic development. Its Outreach to the Global South, particularly by supplying more than 300 million COVID-19 vaccines, most of them gratis, to above 100 countries, has exemplified its role as a "VishwaBandhu" (Friend to the World).

India's robust economic growth and assertive pursuit of its interests and foreign policy over the last decade has enhanced its global prestige and imbued its people with hope and confidence in attaining its goal of becoming a peaceful, prosperous and developed country by the time it marks hundred years of its independence in 1947.



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Democratization of Technology

Leveraging Technology for Development



By Debnath Shaw, Ambassador (Retd.)

A retired Indian Foreign Service officer and former High Commissioner to Tanzania and Ambassador to Azerbaijan, he has served in Indian Missions in Hong Kong, Beijing, Bonn, and Dhaka.

Technology is an important factor for global development, and development is a core issue for the Global South, many of whose members are being left behind in achieving their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The key factors behind this unequal state of affairs are technology, finance and information.

American political commentator and author, Thomas Friedman, in his book, *The World is Flat* has argued that the era of globalization has been characterized by democratization of technology,



finance and information. However, with the pace of globalization slowing down, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic, democratization of technology too has taken a hit.

Democratization of technology refers to the process by which access to technology progressively becomes more easily available

to more people at reasonable cost. Historically, the printing press is the earliest recorded instance of technology opening new frontiers of knowledge dissemination, leading to empowerment of a greater number of people. Since the mid-1990s, the internet has been the prime vehicle of universal democratization of knowledge and information.

The effects of democratization of technology have been dramatic, more so with digitization. New technologies and improved user experiences have empowered those outside of the technology industry to access and use technological products and services. In India, think - UPI, mobile banking WhatsApp, X, etc. - tools being used regularly by the country's 900 million mobile phones users, mostly connected to the internet, including a vast user base in rural areas. The 'open source' model allows users to participate directly in development of software. Upgrades in communication technology have made the globe more interconnected than ever.

Democratization of technology has helped 'the last person in the queue' to access public services with ease and reduced corruption, get timely access to relief when hit by natural disasters, and useful and reliable information allowing meaningful participation in the democratic process. It has made markets more broad-based and diversified, and consumers are able to use complex technological products without the guidance of qualified professionals. Such job categories have taken a hit, a situation whose downward spiral is being perpetrated by developments in artificial intelligence and machine learning technology.

However, we should not lose sight of the challenges faced by democratization of technology, which is hampered by the slow pace of digitization and infrastructure gaps, particularly in developing countries. Gender and social inequities restricting access to and use of technology, and the data divide, too needs to be addressed. Cyber security and data privacy concerns are felt at all levels. What is comforting is that both governments and technology-driven companies are addressing these concerns, while moving ahead with their programmes to harness technology for the benefit of the masses.

In India, the democratization of technology is manifested in some remarkable programs that have changed the lives of millions. The prime example is the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), part of the 'India Stack', which operates digital identification, payments and data management. Another is the Common Service Centres (CSC), which are the access points for making government to citizen (G2C) e-services

within reach of citizens by creating nation-wide physical service delivery ICT infrastructure.

Similarly, the Namo Drone Didi initiative—a national government scheme that aims to empower women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by equipping them with drone technology to provide agricultural services—has many goals, including addressing gender inequality issues, empowerment and pride among women, modernization of agricultural practices, and substantial income to the rural women folk.

The 200,000 Aayushman Aarogya Mandirs in India's villages directly connect health centres with the best hospitals and modern technology, bringing professional medical expertise and services, largely concentrated in urban areas, to rural India. In the same vein, the India AI Mission or 'AI for All' is aimed at the democratization of the benefits of AI across all strata of society.

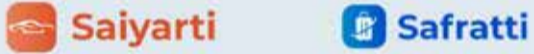
A key issue, particularly for the Global South, which has been pursued vigorously by India, is the growing gap between developed and developing countries in the access and endogenous production and development of climate technologies. This has been a key constraint on collective progress in global efforts to achieve sustainable development and effective climate action under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

Developing countries view technology transfer and capacity building as the key to reducing the technology and wealth gap. Both climate mitigation and adaptation require huge funding transfers from developed countries as per past commitments. Unfortunately, even at COP29 in Baku last year, the level of funding pledged was nowhere near the level required to achieve set goals. There have been repeated

“ The 200,000 Aayushman Aarogya Mandirs in India's villages directly connect health centres with the best hospitals and modern technology, bringing professional medical expertise and services, largely concentrated in urban areas, to rural India. In the same vein, the India AI Mission or 'AI for All' is aimed at the democratization of the benefits of AI across all strata of society. ”


calls for enhanced international cooperation arrangements, through reform of existing WTO mandated trade rules, to permit developing countries to protect emerging green industries through tariffs, subsidies and public procurement.

The ray of hope in the horizon is that industries driven by frontier technologies like blockchain, drones, gene editing, nanotechnology, electric vehicles, solar and wind energy and green hydrogen could create a market of over \$ 9.5 billion by 2030 (UNCTAD estimate). Some developing and emerging economies like India have made important policy changes to seize some of the opportunities in these sectors. It is hoped that with increasing democratization of technology and effective partnership between developed and developing countries, mankind's development goals will be reached sooner than later.



