

Translation of media coverage by Al Raya on 31st March 2021

He emphasized the improvement in working conditions and employment conditions as a result of reforms in laws and legislation ... Indian Ambassador to the country Deepak Mittal:

- We highly appreciate the significant and positive Qatari reforms to improve employment conditions
- Qatar Airways played a major role in repatriating stranded Indian workers
- India appreciates Qatar's role as a reliable partner in energy security
- Qatar Charity secured the needs of workers in the industrial zone at the beginning of the pandemic
- Promising prospects for cooperation as India moves towards a gas-based economy
- Significant Qatari investments in Bombay Electricity and India's largest educational platform
- Qatar has become a major global hub for major sporting events and tournaments
- Discussions for more Qatari investments in infrastructure in India
- Technical meetings to strengthen ties in security, defense, trade and energy
- Positive signs of prospects for developing joint cooperation under the auspices of the leaderships of the two countries
- Forming two working groups to enhance cooperation in the investment and energy sectors

Doha - Ibrahim Badawi :

His Excellency Mr. Deepak Mittal, Ambassador of the Republic of India to the State, praised the labor reforms that Qatar has taken to strengthen workers' rights, stressing that they have contributed to the interest and safety of workers .

In an interview with local newspapers yesterday, in response to a question by Al-Raya, about Qatar's promotion of workers' rights, His Excellency said: India is one of the major labor-exporting countries in various fields, and we highly appreciate the significant and positive reforms that Qatar has recently undertaken in order to improve workers' conditions, and we welcome Our comments were very positive in international forums, the last of which was the meeting of the International Labor Organization in Geneva last November .

He added: These reforms have benefited the interests and safety of these workers, and there are ongoing mechanisms for dialogue with Qatar to discuss workers' conditions, and these meetings take place regularly, the last of which was in December 2020. We also appreciate those reforms that were made in early March 2021 - referring to the minimum wage - and we look forward to implementing all these reforms, which we feel have contributed to improving working conditions, and we are working with the Qatari authorities on organizing awareness campaigns for workers .

His Excellency the Ambassador of India continued: I would also like to commend the role that Qatar Charity played during the Corona pandemic, when the industrial zone was closed, as it helped many workers secure their food and health needs. There was also great cooperation from Qatar Airways in returning stranded Indian families and workers to their homeland not only from Qatar, but from many other countries, even from South America and Africa, and there was close cooperation between the airlines in the two countries in order to ensure the return of workers again. To Doha .

Developing relationships

On the recent developments in the relations of the two countries, His Excellency the Ambassador said: The Qatari-Indian relations are ancient and historical since the pearl trade and the close relations of the two peoples as well as the converging geography that contributed to strengthening the ties and rapprochement between the two countries and their peoples. Exchanged visits at the highest level, most notably the visit of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the country to India in 2015, and the visit of His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the

Republic of India to Qatar in 2016, in addition to many visits at various levels, confirming the importance of the close relations between the leaderships of the two countries in deepening and advancing joint cooperation in the interest of the two friendly peoples .

important consultations

The Indian ambassador affirmed the continuation of political consultations between the two countries to advance cooperation in various sectors, pointing to a successful visit by His Excellency Dr. Subramaniam Jay Shankar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India to Doha recently, as well as holding the fourth round of political consultations between the two foreign ministries last February .

His Excellency noted that there will be more technical meetings between the governments of the two countries to enhance cooperation in the security, defense, trade, energy and other sectors in the coming period, stressing that they are very positive signs of the prospects for developing joint cooperation, especially as they are sponsored by the leaderships of the two countries .

Special work teams

His Excellency the Indian Ambassador indicated that one of the fruits of the telephone conversation between the leaders of the two countries last December was their agreement to strengthen relations, discuss ways to strengthen them, and form two working groups to enhance cooperation in the investment and energy sectors. He explained that the goal of the energy task force is to create a comprehensive partnership, not just buying and selling, especially as India moves towards a gas-based economy, with reliance on gas from 5% to 15% by 2030, which opens up promising prospects and opportunities to strengthen cooperation with Qatar in this regard. Sector .

