



From Midnight Freedom to a Global Power

Why India's Independence Story Still Matters



THE TIMES KUWAIT REPORT

At the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947, India awoke to freedom. After nearly two centuries of British colonial rule, a nation that had endured enormous hardship finally had the right to decide its own future. It was a moment that changed the destiny of one-fifth of humanity.

But India's independence was never simply about lowering one flag and raising another. It was about something far more personal, the freedom of ordinary people to determine the direction of their own lives, their families and their country.

Nearly eight decades later, that journey is still unfolding. The India of today is vastly different from the India that emerged in 1947. It is now one of the world's largest economies, a major technology and pharmaceutical hub, a spacefaring nation and an increasingly



influential voice on the world stage.

Yet perhaps the most remarkable part of India's story is not simply how far it has come, but how many people helped make that journey possible. History often reduces great movements to a few familiar names. Mahatma Gandhi is undoubtedly the most recognizable face of India's freedom struggle.

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Message by Ambassador of India on 80th Independence Day of India

On the joyous occasion of India's 80th Independence Day on 15 August 2026, I extend warm greetings to all members of the Indian community and friends of India in Kuwait.

As India celebrates eight decades of independence, we do so with immense pride in our nation's remarkable journey and confidence in the opportunities ahead. India after 80 years of independence, stands transformed, economically stronger, technologically more capable, socially more confident and increasingly consequential on the global stage.



H.E. Paramita Tripathi
Ambassador of India
to the State of Kuwait

India is the fastest-growing major economy, with growth of 7.4 per cent in 2025-26. Yet India's story is not simply one of numbers or economic growth. It is a story of a billion-plus aspirations being transformed into opportunity.

The Vision of Viksit Bharat 2047

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has articulated this national aspiration through the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, envisaging an India that is developed, prosperous, inclusive, technologically advanced and sustainable.

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The India-Kuwait Bond A Partnership Beyond Oil

A shared journey of trade, trust and cooperation enters a new era

The Times Kuwait Report

For a long time, when India and Kuwait were mentioned in the same conversation, one word was almost certain to come up: oil. And understandably so.

Kuwait has been an important energy supplier to India for decades, helping support the growth of one of the world's fastest-expanding economies. At the same time, India has provided Kuwait with something equally valuable: people, skills and expertise that have contributed to the country's development across generations.

But the relationship between the two countries has never really been only about oil. Behind the trade figures and energy contracts are people who have connected the two countries for decades.

Indian professionals working in Kuwait, businesses operating in both markets, families with ties to both countries and cultural traditions shared across communities have given the relationship a human dimension.

That is why the India-Kuwait relationship has continued to evolve. What began with trade and energy is increasingly becoming a partnership built around trade, investment, technology, healthcare, food security, education and culture.

From oil to a broader partnership

Energy remains an important foundation. Kuwait has been a reliable supplier of crude oil to India, while India's growing economy continues to require secure and dependable energy supplies.

But the world around both countries is changing. India is expanding rapidly and looking for new investment, technology and partnerships. Kuwait, meanwhile, is pursuing economic diversification and looking beyond traditional energy sectors.

That creates an opportunity. The next chapter of the relationship does not have to move away from oil. It can simply grow beyond it. Both countries are already looking towards areas where their economic strengths can complement each other and create new opportunities.

Trade remains the backbone

Trade continues to be one of the strongest pillars of the relationship. India is among Kuwait's major trading partners, with commercial exchanges covering petroleum products, food, machinery, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles and consumer goods.

But trade is not simply about products moving from one country to another. Every shipment represents businesses, workers, entrepreneurs and consumers on both sides. Indian businesses operating in Kuwait help connect the two markets, while Kuwaiti companies engaging with India gain access to one of the world's largest and fastest-changing economies.

That commercial relationship has room to become even deeper as both countries look for new areas of growth.

Investment: the next big opportunity

Investment could become one of the most important areas of the relationship in the years ahead. India's continued economic expansion and Kuwait's drive towards diversification are creating opportunities across infrastructure, manufacturing, logistics, technology, renewable energy and healthcare.

For Kuwait, India offers access to a large market, a growing economy and a strong pool of skills and entrepreneurship. For India, Kuwait

represents an important Gulf partner with capital, regional connections and an economy seeking new opportunities beyond traditional energy.

The opportunity is therefore not simply to invest in each other's economies, but to build partnerships that can create jobs, technology and long-term value.

The people who make the relationship real

Perhaps the strongest bridge between India and Kuwait is not a government agreement or a business contract. It is the Indian community. More than one million Indians live and work in Kuwait, contributing across healthcare, construction, education, business, engineering, hospitality and numerous professional fields.

Many Indian families have spent decades in Kuwait. Some have raised children here. Others have built businesses that have continued from one generation to the next.



This makes the community more than a workforce. It is a living connection between the two countries. And perhaps that is one of the greatest strengths of India-Kuwait relations: the relationship is experienced not only in government offices, but in workplaces, schools, hospitals, homes and communities.