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A Dawn for the Global South



By Asoke Mukerji
Ambassador (Retd.)
India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York between 2013-2015.

On 24 October 2025, the United Nations (UN) Charter will mark its 80th anniversary. When the Charter came into force, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) had 51 member states. Today, there are 193 member-states in the UNGA, of whom 134 have declared themselves to be developing countries under the banner of the Group of 77 (G-77). Most members of the G-77 are popularly referred to as the Global South.

The interests of the Global South have been brought into the mainstream activity of the UN between 1964, when the G-77 was founded, and 2015, when the UNGA adopted its historic Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs represent a holistic approach to ensuring an interlinked world, bringing together individual, social, economic, and environmental priorities, to be implemented in a nationally-driven effort through supportive flows of multilateral finance, transfers of technologies, and multiple stakeholder partnerships between governments, businesses, academia, and civil society.

The UN's Summit of the Future held in September 2024 sought "a recommitment to international cooperation based on respect for international law, without which we can neither manage the risks nor seize the opportunities that we face." This applies first and foremost to the development priorities of the Global South, which is the "central objective of multilateralism."

The anodyne Pact for the Future adopted by the UN's Summit of the Future in September 2024 did not contain any new commitments on how Agenda 2030 is to be implemented. The UN Summit on SDGs held in September 2023 had attributed the challenges to implementing Agenda 2030 primarily to a breakdown of international cooperation on peace, security, and development. The Pact's silence on a time-bound target for reforming the UN and the UN Security Council (UNSC) casts a shadow on the future of constructive and equitable international cooperation.

Aware of this ambivalence, India took the lead during its G-20 Presidency in 2023 to bring together countries of the Global South to support 'reformed multilateralism' and an effective UN system. India convened three virtual Voice of the Global South Summits (VOGSS) in January and November 2023, and in August 2024. The theme of the third VOGSS, in which 123 countries participated, was 'An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future'.

“ Having coordinated the VOGSS process, India is well placed to take the initiative during the 80th anniversary of the UN in 2025 to call for implementing the first stage of Article 109 of the UN Charter by convening a General Conference. ”

Global South countries felt that the outcome of the existing process in the UNGA launched in 2008 to reform the UNSC had been inordinately delayed. Common issues that emerged from this Summit, in addition to challenges in implementing the SDGs of Agenda 2030, included shared concerns regarding climate change, and the application of new technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, that impacted on developing countries. Chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a Global Development Compact.

The proposed Global Development Compact faces a stiff challenge from developed countries. Speaking in the UNGA on 7 October 2024, the United States asserted that the Pact for the Future and its annexes "do not create or otherwise change any rights or obligations under international law." It questioned the concept of "development as an inalienable human right". This contradicted the UNGA's Declaration on the Right to Development adopted in December 1986.

The 80th anniversary of the UN Charter provides an opportune moment for the Global South to integrate the issues prioritized by the VOGSS process, anchored in the right to development, into the UN Charter. As an international treaty, the Charter contains a specific review provision in Article 109 that needs to be implemented in a sequential three-stage process.

In the first stage, Article 109 provides for a 'General Conference' of the member-states of the UN to be convened for 'reviewing the present Charter'. The decision to convene the General Conference requires a two-third majority in the UNGA (129 out of 193 member-states) and 9 votes out of 15 in the UNSC (without the veto of the P5). In the second stage, Article 109 provides for



of the member-states of the UN to be convened for 'reviewing the present Charter'. The decision to convene the General Conference requires a two-third

majority in the UNGA (129 out of 193 member-states) and 9 votes out of 15 in the UNSC (without the veto of the P5). In the second stage, Article 109 provides for

the UN member-states participating in the General Conference to recommend any amendments to the UN Charter by a 'two-thirds vote of the conference'. In the third stage, any proposed amendments to the UN Charter would come into effect when ratified by two-thirds of the members of the UN, including the P5 of the UNSC.

Having coordinated the VOGSS process, India is well placed to take the initiative during the 80th anniversary of the UN in 2025 to call for implementing the first stage of Article 109 of the UN Charter by convening a General Conference. A constructive discussion within the framework of such a meeting, held on equal terms between the Global South and other UN member-states, will ensure that the dawn of the Global South can catalyze a revived and reformed United Nations in the 21st century.

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Indian Kari (aka Curry) RECIPES TO RELISH

The great Indian curry, originally 'kari', the word for sauce or gravy found first mentioned in the Dravidian languages of South India is believed to have originated sometime, somewhere in ancient southern India. Over the centuries, 'kari' has traveled beyond the borders of India, through trade, colonization, migration and globalization to reach the farthest corners of the world. In this process of spreading from its original home, the Kari has evolved through the ingenuity of cooks and the creativity of chefs in order to placate the palates of local curry lovers around the world. A versatile and ultimate crowd-pleaser, the humble 'kari' now occupies pride of place even at state banquets.. As India marks the 75th anniversary of Republic Day, we share the recipes for some of the most popular curries out there.