The ambassador added: The Joint Working Group on Energy held its first meeting in December, and we look forward to another meeting in April to develop cooperation into a comprehensive strategic partnership, such as investing in the development of gas infrastructure in India. We have 17,000 km of pipelines and our goal is to double it to about 32,000 km. . Our infrastructure is also linked to neighboring countries, which means that there are opportunities for Qatari investment in the region as a whole. We are also seeking to build networks to distribute gas in about 100 cities, and we will need stations to receive gas, as it is a promising sector for cooperation and brings mutual benefits to both parties .

Qatari investments

In the field of investment, His Excellency the Indian Ambassador said: We are also seeking comprehensive cooperation with the existence of programs to attract foreign investments to India. Last year, despite the Corona pandemic, investments entered our country worth about \$ 20 billion for large companies such as Google, Microsoft and others, pointing to the importance of defining Qatari investment opportunities in India to achieve mutual benefits, and said: There are important Qatari investments during the past two years, including the investment of the Qatar Investment Authority in the Bombay Electricity Company, as well as investment in BYJ S , a large educational platform in India. There are discussions for more investments with the National Fund for Investment in Infrastructure in India .

the trade exchange

On trade exchange, Ambassador Mittal said: Qatar and India have very strong trade relations, and the volume of trade exchange reached 11 billion dollars in 2019 and about 9 billion dollars in 2020 due to Corona, while the two countries' efforts continue to diversify cooperation, as LNG is an essential part of The volume of exchanged trade. He added: India highly values Qatar's role as a reliable and reliable partner in energy security, pointing out that his country imports about 15% of its gas needs from the State of Qatar, which is India's first gas supplier .

In a related context, Ambassador Mittal noted the importance of strengthening communication between business sectors in the two countries, saying: Despite the challenges of Corona, we were

able to hold remote meetings thanks to cooperation with the Qatar Chamber and the Qatari Businessmen Association, on food security, agriculture and pharmaceutical industries .

Ahmed bin Ali Stadium

He praised the construction sector, expressing his pride in the contribution of an Indian company in building Ahmed Bin Ali Stadium, noting that India's participation went beyond workers and technical experts to companies and the main contractor, and there are also many projects that Indian companies operate in, including road works, power distribution stations, and a lot of Positive participations in infrastructure projects. We are also looking forward to intensifying our partnership in other sectors, such as the jewelery industry in which India excels, as well as direct bilateral business relations between companies from the two countries .

8 sea lines

The ambassador said in a related context: We are also looking forward to more cooperation in the field of maritime transport and ports, and His Excellency Mr. Jassim bin Saif Al-Sulaiti, Minister of Transportation and Communications, recently participated in the Indian Maritime Transport Summit on the second of March. There are currently 8 direct shipping lines between Qatar and India and we are looking forward to increasing them. There was also a meeting with the head of the satellite company in Qatar, "SuhailSat", where India is carrying out major activities in the field of space, building satellites and launching them into space

Global center

On the organization of Qatar's FIFA World Cup 2022, His Excellency the Indian Ambassador said: No one can lose sight of how Qatar has become a major global center for major international sporting events and tournaments, and the World Cup 2022 is one of them, and there will be the Asian Games 2030 and a lot of international championships, and I am confident While organizing the 2022 World Cup in Qatar will be successful, the infrastructure in the sports sector is very great .

Joint celebrations

The ambassador referred to the success of the Qatar-India Year of Culture 2019, pointing to the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of India's independence since March 26 and will continue until 2023, and we look forward to cultural relations in this regard, and there is great support from the Qatari government represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding these celebrations that will be interspersed. Organizing the 2022 World Cup, and we hope to hold cultural events within the framework of these celebrations, which will confirm the cultural diversity enjoyed by the State of Qatar, and such events increase the rapprochement between the peoples who live on the land of Qatar .

Indian University

On cooperation in the education sector, the ambassador said: The education sector is booming in Qatar, where there are 18 Indian schools, and 3 more schools have been approved, while the number of Indian students is about 45,000 students, which is a large number and we thank the Qatari authorities for providing the needs. There is a tendency to establish an Indian university, and we hope that the study will start in September 2021 and will include many specializations in the fields of science, humanities, and engineering. Hamad bin Khalifa and the Qatar Foundation, and perhaps we will witness the establishment of a College of Medicine similar to Weill Cornell, and education will remain one of the main pillars of the relationship between the two countries .