A cultural connection that needs no translation

The relationship also extends well beyond economics. Indian festivals, food, cinema, music and traditions have become familiar parts of life in Kuwait, while many Kuwaitis have developed an appreciation for India's enormous cultural diversity. Culture creates a different kind of connection. A business agreement may define what two countries can do together. But a shared meal, a film, a festival or a cultural celebration can help people understand one another. That kind of familiarity builds something that is difficult to measure but important to any long-term relationship: trust.

Food security: a partnership with practical value

Food security is another area where India and Kuwait have natural opportunities to work

more closely. India has significant agricultural capabilities, while Kuwait has a continuing need for reliable and resilient food supplies.

The opportunity therefore extends beyond simply buying and selling food. The two countries can explore cooperation in agriculture, food processing, supply chains and technology-driven farming solutions. In a world where food supply chains can be disrupted by climate change, geopolitical tensions and changing global markets, reliable partnerships matter. For both countries, food security is ultimately about something very basic: making sure people have access to food when they need it.

Healthcare: from expertise to innovation

Healthcare offers another natural area for deeper cooperation. India has developed considerable expertise in medicine, pharmaceuticals and healthcare services, while



Kuwait continues to invest in improving medical services, research and innovation.

The relationship can therefore extend beyond healthcare professionals working in Kuwait. There is potential for greater cooperation in medical research, pharmaceuticals, technology and knowledge exchange. The goal should not simply be to treat patients better today, but to build stronger healthcare systems for tomorrow.

Building a digital partnership

Technology may ultimately become one of the most transformative areas of India-Kuwait cooperation. India's experience in information technology, digital payments, artificial intelligence and startups offers opportunities as Kuwait accelerates its own digital development. This is an area where the two countries bring different but complementary strengths. India has a vast technology ecosystem and a large pool of skilled professionals. Kuwait is investing in digital transformation and looking for ways to modernize services and diversify its economy.

Together, the two countries can explore partnerships that go beyond outsourcing and into innovation, entrepreneurship and technology development.

A greener future

The energy relationship is also entering a new phase. Kuwait remains a major global energy producer, but it is also looking towards cleaner energy solutions. India, meanwhile, has developed significant experience in solar energy and green technologies.

This creates another area where cooperation can evolve. The future energy relationship between the two countries does not necessarily have to be about choosing between traditional energy and renewables. It can be about using today's strengths to build tomorrow's energy systems.

Investing in people

Some of the most important partnerships are built in classrooms and research institutions long before they appear in boardrooms. Education and knowledge exchange can provide another foundation for India-Kuwait cooperation.

Greater collaboration between universities, research institutions and training centres can help develop the skills both economies will need in the future. For India, that means creating more opportunities for its young population.

For Kuwait, it means developing the human capital needed for a more diversified, technology-driven economy. Knowledge, unlike a commodity, does not run out when it is shared. It grows.

A relationship built on dialogue

The strength of the India-Kuwait relationship is also reflected in sustained diplomatic engagement. Both countries have supported dialogue, cooperation and regional stability, while maintaining strong channels of communication.

As India's economic and global role expands and Kuwait continues to play an important role in the Gulf, there is considerable scope for the relationship to become more diversified. The future partnership can increasingly focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, technology and sustainable development alongside traditional areas of cooperation.

From a historic friendship to a future partnership

India and Kuwait have something important in common. Both understand the value of sovereignty, peaceful coexistence, dialogue and international cooperation. But perhaps the strongest foundation is history.

The two countries have already spent decades building trust. Now they have the opportunity to build on it. As India marks 79 years of independence, its relationship with Kuwait reflects how traditional friendships can evolve with changing times. The partnership that once revolved heavily around oil and trade is increasingly opening doors to technology, investment, healthcare, education, food security and clean energy. The next chapter will therefore not be written by oil alone. It will be written by people, ideas, investment, technology and shared ambition. India brings its talent, scale, entrepreneurship and growing global economic influence. Kuwait brings its strategic position, resources, investment potential and role as an important Gulf partner. Together, they have the opportunity to build something broader than the relationship of yesterday.

A partnership that is not only about what India and Kuwait have achieved together, but about what they can still achieve. And that may be the most important story of the India-Kuwait relationship today.



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India at 80: A Journey of Transformation, Partnership and Global Responsibility

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The transformation is visible across India, from modern infrastructure and manufacturing to a thriving digital economy and global services sector. Highways and expressways are shrinking distances; new airports and metro systems are changing the way people travel; ports and dedicated freight corridors are strengthening connectivity and logistics. India has become a major manufacturing centre for automobiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics and mobile phones, while its services sector, start-ups and technology companies are increasingly serving global markets.

The digital transformation has been particularly profound. Digital payments, financial inclusion and online public services have brought technology into the daily lives of Indians. From a small merchant accepting a digital payment to a rural citizen accessing government services online, India's digital public infrastructure demonstrates how technology can be an instrument of inclusion.