Mughlai Karahi Gosht

Ingredients:

- 1 kg leg of lamb on the bone, cut to bite-sized pieces
- 5 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
- 3.5cm piece ginger, roughly chopped
- 4 tbsp vegetable oil
- 500g tomato, thinly sliced
- 200g onions, thinly sliced

- 1 heaped tsp kashmiri chili powder (or mild paprika)
- Salt to taste
- 2 tbsp Greek yogurt
- 2 tsp coriander powder
- Pinch of turmeric powder
- 1 tsp cumin seeds, coarsely crushed
- 1/2 tsp black pepper, coarsely crushed
- Pinch of garam masala powder
- 2 green chilies, slit lengthwise (optional)

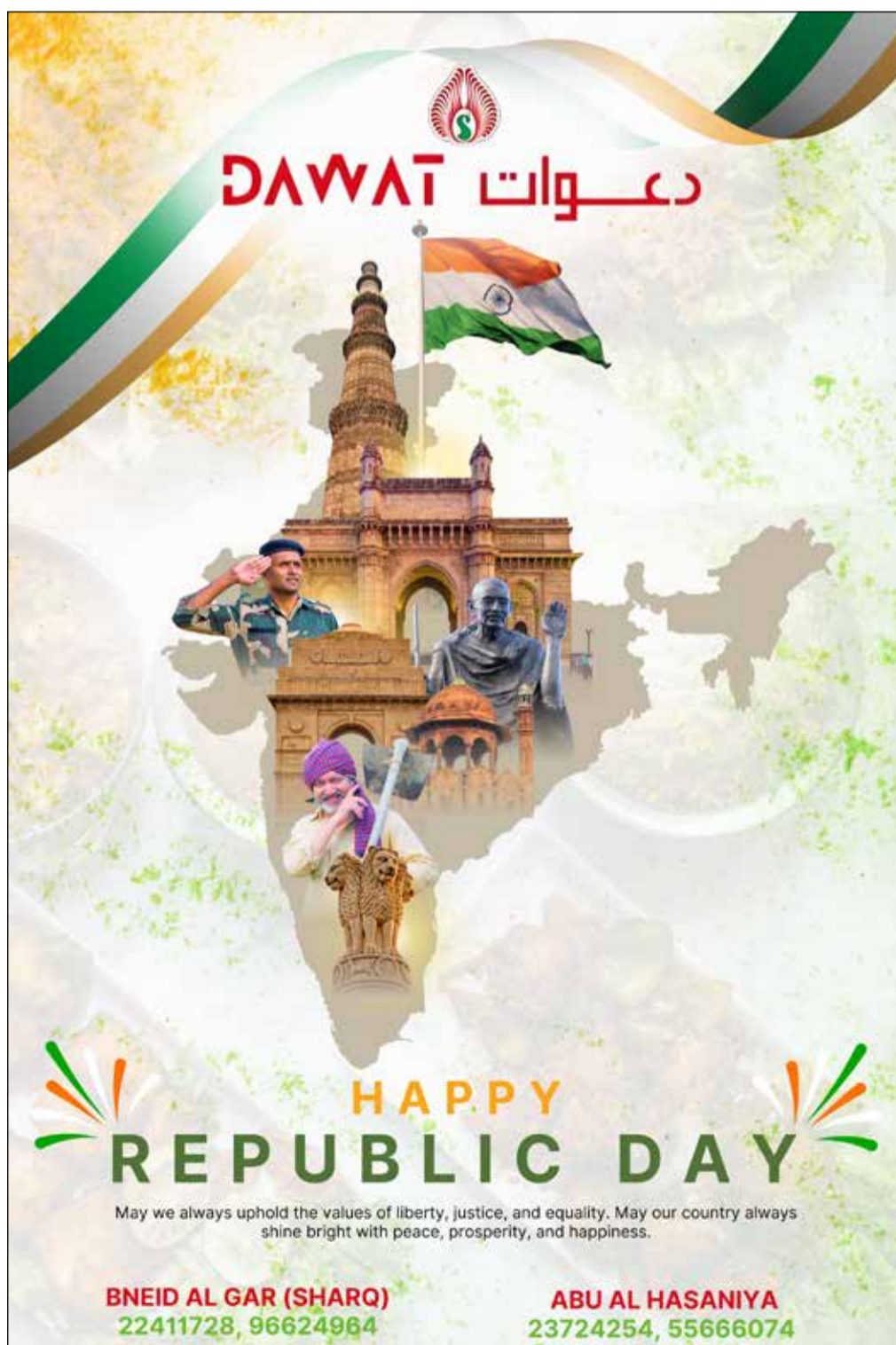
- 1 tbsp chopped coriander leaves
- 1 tbsp chopped mint leaves and ginger slivers for garnish

Instructions:

- Place the lamb in a mixing bowl. Crush the garlic and ginger to a coarse paste and add to the lamb. Stir well and set aside for an hour or overnight if you have the time.
- In a large heavy-bottomed saucepan or 'kadhai', heat the oil on a medium heat.
- Add the marinated lamb chunks and fry for 5-6 minutes stirring well to seal. Add the sliced tomatoes and cook for a further 8 minutes. The tomatoes will begin to break down and soften. Add the onions and chili powder and stir well
- Cook for a further 3 minutes. Season to taste.
- Now lower the heat and simmer with the lid on for 30 minutes stirring half way through the cooking process. Add the Greek yogurt to a small bowl and mix in the ground spices: coriander, turmeric, cumin and black pepper.



