



## INDEPENDENCE DAY GREETINGS

India is celebrating its 68<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on 15 August, 2014. My family and colleagues join me in conveying our warmest greetings to all fellow Indians in the State of Qatar on our Independence Day.

On this historic day, let us gratefully remember all those who sacrificed their present for a better future for our country, and cherish the ideals and aspirations that guided India's peaceful freedom movement in which millions of Indians participated under the exemplary leadership of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

As we celebrate India's Independence Day in the State of Qatar, we also celebrate the deep-rooted friendly ties between India and Qatar, and renew our sincere thanks to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir; His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir; His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior; and the Government and people of Qatar for all that they do to nurture the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two great countries, and for their hospitality to the Indian community in Qatar.

The multi-hued cooperation between India and Qatar is flourishing within an excellent framework provided by historic relations and regular and substantive engagement, including at the highest levels of the two Governments. In his tweet conveying thanks to HE Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Qatar for his gracious congratulatory phone call on the day the results of General Elections in India were announced, Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India stated: "We will take India-Qatar ties to newer heights".

The Government and people of India greatly admire the strides being made by Qatar in energy; infrastructure; business, finance and investments; education, research and innovation; sports; arts and

culture; and other spheres, and are keen to expand collaborations to the mutual benefit of both sides. Besides official interactions, people-to-people contacts and initiatives by private sector are galvanizing dialogue and cooperation in various sectors.

The last year has witnessed several important developments in our bilateral cooperation with Qatar, including the renewal of Defence Cooperation Agreement; meeting of Joint Working Groups on Defence and Human Resources; visits of ships of Indian Navy; appointment of a resident Defence Attaché in Doha; operationalization of a new terminal for LNG supplies at Kochi; participation of Qatari companies and officials at PETROTECH 2014 and 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Gas Partnership Summit in New Delhi; visits of business delegations from India's apex trade and industry bodies; approval for setting up of Qatar National Bank office and full scale branch of Doha Bank in Mumbai; participation of 45 Indian companies in Project Qatar Exhibition, and of many Indian delegates at WISE, WISH and other major conferences in Doha; 'A Passage to India' Festival organized by the Indian Cultural Centre at the Museum of Islamic Art Park, that was inaugurated by HE Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al Kuwari, Minister of Arts, Culture & Heritage; visit of an 18 member high level composite delegation from Qatar, focused on economic partnerships; and Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi shortly after the new Indian Government assumed office. This is an illustrative and not an exhaustive list.

The well-being and welfare of Indian nationals in Qatar, especially of our workers and other compatriots in low income categories, are the highest priority for Embassy of India, Doha. We have a regular, active and inclusive interaction with and outreach to the Indian community, and render a large number of services to them efficiently and helpfully. We are grateful for the cooperation and support of the authorities concerned in Qatar. As we celebrate our Independence Day, I heartily congratulate the large, diverse, accomplished and highly regarded Indian community in Qatar for their significant contribution in further strengthening the strong ties between the two countries.



**(Sanjiv Arora)**