India's progress is equally visible in renewable energy and space technology. Solar and wind capacity has expanded rapidly, while India's space programme has demonstrated that sophisticated scientific capability can be combined with cost-effective innovation.

India: A Trusted Partner

India's transformation also carries an

international responsibility. Guided by the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family), India believes that its rise must contribute to a more peaceful, stable and prosperous world. India has emerged as a Global First Responder, demonstrating its commitment to humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and emergency response across borders.

India has consistently advocated dialogue, diplomacy, and peaceful resolution of disputes, while upholding the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and respect for international law. India has stood firmly with Kuwait as a trusted partner and friend, expressing steadfast solidarity with Kuwait during the ongoing conflict. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, through regular phone calls with H.H. the Amir and H.H. the Crown Prince, has consistently reaffirmed support for Kuwait's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. The visit of External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar to Kuwait on 8 July 2026 was an expression of this solidarity towards Kuwait.

India has remained a reliable partner of Kuwait by establishing a food corridor and ensuring the supply of fresh produce and essential food commodities during the ongoing conflict.

India and Kuwait: From Historic Bonds to Strategic Partnership

As India celebrates its 80th Independence Day, India-Kuwait bilateral ties relations also mark 65 years of diplomatic ties, a partnership rooted

in centuries-old bonds of civilisation, maritime links, trade and people-to-people connections.

As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted during his historic visit to Kuwait in December 2024, "The relationship between India and Kuwait is one of civilisations, seas and commerce." His visit, the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Kuwait in 43 years, marked a landmark moment, with the two countries elevating their relationship to a Strategic Partnership.

As our multi-faceted Strategic Partnership continues to grow, India and Kuwait look ahead to a more diversified, dynamic and future-ready partnership, expanding cooperation across trade, investment, technology, connectivity, innovation and new frontiers of growth.

The Indian Community in Kuwait: A Living Bridge

The one million-strong Indian community in Kuwait is another defining pillar of our relationship. Indians have contributed to Kuwait's development in virtually every sector, from construction, engineering and healthcare to education, finance, information technology and entrepreneurship. The Indian community in Kuwait is an integral part of Kuwait's social and economic fabric, and is a living bridge that brings our two countries closer.

India's Role in a Changing Multilateral Order

India and Kuwait share a strong commitment to maritime security, international law and secure sea lanes, including the Strait of Hormuz. India's support for United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and co-sponsorship of United

Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2817 (2026) reflect this commitment. For both countries, the Strait is vital to energy security, trade, connectivity and global prosperity.

This aligns with India's vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), placing maritime security at the heart of shared growth and prosperity.

As India has presented its candidature for the United Nations Security Council for the 2028-29 term guided by SHANTI (Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity), it remains committed to strengthening dialogue, international law, multilateralism and the voice of the Global South.

India: A Partner for the Global Good

The India of 2026 is confident of its capabilities but conscious of its responsibilities, with a vision for the greater good of the world. That vision has particular meaning in our relationship with Kuwait.

As our two countries enter a new phase of Strategic Partnership, there is immense scope to create new opportunities in trade and investment, energy transition, technology, defence, food security, education, healthcare and human resource development.

On India's 80th Independence Day, we celebrate eight decades of India's journey and look ahead to a future of peace, security, connectivity and shared prosperity with Kuwait, our valued friend and strategic partner.

May India-Kuwait friendship continues to flourish.

Jai Hind!




Happy Independence Day India!



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A delicate and colourful twist on the traditional Khandvi, made with rice flour, cornstarch and yogurt instead of besan. These soft, smooth rolls are lightly spiced with ginger and green chilli, finished in vibrant orange, white and green for an elegant tricolour presentation. Light, refreshing and perfect for festive gatherings, Independence Day celebrations or an Indian-inspired appetiser platter.

Tricolour Rice Flour-Cornstarch Khandvi Rolls

Preparation Time: 10 minutes

Cooking Time: 10-12 minutes

Serves: 3-4

Ingredients

- Rice flour – ½ cup
- Cornstarch – ½ cup
- Yogurt – ½ cup
- Water – 2 cups
- Ginger-green chilli paste – 1 tsp
- Salt – to taste
- Orange food colour – a few drops
- Green food colour – a few drops

Method

- In a bowl, whisk together rice flour, cornstarch, yogurt and water until completely smooth and lump-free.

- Add ginger-green chilli paste and salt. Mix well.
- Divide the batter into 3 equal portions.
- Keep one portion plain. Add a few drops of orange colour to the second and green colour to the third.
- Cook each portion separately in a non-stick pan over medium-low heat, stirring continuously.
- Cook until the mixture becomes thick, smooth and spreadable. It should leave the sides of the pan and form a soft dough-like consistency.
- Immediately spread each coloured mixture into a very thin layer on a lightly greased flat surface or plate.
- Allow it to cool for 1-2 minutes.