- Add this to the karahi gosht and stir well, making sure the yogurt does not split. Continue simmering on a low heat and with the lid half over the pan, cook the lamb for 45-50 minutes, stirring half way through cooking, making sure it does not stick to the bottom of the pan.
- Turn the heat off and while it is still warm add the garam masala, slit chilies if using, coriander, mint and ginger slivers.



Goan prawn curry



Ingredients

- 400g raw king prawns, deveined, with tails on
- 1/2 tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tbsp Goan vinegar or malt vinegar
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 90g onion, finely chopped
- 80g tomato, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, pounded to a paste
- 2.5cm piece of fresh root ginger, pounded to a paste
- 400ml coconut milk
- 80 ml water
- 1 tbsp tamarind paste
- 3 green chilies, slit lengthwise
- Pinch of sugar
- Salt to taste
- 1 tbsp chopped coriander leaves, to garnish
- For the powdered spices
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 15-18 black peppercorns
- 1 tbsp coriander seeds

Instructions:

- In a bowl add the prawns and sprinkle over the turmeric powder, vinegar and salt. Mix and set aside for 15-20 minutes while you get the curry ready. In a coffee grinder tip in the cumin seeds, peppercorns and coriander seeds.
- Blitz to a fine powder and set aside. Heat the oil in a heavy-based saucepan over a medium heat and add the onions and fry for 5-7 minutes until they start to change colour to a light brown.
- Add the chopped tomato and fry for 5 minutes. As they begin to soften add the garlic and ginger paste and fry for a further minute. Now add the powdered spices and mix it all together.
- Fry for 2 minutes and add the marinated prawns. Stir, coating them in the spiced sauce for a further 20-30 seconds, then add the coconut milk, water and tamarind paste. Cover and simmer gently for no more than 4-5 minutes until the prawns turn pink. Add the green chilies and sugar. Garnish with coriander leaves and check seasoning. Serve with lime and coriander rice.

Butter chicken

Ingredients

For the chicken

- 2.5cm piece ginger, peeled
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled
- 1 green chilli, destalked
- 2 tbsp thick natural yogurt or Greek yogurt
- 2 tsp chickpea flour (gram flour)
- 1 tsp mild paprika
- 1/2 tsp chilli powder (or a little more if you like it spicy)
- 1/2 tsp garam masala powder
- 1 tsp coriander powder
- Pinch cinnamon powder
- Pinch saffron, crushed
- Salt to taste



- 450g skinless boneless chicken thighs, cut into bite-sized pieces
- Melted butter for basting
- 1 tsp chaat masala
- Juice of 1/2 a lemon
- Salad and chutney to serve

For the sauce

- 11/2 tsp unsalted butter
- 6 green cardamom pods, lightly crushed
- 2.5cm piece cinnamon
- 4 cloves
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 heaped tbsp grated ginger (made from an 8 cm piece of fresh ginger)

- 2 green chillies, slit lengthwise
- 1 tsp kashmiri chili powder (or mild paprika)
- 1/2 tsp garam masala powder
- 3 tbsp tomato puree
- 150ml double cream
- 2 tbsp honey
- 1 tsp dried Kasoori methi (dried fenugreek leaf)
- 50 ml water
- Salt to taste
- Chopped coriander for garnish

Instructions:

- Place the ginger, garlic and green chili in a wet grinder and blend to a smooth paste. Mix the yogurt with the gram flour in a bowl to get rid of any lumps, until you have a thick paste.
- Add the ginger, garlic and chilli paste, the paprika, chilli powder, garam masala and coriander powder to the yogurt mix. Add the ground cinnamon, saffron and salt, stir well and tip in the chicken pieces and mix well, making sure to coat them in the thick marinade.
- Leave to marinate for a few hours or even overnight if you prefer. Soak wooden skewers in water. Preheat the grill to medium. Shake off the excess marinade and thread the chicken pieces onto the skewers and place them on a wire rack. Cook under the grill for 15-20 minutes.
- Turn the skewers every 5 minutes and baste with melted butter until the chicken juices run clear and the pieces are cooked through and slightly charred around the edges.
- To prepare the sauce, place a deep saucepan over a low heat and add the butter. When hot, add cardamom pods, cinnamon and cloves.
- Fry for 20 seconds, then add the onions and sauté for 5-7 minutes over a medium heat until they take on a light brown color. Add the grated ginger and the chillies.
- Fry for a further minute, add the chilli powder and garam masala, stir for 20 seconds and add the tomato puree. Mix well and cook for a couple of minutes.
- Now gradually add the double cream, stirring continuously to mix it with all the spices. Simmer and cook for 2 minutes. Stir in the honey and the fenugreek. Season to taste.
- Add water and the cooked chicken pieces and simmer the curry on a low heat for 6-8 minutes. Garnish with coriander and serve with naan bread.

