

# India @ 75

## A journey of unity, strength, and vision



### Collective joy and pride



INDIAN AMBASSADOR, VINOD K. JACOB

I convey my best wishes and congratulations to the nearly 330,000 Indian nationals living in the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the 76th Republic Day of India. This day is indeed a matter of collective joy and pride for all Indian citizens and Indian nationals all around the world.

Indians in the friendly Kingdom of Bahrain have been an important contributor to the robust bilateral engagement over the centuries. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kingdom's liberal policies of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, as well as their welcoming society in making Bahrain a preferred destination for Indian professionals and workers, and their families.

The guidance and direction of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister through friendly dialogue and discussions with H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India have set the pathway for cooperation in diverse areas including Energy and Hydrocarbons, Renewable Energy, Infrastructure, Trade and Investments, Defence and Security, Health, Food and Agriculture, Hospitality, Pharmaceutical Industry, Electronic Industry, downstream Aluminum, IT and data centres, Space, Tourism, Environment, Youth and Sports.

I remain committed to working with the Government of Bahrain to further strengthen India-Bahrain bilateral engagement.

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### President of India, Droupadi Murmu

**N**amaskar! I am happy to be addressing you on this historic occasion. On the eve of Republic Day, I offer you my heartiest congratulations! On January 26, 75 years ago, our founding document, the Constitution of India, came into effect.

The Constituent Assembly, after nearly three years of debates, adopted the Constitution on 26th of November in 1949. That day, 26th November, has been celebrated as Samvidhan Divas, that is, Constitution Day, since 2015.

Republic Day is indeed a matter of collective joy and pride for all citizens. Seventy-five years, someone might say, is only the blink of an eye in the life of a nation. No, I will say, not these past 75 years. This has been the time when the long-dormant soul of India has awakened again, taking strides to regain its rightful place in the comity of nations. Among the oldest civilizations, India was once known as a source of knowledge and wisdom. There, however, came a dark phase, and inhuman exploitation under colonial rule led to utter poverty.

Today, we should first recall the brave souls who made great sacrifices to free the motherland from the shackles of foreign rule. Some were well known, while some remained little known till recently. We are celebrating this year the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, who stands as a representative of the freedom fighters whose role in the national history is now being recognised in true proportions.

In the early decades of the

twentieth century, their struggles consolidated in an organized nationwide independence movement. It was the nation's good fortune to have the likes of Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore and Babasaheb Ambedkar, who helped it rediscover its democratic ethos. Justice, liberty, equality and fraternity are not theoretical concepts that we came to learn in modern times; they have always been part of our civilisational heritage. It also explains why the critics who were cynical about the future of the Constitution and the Republic when India had newly become independent were proven so thoroughly wrong.

The composition of our Constituent Assembly was also a testimony to our republican values. It had representatives from all parts and all communities of the country. Most notably, it had 15 women among its members, including stalwarts such as Sarojini Naidu, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sucheta Kripalani, Hansaben Mehta and Malati Choudhury. When women's equality was only a distant ideal in many parts of the world, in India women were actively contributing in shaping the destiny of the nation.

The Constitution has become a living document because civic virtues have been part of our moral compass for millennia. The Constitution provides the ultimate foundation of our collective identity as Indians; it binds us together as a family. For 75 years now, it has guided the path of our progress. Today, let us humbly express our gratitude to Dr. Ambedkar, who chaired the Drafting Committee, other

distinguished members of the Constituent Assembly, various officers associated with and others who worked hard and bequeathed us this most wonderful document.

#### Dear Fellow Citizens,

The 75 years of the Constitution are marked by an all-round progress of a young republic. At the time of Independence, large parts of the country faced extreme poverty and hunger. Yet, we believed in ourselves and set down to create the right conditions for everyone to flourish. Farmers toiled to make India self-sufficient in food production. Labourers transformed our infrastructure and manufacturing sector. Today, India is taking leadership positions in international forums, thanks to the blueprint laid down by our Constitution.

Economic growth has created jobs, uplifted farmers and labourers, and reduced poverty. Financial inclusion initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana have been expanded. Welfare efforts now ensure basic necessities, particularly for marginalized communities, with schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Anu-suchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan.

Physical infrastructure development and technology-driven governance, including digital payments and direct benefit transfers, have brought unprecedented transparency and inclusion. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has strengthened the banking system.

Reforms like replacing colonial-era criminal laws and

the 'One Nation One Election' plan promise to redefine governance. A fresh engagement with cultural heritage and linguistic diversity continues with efforts to preserve traditions and promote classical languages.

India's youth are shaping the future, supported by advancements in education, science, and technology. Initiatives like the National Quantum Mission and Genome India Project showcase our global leadership in innovation. ISRO's successes, including the Space Docking Experiment, further strengthen our position in space exploration.

Our athletes have inspired the nation with record-breaking performances in the Olympics, Paralympics, and chess. Overseas Indians remain an integral part of the India Story, contributing to the making of a developed India by 2047.

As we march towards the future, let us reaffirm our commitment to Gandhiji's values of truth, nonviolence, and compassion. Let us also counter climate change through initiatives like Mission Lifestyle for Environment and 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam,' inspiring global action.

#### Dear Fellow Citizens,

Let me once again congratulate you all on the occasion of Republic Day. My congratulations to the soldiers guarding our borders as well as police and paramilitary personnel keeping it safe within the borders. My congratulations also to the members of the judiciary, the bureaucracy and our missions abroad. My best wishes to you in all your endeavours.