- Cut into long strips and gently roll each strip tightly.
- Arrange the orange, white and green rolls together to create a beautiful tricolour presentation.

Serving

Serve fresh with a light tempering of mustard seeds, sesame seeds and curry leaves, or garnish simply with fresh coriander.

Tip: Do not overcook the batter. The key to soft, neat rolls is to spread it immediately while hot.



Chef Chhaya Thakker



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Indians living in Kuwait

The Community That Connects Two Nations

Over more than six decades, the Indian community has become an important part of Kuwait's social and economic fabric. Indians can be found in hospitals and schools, on construction sites, in businesses and offices, in technology companies, hotels, shops and countless other workplaces across the country.

The Times Kuwait Report

For many Indians, Kuwait began as a destination.

A job. A new opportunity. A chance to provide a better life for their families. But for generations of Indians, Kuwait became much more than that. It became a place where careers were built, children grew up, businesses were established and lifelong friendships were formed.

Over more than six decades, the Indian community has become an important part of Kuwait's social and economic fabric. Indians can be found in hospitals and schools, on construction sites, in businesses and offices, in technology companies, hotels, shops and countless other workplaces across the country.

Their story, however, is not simply about employment. It is about people. People who left home with hopes and uncertainty. People who worked long hours, saved for their families and slowly built better lives. People who made sacrifices so that their children could have opportunities they themselves may not have had. And over time, many of those individual journeys became part of Kuwait's own story of development.

The relationship between India and Kuwait did not begin with the arrival of modern



expatriate communities. For centuries, the two societies were connected through trade and cultural exchanges. But the relationship grew considerably stronger after Kuwait's independence and during the rapid economic development of the oil era.

As Kuwait transformed into a modern state, Indians became part of that transformation. Doctors, engineers, teachers, technicians, business owners and workers arrived from different parts of India, bringing with them different languages, cultures and experiences.

They came for different reasons. But many stayed long enough to call Kuwait home.

The people behind Kuwait's healthcare

Walk into a hospital or clinic in Kuwait and there is a good chance that an Indian doctor, nurse, pharmacist or other healthcare professional is part of the team.

For decades, Indian healthcare professionals have served across Kuwait's hospitals, clinics and medical institutions. Their work has involved much more than treating patients. It has required patience, professionalism and, often, compassion during some of the most difficult moments in people's lives.

Many have also continued serving through challenging periods and health emergencies. For a patient, the nationality of the person providing care may not matter.



What matters is the person standing beside the hospital bed. That is where the contribution of the community becomes deeply human.

Teachers who shaped generations

The same can be said of education. Indian teachers have spent decades in Kuwait's schools helping educate and guide generations of students. Indian schools have become not only places of learning, but also important centres of community and cultural life.

For many Indian families, the school experience is one of their strongest connections to both Kuwait and India. A teacher who enters a classroom every morning may never know how many lives that lesson will eventually influence.

But generations of students carry those lessons with them.

From small businesses to bigger dreams

The Indian business community has also grown considerably. What may have started decades ago as a small shop, trading business or family enterprise has, in many cases, developed into established companies operating across different sectors. Indian entrepreneurs in Kuwait are active in retail, services, manufacturing, technology and trading, creating businesses and employment while strengthening commercial links between the two countries.

As India celebrates its 80th Independence Day, we honour the vision, courage, and resilience that continue to shape the nation's progress.

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Behind every successful business, however, there is usually a personal story. There are risks taken, Long working days, Family sacrifices. And the determination to keep going when things do not work out as planned.

That spirit of entrepreneurship has become another important part of the Indian community's contribution to Kuwait.

Some contributions are easy to see. Others are hidden behind the buildings and infrastructure that people use every day.

Indian workers, engineers, supervisors and technicians have played an important role in construction and infrastructure projects, contributing to roads, residential developments, commercial centres and other vital projects.

Behind Kuwait's modern skyline are the efforts of thousands of people who worked to turn plans on paper into something real. Engineers helped design it. Technicians helped make it work. Workers helped build it.

Their names may not appear on the buildings they helped create, but their contribution is part of the country's physical landscape.

A community entering the digital age

The Indian contribution is not limited to traditional sectors. As Kuwait moves towards greater digitalization, Indian IT professionals and specialists are increasingly contributing to areas such as software development, cybersecurity, data management and digital services. The same community that once helped build physical infrastructure is now helping build parts of Kuwait's digital future. And beyond technology, Indians remain an important presence in hospitality, retail, transportation, logistics and other services that support everyday life across Kuwait.

More than a workplace community

But to describe Indians in Kuwait only through their jobs would miss something important. Over the years, the community has built a rich social and cultural life of its own.

Community organizations, cultural associations and social initiatives have helped Indians maintain their traditions while also creating opportunities for greater understanding and friendship with Kuwaiti society.

There are celebrations, cultural programmes, charitable activities and community initiatives. There are also quieter connections friendships between neighbours, colleagues and families that do not make headlines but are just as important in bringing two societies closer.