Hirwa Fish Kalwan



Ingredients

- 800g firm white fish steaks with the centre bone intact (cod would be ideal)
- 1/2 tsp turmeric powder
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil
- 10 curry leaves, plus 5, roughly torn, to garnish
- 400ml coconut milk
- 2 tsp tamarind paste
- 1 red chili, halved lengthwise
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp chopped coriander, to garnish
- For the green paste
- 50g (13/4oz) coriander leaves
- 50g (13/4oz) coriander stalks
- 5 cloves garlic 2.5cm (1in) piece root ginger
- 1 green birds-eye chilli
- 2 spring onions, roughly chopped

Instructions:

- Place the fish steaks on a plate and sprinkle over a pinch of salt and the turmeric powder. Rub this into the fish well and set aside while you

make the paste.

- Mix all the ingredients for the paste in a mini food processor and add 50ml (2fl oz) water to form a smooth paste. Heat the oil in a saucepan and add the 10 whole curry leaves.
- When they begin to splutter add the paste and fry on a low flame for three to four minutes. Stir well and pour in the coconut milk, tamarind paste and 150ml water. Stir again and simmer for 5 minutes. Season to taste and add the sugar.
- Add the fish steaks and, with the heat still on a low heat, cook the fish with the lid on for 3 to 4 minutes until just done. Halfway through the cooking process just lift the pan and swirl it gently to mix - do not stir.
- Garnish with chopped coriander and remaining curry leaves. Turn the heat off and leave the curry to rest for 15 to 20 minutes. Serve warm with steamed rice.

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Incredible India

where excitement awaits every turn



One of the oldest civilisations in the world, India, with its rich heritage and myriad attractions present a mosaic of multicultural experiences where one can find something exciting, enticing, and interesting at every turn one makes. No wonder then that India is among the most popular tourist destinations in the world.

The seventh largest country in the world, the Indian Peninsula is largely insulated from the rest of mainland Asia by lofty mountain ranges to the north and by seas and oceans to its east, west and south. India's location and its vast expanse gives the country a unique geographical terrain that abounds in enthralling natural landscapes and a profusion of endemic flora and fauna.

Stretching from snow-covered Himalayan mountains in the north to tropical rainforests in the south, and from picturesque deserts in the west to rock-hewn spiritual abodes and lush mangroves in the east, India offers remarkable destinations that please even the most travel-jaded visitor.

As a visitor to this land of wonders, you are greeted by diverse nuances of cuisines, faiths, arts, crafts, music, nature, lands, tribes, history and adventure wherever you go. In India you can experience snow and rejuvenating cool air among the mountains in the north; ride a camel along the golden sands of the Thar Desert in the west; visit religious centers from antiquity in the east, or soak in the sun and enjoy the balmy weather at beach resort in the south.

If you are particularly daring and need a pounding of adrenalin, you could scale dizzying heights or plummet to the depths at any of the adventure sites; go along awe-inspiring, winding mountain trails, take a ride over roaring rivers or visit steep waterfalls, take an elephant ride or view majestic wildlife at close-quarters in the dense jungles of India.

India also offers a host of sites to retreat, recharge, and rejuvenate at the numerous yoga ashrams or modern spas and wellness centres, India's sun-kissed coastlines, peace-permeated hill stations and breezy riversides offer a host of nutritious food, spas, yoga, and detox therapies. Ayurveda, naturopathy, Vedanta and meditation techniques, retrieved and curated from the most ancient of sciences and arts, offer innumerable ways to keep both the mind and the body aligned, peaceful and in perfect health.

India is a mesmeric conflation of the old and the new. As the bustling old bazaars rub shoulders with swanky shopping malls, and majestic monuments accompany luxurious heritage hotels, the quintessential traveller can get the best of both worlds. A visit to India promises to be a once in a lifetime trip; below are just four aperiitif sites in the north, west, east and south of this amazingly gorgeous land.

and the 1913 Nobel Laureate in Literature, Rabindranath Tagore, as a "teardrop on the cheek of eternity", this breathtakingly ethereal marble monument is considered by many to be the most beautiful building constructed by man.

It is ranked among the seven wonders of the world and is a monument of pride for not just for the city of Agra, where it is located, but for the whole of India. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is featured in almost all literature about India and is one of the most enduring images of the country.

Although it is best known as a symbol of love, a grieving emperor's ode to his deceased queen, another legend sees the Taj Mahal as an embodiment of Shah Jahan's vision of kingship. The story goes that he sought to build something akin to heaven on earth, a spectacular, unbelievably beautiful monument that reinforced the power as well as the perceived divinity of the monarch as next only to the Almighty.


It is also widely believed that emperor Shah Jahan invited artisans from Italy and Persia to work on this marble monument, a fascinating aspect of which is that the structure looks identical from all four sides, except the one that faces River Yamuna. This side is said to have been especially embellished to serve as the main entrance for the emperor. Shah Jahan would approach the Taj Mahal from the river, aboard a barge, while the entrance used by tourists today served, at the time, as an entryway for soldiers and common people.

There are intricate inscriptions on all four entrances, while marble carvings and pietra dura mosaics adorn the walls. Lapis-lazuli, cornelian, mother of pearl, agate and emerald are some of the precious gems and stones that were once used in its design. It is said that work on its construction began in 1631. Legend has it that it took 20 years to complete this architectural marvel!