The second generation

Perhaps one of the clearest signs of how deeply the community has put down roots is the emergence of second- and even multiple-generation Indian families in Kuwait. Parents who arrived decades ago worked to create a foundation for their children.

Those children have grown up in Kuwait, attended its schools and built their own careers. Today, many are professionals contributing to both Kuwait and India.

Their story is different from that of their parents. Their parents came looking for an opportunity. Their children grew up surrounded by one. That is how a temporary migration can gradually become a multigenerational community.

The Indian community has also demonstrated its sense of responsibility during times of need. Indian organizations and individuals have participated in charitable activities, humanitarian efforts and community support initiatives during emergencies and difficult periods. This spirit of helping others is an important part of community life. It reflects an understanding that living in a country also means having a responsibility towards the society around you.

The women behind the story

The story of Indians in Kuwait would be incomplete without recognizing Indian women. Women professionals, doctors, nurses, teachers, entrepreneurs and others have contributed not only to workplaces but also to families and communities.

Many have balanced careers and family responsibilities while helping the next generation build its own future. Their contribution may sometimes receive less attention than it deserves, but it is woven deeply into the story of the community.

It is easy to describe the Indian community in Kuwait as one of the country's largest expatriate communities or as an important workforce. But those descriptions do not tell the whole story.

Behind the statistics are people. These individual stories, repeated over decades, have created something much larger. A community.

Kuwait has provided opportunities to generations of Indians. Indians, in turn, have contributed their skills, energy and dedication to Kuwait's development. That relationship is built on something more enduring than economics. It is built on people.

As Kuwait moves towards greater economic diversification and technological development, Indians are likely to remain part of that journey in healthcare, education, technology, entrepreneurship, innovation and many other fields. But perhaps their greatest contribution cannot be measured in numbers. It is the human connection they represent between two countries.

A living bridge between India and Kuwait

As India celebrates another Independence Day, the achievements of Indians living abroad form an important part of the country's wider story.

The Indian community in Kuwait reflects the talent, diversity, resilience and determination of millions of Indians who have built lives beyond India's borders.

Their journeys began with individual dreams. Some came seeking work. Some came to build businesses. Some came for a



few years and stayed for decades. Some raised their children here. And some now watch their children and grandchildren build lives of their own.

That is what makes the story of Indians living in Kuwait so much more than a story of migration. It is a story of shared progress. A story of trust and friendship.

And above all, a story of people who, over generations, have helped build a living bridge between India and Kuwait.



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The Story of a Rising Nation

Built on Determination, Driven by Development and Guided by a Vision for Tomorrow

The Times Kuwait Report

Every country has a story of where it came from. India's story is also about where it is going. As India marks its 80th Independence Day, the country has travelled a remarkable distance from the newly independent nation of 1947 to one of the world's most dynamic economies and increasingly influential global powers.

But numbers and rankings alone do not tell that story. Behind India's transformation are more than 1.4 billion people farmers and engineers, entrepreneurs and workers, scientists and students, professionals and small business owners each contributing in their own way to a country that has spent nearly eight decades building, adapting and moving forward.

The journey began with freedom. It was followed by something perhaps even more difficult: building a nation.

Freedom was only the beginning

When India became independent on August 15, 1947, the celebrations were accompanied by enormous challenges. The country faced economic hardship, limited industrial development, low literacy and the difficult task



of creating a stable system of governance for an extraordinarily diverse population.

There was no ready-made roadmap. India had to create its own. The country chose democracy as the foundation of that journey.

The Constitution, adopted in 1950, established India as a sovereign democratic republic and laid the foundations for a political system built around equality, justice and representation.

From there, the work of nation-building began. Industries had to be created. Roads and infrastructure had to be built. Education had to expand. Scientific institutions had to be established. The country also had to work towards greater self-reliance in critical sectors.

The progress was gradual. But it was steady.

Democracy became part of the journey

Perhaps one of India's most important achievements has been its ability to sustain the world's largest democratic system.

Elections became a regular part of national life, and peaceful transfers of power demonstrated the continuity of democratic institutions.

For a country of India's size and diversity, democracy was never going to be simple.

Yet it became part of the country's identity. It provided a framework through which people with different languages, cultures, beliefs and aspirations could participate in shaping the nation's future.

1991: A turning point

If independence marked the beginning of India's political journey, the economic reforms of 1991 marked another major turning point.

India opened its economy, encouraged private enterprise, attracted foreign investment



and began connecting Indian businesses more closely with global markets.

The changes did not happen overnight. But over time, they helped reshape the Indian economy. Industries expanded. The consumer market grew. India's workforce became increasingly connected to global opportunities, while international trade and investment became a more important part of the country's economic story.

The India that emerged from this period was more outward-looking, more connected and increasingly confident.

From computers to a digital India

One of the clearest signs of that transformation can be seen in technology. India has become a major global hub for information technology and digital innovation, with Indian companies and professionals contributing to fields ranging from software and artificial intelligence to cybersecurity and advanced services.



But the technology story is not only about companies operating around the world. It is also about ordinary people at home.

Digital platforms have changed how millions of Indians access services, make payments and participate in the economy. They have also helped extend banking and government services into both urban and rural communities.

For many people, the transformation is experienced not in a technology park or



corporate office, but through a phone in their hand. That is when development becomes personal.



A generation ready to build

India's startup ecosystem has grown rapidly, with young entrepreneurs creating businesses and solutions across fintech, healthcare, education, agriculture, clean energy and e-commerce.

This entrepreneurial energy is closely linked to another of India's greatest assets: its young population.

A large and youthful workforce gives the country an opportunity to innovate, create businesses and develop new skills.

Education, skills training and technology are increasingly important in preparing this generation for the opportunities and challenges ahead.



The future of India, in many ways, is being shaped by young people who have grown up in a very different country from the one their grandparents knew.

Reaching for the stars

Few developments capture India's changing ambitions better than its space programme. The Indian Space Research Organization has developed satellites, launched missions and demonstrated India's growing capabilities in space technology.



But the importance of India's space programme goes beyond national pride. Space technology supports communications, weather forecasting, navigation, disaster management and scientific research.

Lunar exploration has also demonstrated India's ability to take on complex technological challenges. For a country that once struggled to meet some of its most basic developmental needs, reaching into space carries a powerful symbolism.

India is no longer simply asking how to catch up. It is increasingly asking what it can achieve next.



Building the India of tomorrow

The transformation is also visible on the ground. Highways, railways, airports, ports and urban infrastructure are expanding and improving connectivity across the country.

At the same time, India is investing in renewable energy, particularly solar and clean energy, as it tries to balance economic growth with the global need for greater environmental sustainability.

Agriculture, too, is changing. Technology, improved irrigation, modern farming practices



and better access to markets are transforming a sector that remains central to the livelihoods of millions of Indians.

These changes may not always make international headlines. But they matter because development is ultimately measured not only by large projects, but by whether people’s everyday lives improve.

Healthcare with a global footprint

India’s pharmaceutical industry has also become globally recognized for producing affordable medicines and vaccines.



At the same time, the country’s healthcare sector continues to expand through medical innovation, research and growing healthcare infrastructure.

It is another example of India’s transformation from a country focused primarily on meeting its own needs to one increasingly capable of contributing to the wider world.

Finding a bigger voice in the world

India’s transformation is no longer only an economic or technological story. Its voice on the international stage has also grown.

The country participates actively in international organizations and forums, contributing to discussions on economic development, climate change, technology, peace and security.

Its relationships with countries across



different regions are expanding through trade, diplomacy, technology cooperation and cultural exchanges.

And there is another bridge connecting India to the world: its diaspora. Millions of Indians living abroad contribute to the economies and societies of their adopted countries while maintaining strong cultural and economic links with India.

In many ways, they are an extension of India’s global story.

India’s influence is not only economic

India’s global presence cannot be measured only through GDP, technology or trade. Some of its strongest influence comes from culture.

Yoga, cinema, cuisine, literature, traditional arts and festivals have travelled far beyond India’s borders and become familiar to audiences around the world.

This cultural influence gives India something that cannot easily be manufactured. It creates familiarity.

People may first encounter India through a film, a meal, yoga or music — and eventually

economy expands, but on how effectively the country invests in its people.

Innovation will matter. So will education, skills, technology and sustainable development.

India@80: The journey continues

Seventy-nine years after independence, India’s story is still being written. It began with a nation trying to find its feet after centuries of colonial rule.

It moved through institution-building, industrialization and economic reform. It entered the digital age, embraced entrepreneurship, reached into space and strengthened its presence on the global stage.

Yet perhaps the most important part of the story is not any single achievement. It is the country’s ability to keep changing.

become curious about the country itself.

The work is far from finished

For all the progress India has made, its journey is not without challenges. The country still has to create more employment opportunities, ensure that economic growth reaches more



people, improve access to education and healthcare, and balance rapid development with environmental sustainability.

The next stage of India’s growth will therefore depend not simply on how fast the



India has repeatedly adapted to new circumstances, embraced new opportunities and looked towards the next challenge. That is what makes India@79 more than a celebration of the past.

It is a moment to look forward.

The India of tomorrow will be shaped by its young people, its entrepreneurs, its scientists, its workers, its farmers and millions of citizens who continue to aspire to something better.

The journey that began with freedom in 1947 has become a much larger story one of ambition, resilience, development and transformation.





GOT A BITE IN MIND?



Bollywood's New Script

From Silver-Screen Dreams to a Global Cultural Force

The Times Kuwait Report

For generations, Bollywood has been much more than a place where films are made.

It has been a place where India has seen itself. Through black-and-white classics, romantic songs, family dramas and larger-than-life heroes, Hindi cinema captured the hopes and anxieties of a young nation. Over the decades, as India changed, its cinema changed with it.