The edifice is also riddled with optical illusions and masterful architectural safeguards. As one first beholds the monument from the main gate, for instance, the Taj Mahal looks large and imposing, but as you move closer, it appears to shrink in size. Also, the minarets surrounding the edifice, while perfectly upright to the naked eye, have actually been constructed to lean away from it so that, should a disaster like an earthquake come about, they would fall away from and not on the mausoleum.

Taj Mahal: No trip to India would be complete without a visit to the Taj Mahal, the iconic mausoleum. built in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan. Described by erstwhile Indian national poet

Statue of Unity: It is massive, almost gigantic! That is the first reaction most people have as they speed down the winding road leading to the towering Statue of Unity (SoU). A long bridge connects the mainland to the Sadhu Bet Island,



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The taste that touches your heart



on which the statue stands. Silhouetted against the surrounding Vindhya and Satpura mountain ranges, the colossal statue almost seems to pierce the skyline.

The legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Home Minister, or the 'Iron Man, as he is known for his decisive actions, lives on in the form of this massive statue dominating the Narmada river basin. He towers over the landscape, as if, keeping an eye over the land he helped become independent. Standing at a height of 182 meters, the Statue of Unity is the tallest statue in the world towering over the second tallest statue in China by more than 55 meters. By comparison, the famed Statue of Liberty in the United States, once considered the tallest in the world, would be almost puny at just 46 meters in height.

Almost 100 times the height of a six foot person, the statue depicts Sardar Patel in a walking pose, clad in his characteristic simple attire. Visible from as far away as 8 km, the SoU was inaugurated on 31 October, 2018, by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commemorate the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.

The statue has been built on a star-shaped geometric base that covers the entire Sadhu Hill. It has a viewing gallery at 135 m, at the statue's chest level, that can be reached via two high-speed elevators. The gateway to the elevators is through an exhibition gallery, in which you can marvel at a model of the statue and an elaborate blueprint, among other exhibits. The elevators travel 150 m in half a minute and can carry 26 people at one time. From the viewing gallery, reinforced with steel grids, you can take in the breathtaking views of the surroundings and of the Sardar Sarovar reservoir at a distance.

Interestingly, it is not just the statue that throws light on Patel's life and achievements, but also a spectacular laser show, which talks in detail about the statesman's life. It traces the life of Patel and talks about why the statue has been erected in his honour. The show also outlines the leader's contribution to the nation. However, what really fascinates are the realistic projections that show Patel in different phases of his life.

Constructed by engineering giant Larsen and Toubro, SoU was built in a record time of 33 months. The SoU comprises two semi-joined, composite concrete cylindrical cores surrounded by a steel space frame to support the external cladding.

Deori Temple: Deori Temple, a jewel waiting to be discovered, lies about 60 km from the vibrant city of Ranchi, the capital of eastern Indian state of Jharkhand. Dedicated to an avatar of Hindu Goddess Kali, this temple is a timeless testament to history and spirituality that beckons travelers from all over the land. Dating back more than 1,000 years to the start of the second millennium this sacred sanctuary resonates with legends as captivating as its architectural grandeur.

Stepping into the Deori Temple transports you back in time to an era where divine intervention was intertwined with earthly marvels. Among the myriad legends surrounding its origins, is one about the local King of Tamar, who, guided by a dream of the goddess, unearthed the sacred temple of the goddess hidden within the verdant folds of the forest.



Legend has it that anyone attempting to alter the temple's structure would incur the wrath of the Goddess and hence the condition of the inner sanctum of the temple remains unblemished, its original form a timeless tribute to the reverence and awe it commands. All renovations and new constructions have been done around the original structure, which has hence become an untouched shrine within a larger temple.

Centuries ago, skilled artisans meticulously built the sacred temple using a technique that relied solely on interlocking stones without the use of any binding materials like cement. As you approach the temple, you will see the imposing sandstone walls rise majestically, adorned with intricate bas-reliefs that weave tales of mythology and spirituality.

Each detail on the temple walls and its surroundings, meticulously carved by master craftsmen, portrays a pantheon of deities. Such is the clarity that with every glance, you are transported into a world where the boundaries between the mortal and the divine blur, and the stories of gods and goddesses unfold in vivid hues before your eyes.

Munnar: A lush carpet of rolling green, interrupted by low rises of mountains of the gorgeous Western Ghats, Munnar, in Kerala, is dotted with huge emerald plantations and pristine waterfalls. No matter where you go in Munnar, a mixed scent of tea, coffee and cardamom will follow you everywhere. A bountiful natural treasure, Munnar leaves one rapt with its spectacular and awe-inspiring views. Such is the beauty of the myriad shades of green of the landscape that Munnar is often called the Kashmir of South India.

Nestled at the confluence of three gushing rivers- Muthirapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala-Munnar literally means three rivers. During the blooming season, every 12 years, the town of Munnar is transformed into an artist's canvas, when



the beautiful and vibrant Neelakurinji flower carpets the land in hues of purple and blue. It is truly a sight to behold as the town acquires a paradisiacal setting.