Today, an Indian film can begin its journey in Mumbai and, within hours, find audiences in Dubai, London, Toronto, Singapore and far beyond. That transformation tells us something important.

Bollywood is no longer simply making films for India. It is increasingly telling Indian stories to the world.

And perhaps the most interesting part of Bollywood's story today is not its stars or its box-office numbers. It is how willing the industry has become to reinvent itself.



An industry learning to change

For decades, Bollywood had a formula

that audiences knew and loved. There were larger-than-life heroes, unforgettable songs, romance, family drama, humour and plenty of emotion.

Those ingredients have not disappeared. But today's audiences are asking for more. They want characters who feel real. They want stories



series can reach viewers who may never have walked into a cinema hall, opening the door to stories that might once have struggled to find space on the big screen.

The audience itself has changed. Geography is no longer the barrier it once was.

The world is discovering Indian cinema

There was a time when Bollywood's international audience was largely driven by the Indian diaspora. That connection remains powerful. Packed theatres in the Gulf, fan celebrations in North America and Europe, and



generations of Indians abroad watching the same films and singing the same songs have given Hindi cinema a unique emotional reach.

But something else is happening now. People who have no Indian background are discovering Indian films too. subtitles, streaming platforms and digital media have made it easier than ever for international audiences to explore



Indian cinema. A film no longer needs to be understood in its original language to be felt.

Emotion travels. A powerful performance travels. A great story travels. And Indian cinema is increasingly discovering just how far its stories can go.

RECIPE

Tiranga Marbled Cookies



Chef
Chhaya Thakker

Celebrate the spirit of Independence Day with these colourful eggless butter cookies, beautifully swirled in saffron, white and green. Delicate, buttery and festive, these cookies make a charming addition to an Independence Day tea table or celebration platter.

Preparation Time: 20 minutes

Chilling Time: 15–20 minutes

Baking Time: 10–12 minutes

Total Time: Approximately 45–50 minutes

Yield: 18–20 cookies

Ingredients

- Butter – 100 g, softened
- Icing sugar – 60 g
- All-purpose flour – 150 g
- Cornflour – 20 g
- Vanilla essence – 1 tsp
- Milk – 1–2 tbsp, as required
- 3–4 drops orange food colour Pinch of
- 3–4drops Green food colour

Method:

- Cream the softened butter and icing sugar until light and smooth.
- Add vanilla essence and mix well.
- Sift in flour and cornflour and gently combine to form a soft dough. Add a little milk only if needed.
- Divide the dough into three equal portions. Leave one plain and colour the other two orange and green.
- Gently combine portions of the three coloured doughs to create a marbled/tricolour effect. Do not overmix.
- Shape into small round cookies and arrange on a lined baking tray.
- Chill for 15–20 minutes.
- Bake in a preheated oven at 170°C for 10–12 minutes, until the edges are just lightly golden.
- Cool completely before serving.



that surprise them. They are willing to watch films about subjects that earlier generations of mainstream cinema might have avoided.

Filmmakers are responding with more experimental narratives, complex characters and stories that reflect a wider range of Indian experiences.

Streaming has accelerated that change

A story no longer has to wait for a traditional cinema release to find an audience. Films and



Bollywood is no longer the whole story

Perhaps one of the biggest changes in Indian cinema is that the word “Bollywood” no longer tells the whole story. Hindi cinema now exists alongside powerful film industries in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and other Indian languages.



The success of films such as Baahubali, RRR, KGF and Pushpa has shown that language does not have to determine how far a story can travel. This is creating something bigger than Bollywood.

It is creating an Indian cinematic identity that is increasingly defined by the strength of the story rather than the language in which it is told. For audiences, that means more choice.

For filmmakers, it means more competition. And for Indian cinema as a whole, it means a much larger stage.

The star is no longer enough

For many years, the name of a superstar could be enough to bring audiences into a theatre. That is becoming less certain. Today’s viewers are increasingly rewarding strong scripts, fresh ideas and performances that feel authentic.



The change is visible in the kinds of stories being told and the people telling them. A new generation of actors, writers and directors is challenging established formulas and presenting a more complicated, more varied picture of India. Women-led films are also receiving greater attention, with female characters increasingly being placed at the centre of major productions rather than simply filling supporting roles.

The message from audiences is becoming clearer: Give us a good story, and we will watch.

Technology is changing the way stories are told

Behind the scenes, technology is transforming Indian filmmaking just as dramatically. Advanced visual effects, digital filmmaking tools and improved production techniques are allowing filmmakers to create worlds that once seemed impossible to put on screen.



The ambition has grown along with the technology. Indian productions are increasingly working with larger budgets, sophisticated visual effects and international collaborations as filmmakers look beyond domestic audiences. But technology is not only changing what audiences see. It is changing how they discover films. A trailer can become a global talking point within minutes. A song can go viral before the film reaches theatres.