Replete with picturesque greenery, valleys and mountains along with a plethora of flora and fauna in its teeming national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, Munnar is an exhilarating and peaceful travel destination. It offers a respite from the chaos of daily life and all its stress with cloudy skies, constantly pleasant weather, delectable cuisine and hillocks and greenery.

Munnar is also home to the highest peak of South

India, Anamudi, at a height of 2,695 m. This peak has a number of trails that make it a must-visit for trekkers and backpackers. Given its tourist appeal, the state government has guaranteed that access to this hill town is easy— it is well-connected to Bengaluru, Kochi, Mysore and other larger cities, ensuring an influx of travellers all year round, including the rainy season, when the Munnar is its most vibrant and fragrant self. The region around Munnar was once the summer retreat of the erstwhile British Government and several maharajas of the Travancore Kingdom. It was once known as the High Range of Travancore.

HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

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Building Bridges Between India and Kuwait

IBPC Fostering Economic, Cultural, and Professional Ties

As India celebrates its 76th Republic Day, the Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC), Kuwait, takes immense pride in its role as a dynamic platform connecting the economic, cultural, and professional communities of India and Kuwait. Established in 2001 under the patronage of the Embassy of India, IBPC has remained steadfast in its commitment to strengthening the historic ties between the two nations.

The Council serves a premier platform fostering trade, cultural exchange, and professional growth between India and Kuwait. Under the aegis of the Embassy of India, IBPC organizes events, delegations, and initiatives aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and serving as a bridge between two nations united by shared values and aspirations.

With the invaluable support of the Embassy of India, IBPC has been instrumental in fostering trade and economic partnerships. The Council has hosted numerous impactful Indian delegations in Kuwait, including from Invest India, NASSCOM, Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), which promoted Indian innovation, products, and services in Kuwait. These initiatives have not only facilitated trade but also highlighted India's vast economic potential, creating opportunities for businesses in both nations.

India and Kuwait share a unique cultural connection, and IBPC has played an integral role in celebrating this heritage. Hosting luminaries such as Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and Dr. L. Subramaniam has allowed IBPC to showcase the



richness of India's artistic legacy, strengthening the shared appreciation of art and culture.

The Council's cultural endeavors reached new heights in December 2024 when IBPC had the honor of being part of the community hosting India's Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, during his historic visit to Kuwait. Furthermore, IBPC has proudly represented the Indian diaspora at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas events, including leading a 50-member delegation to the recent gathering in the Indian city of Bhubaneswar in Odisha.

IBPC's commitment to giving back is deeply rooted in its ethos. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization stepped up to support both Kuwait and India in their time of need. IBPC partnered with Kuwait-based charities to provide aid and relief to vulnerable communities while simultaneously raising funds to assist India in its battle against the pandemic. Our efforts included the procurement and supply of medical oxygen to India during the oxygen crisis, along with numerous other donations and forms of assistance to those affected.

Beyond the pandemic, IBPC continues to contribute through various charitable initiatives, embodying our commitment to community welfare. From supporting local charities to aiding those in need back home, IBPC remains a beacon of compassion and solidarity.

IBPC also recognizes that the future lies in the hands of our youth. To encourage and inspire the brilliant minds of tomorrow, the Council honors meritorious students from Indian schools in Kuwait each year. This initiative serves as a testament to the organization's belief in nurturing talent and celebrating the achievements of young individuals who represent the bright future of India.

IBPC also remains dedicated to fostering professional and business growth through networking opportunities, debates, seminars, and workshops. These events provide members with a platform for constructive interaction, thought leadership, and collaboration, further strengthening ties between India and Kuwait at the grassroots level.

As India celebrates its 76th Republic Day, IBPC renews its commitment to building bridges between India and Kuwait, guided by the values of inclusivity, collaboration, and mutual respect. The Council also looks forward to deepening the economic, cultural, and professional ties that unite the two nations.

This Republic Day, let us celebrate not only India's journey of independence and democracy but also the enduring friendship between India and Kuwait. Together, we can create a future of shared prosperity, growth, and harmony.



LONG LIVE
INDIA, KUWAIT RELATIONS



Indian Business and Professional Council, Kuwait
Under the Patronage of the Embassy of India, Kuwait
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**PROUDLY CELEBRATES
76TH REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA**

On this momentous occasion, we honor the spirit of democracy, unity, and progress that defines our great nation. Let us come together to celebrate India's remarkable journey and reaffirm our commitment to fostering economic and cultural ties between India and Kuwait.

**Wishing everyone a
Happy Republic Day!**

India, celebrating 76 Years as a proud democratic republic

As the tricolored flag unfurls on the ramparts of Red Fort in New Delhi on 26 January this year, heralding the 76th Republic Day of India, the 1.4 billion people of the nation look back with pride on the country's glorious past and look forward with hope to a promising future. While the achievements and development over the past three-quarters of a century are a matter of pride to every citizen, they are also fully aware of the multiple challenges that the country will need to overcome to realize its ambitious vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) by 2047, the centenary of India's independence in 1947.

The 26th of January this year is especially poignant as it marks the 75th anniversary of adoption of the Indian Constitution on this day in 1950. From this day, 76 years ago, the Indian Constitution became the governing document of the nation, replacing the erstwhile Government of India Act passed by the British Parliament in 1935. The promulgation of the Constitution also marked the country's transition from a dominion of the British Commonwealth of Nations to a sovereign democratic republic based on the concepts of socialism and secularism.

Two weeks after India became independent on 15 August 1947, the Constituent Assembly, the Provisional

Parliament of independent India formed a seven-member Constitution Drafting Committee, headed by legal luminary Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, to draft a constitution for the newly independent country. The drafting committee submitted a draft constitution to the Assembly, which was adopted on 26 November, 1949. Two months later on 26 January, the new Constitution of India came into force.

The Indian Constitution is the supreme legal document of India, and encompasses the framework that demarcates fundamental political code, structure, procedures, powers, and duties of government institutions and sets out fundamental rights, directive principles, and the duties of citizens. The document assures citizens of India justice, equality, and liberty, and endeavours to promote fraternity among all.

The theme for this year's Republic Day, 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas' ('Golden India: Heritage and Development'), aptly reflects the dual facets of India's identity—its rich cultural legacy and its continuous endeavors in development and progress.

As is customary, a grand parade along Kartavya Path (formerly Rajpath) in the national capital, New Delhi, will be the centerpiece of celebrations marking Republic Day this year. In



keeping with the 2025 Republic Day theme, the grand military parade will be followed by a vibrant cultural tableaux representing various states of India, showcasing the country's diverse cultural heritage, its unique traditions and achievements.

The parade will also highlight the significant strides that India has made in social and economic development over the past 76 years, as well as the latest advancements in technology and in defense capabilities. In particular, this year's tableaux is expected to display the significant advancements India has made in space technology, renewable energy, and digital innovation, underscoring the theme of development.

Republic Day also underscores the importance of education and the younger generation's role in nation-building. In addition to the participation of children and youth in the national parade on Republic Day, schools and colleges across the country conduct various patriotic programs and cultural performances to commemorate the day.

Every year, a head of state or government is invited as the chief guest for the celebrations. An earlier official announcement from the Indian External Affairs Ministry stated: "At the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, President of the Republic of Indonesia H.E. Prabowo Subianto will pay a State Visit to India

from 25-26 January 2025. President Prabowo will also be the Chief Guest for India's 76th Republic Day celebrations."

During the ceremony, the President of India will confer various prestigious awards such as the Padma Awards and the Bharat Ratna to honor the exceptional contributions of individuals in diverse fields.

Reflecting on 75 years as a republic allows the nation to remember its struggles, celebrate its victories, and cherish its milestones. The journey from a newly independent nation grappling with challenges of partition and poverty, to an emerging global power with significant contributions in fields like information technology, space research, and sustainable development, is nothing short of remarkable.

As India looks ahead, the aspirations of its 1.4 billion citizens are buoyed by relentless innovation and a deep-rooted respect for its ancient culture. The hope is for an India that blends tradition with modernity, ensuring inclusive growth and harmony among its diverse populace. India's 76th Republic Day is more than a commemoration of historical events—it is a celebration of the spirit that binds this nation. A spirit that embraces diversity, fosters unity, and looks forward to an even brighter future.

Happy
REPUBLIC DAY
PROUD TO BE AN INDIAN

Freedom In Mind, Faith In Our Hearts,
Memories In Our Souls.
Let's Salute The Nation On Republic Day!

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70
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\$7,700,000

\$1M 120

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SPEND ABOVE 10 KD AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN AMAZING PRIZES



| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p>1.590 KD</p> <p>Nescafe Coffee Classic 190 Gm</p> | <p>0.195 KD</p> <p>Potato (Egypt) / Kg</p> | <p>0.195 KD</p> <p>Onion (India) / Kg</p> | <p>0.790 KD</p> <p>Americana Light Tuna 3 X 160 Gm</p> | <p>1.690 KD</p> <p>Muneerah XL Basmati Rice 5 Kg</p> | <p>1.990 KD</p> <p>Sunlite Blended Oil 4 Ltr</p> |
| <p>13.990 KD</p> <p>Midea Microwave Oven 700w 20l-Mm7p012mz-Bk</p> | <p>1.790 KD</p> <p>Khair Al Tabla Sugar 7 Kg</p> | <p>3.190 KD</p> <p>Cashew Nut W320 (India) / Kg</p> | <p>0.390 KD</p> <p>Black Chickpeas / Kg</p> | <p>TRAVEL far, wide, deep</p> <p>19.990 KD 3 PCS SET 28" 24" 20"</p> <p>7.990 KD 28"</p> <p>6.990 KD 24"</p> <p>5.990 KD 20"</p> | |
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26 January
HAPPY
Republic Day

GRAND
INDIA UTSAV
بهجة الهند

Indian Vegetables

| | | |
|---|------------------------|----------|
| A | Tindly/Kg | KD 0.850 |
| B | Ladies Finger/Kg | KD 0.850 |
| C | Cluster Beans/Kg | KD 0.850 |
| D | Green chilly(India)/Kg | KD 0.595 |
| E | Ginger(India)/Kg | KD 0.545 |