A behind-the-scenes clip can turn an actor or director

into a global social-media personality. The relationship between a film and its audience has therefore become continuous. The film’s journey now begins long before opening night and can continue long after the credits roll.

The next Bollywood story

So where does Indian cinema go from here? Perhaps the answer lies not in bigger stars, bigger budgets or even bigger box-office records. It lies in better stories. Bollywood has always reflected India its struggles, celebrations, ambitions, contradictions and dreams.

That role is becoming even more important as Indian cinema reaches audiences who may know little about the country but are willing to discover it through a story. A film can introduce a person to a language. A song can make someone curious about a culture. A character can make a distant country feel familiar. That is the quiet power of cinema.

From Indian imagination to a global language

As India celebrates another Independence Day, Bollywood represents one of the country’s most remarkable cultural journeys. An industry born from Indian imagination has grown into a global storytelling force. Its reach is no longer measured simply



by how many people sit inside Indian cinemas. It is measured by how many people, in how many countries, are willing to laugh with its characters, cry with them, sing their songs and recognize something of themselves in their stories.

The lights may shine on the stars. The cameras may capture the spectacle. But the real power of Indian cinema has always been something simpler. A good story.

And India’s stories are travelling farther than ever before.







15

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From Midnight Freedom to a Global Power

Why India's Independence Story Still Matters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Through the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Salt March and the Quit India Movement, he showed how non-violent resistance could become a powerful weapon against colonial rule.

But Gandhi was only one part of a much larger story. Jawaharlal Nehru imagined an India built on democracy, science, education and industrial progress. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel took on the enormous task of bringing more than 560 princely states together, helping create the political foundation of modern India. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar played a central role in shaping the Constitution, embedding principles of justice, equality and the rule of law into the new republic.

And there were others who chose very different paths. Subhas Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army inspired thousands with the call for freedom. Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rani Gaidinliu, Sarojini Naidu, Begum Hazrat Mahal, Matangini Hazra, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Birsa Munda, Velu Nachiyar and Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi represented different regions, communities and ideologies.

Their methods and beliefs were not always the same. Their destination was, A free India. And behind these famous names were millions whose



stories rarely found their way into history books: farmers, workers, students, teachers, journalists, lawyers, poets and ordinary citizens who took enormous risks because they believed their country could be free.

Freedom came with a heavy price

The night of independence was filled with celebration, but it was also marked by unimaginable pain. Partition divided British India into India and Pakistan and triggered one of the largest human migrations in history. Millions were forced to cross newly created borders, leaving

behind homes, possessions and, in many cases, loved ones. Violence and uncertainty became part of what should have been a moment of pure celebration.

India therefore entered freedom carrying both hope and trauma. And yet, in the middle of that turmoil, it made a remarkable choice. It chose democracy.

At a time when many newly independent nations were struggling with instability, India adopted a Constitution based on democratic principles and gave every adult citizen the right to vote regardless of wealth, education, gender or social background.

For a country as vast and diverse as India, that was an extraordinary leap of faith.

Building a nation from the ground up

Political freedom was only the beginning. The new India inherited enormous problems. Poverty was widespread. Literacy was low. Life expectancy was short. Infrastructure was limited, industry was underdeveloped and food shortages were a persistent challenge.

The country had to build almost everything and it had to do so while trying to hold together a society of extraordinary diversity. Over the decades, successive governments invested in dams, power projects, universities, scientific institutions, public-sector industries and agricultural reforms.

The results gradually changed the country. The Green Revolution helped transform India from a food-deficit nation into one of the world's major agricultural producers. The White Revolution turned India into the world's largest milk producer. Institutions such as the IITs, IIMs, ISRO and numerous research centres created the foundations for India's scientific and technological capabilities. These achievements may seem distant when viewed through today's lens. But they were the building blocks of the India the world knows today.

The India the world sees today

Walk into a technology company in Silicon Valley, a pharmaceutical laboratory, a university, a hospital or a corporate boardroom anywhere in the world, and chances are you will encounter Indian talent.

India has emerged as a major centre for information technology and digital innovation and a leading producer of pharmaceuticals, vaccines and engineering talent. Indian companies operate across continents, while Indian entrepreneurs, scientists and professionals have taken leading positions across industries.

India has also reached beyond Earth. Its scientists have taken missions to the Moon and are preparing for human spaceflight. At the same time, Indian cinema, music, literature, cuisine and yoga have become familiar parts of global culture.

From space missions to medical research, from technology startups to international sporting arenas, India's influence continues to grow.

The achievement we sometimes take for granted

There is another achievement that deserves attention. India has remained the world's largest democracy despite its enormous size and extraordinary diversity.

More than 1.4 billion people, hundreds of languages, multiple religions and countless cultural traditions coexist within one democratic framework. Every general election brings hundreds of millions of citizens into the political process, making Indian elections among the largest democratic exercises anywhere in the world. That democratic resilience is not a small accomplishment. It is one of the defining features of the Indian story.

What does independence mean today?

For the generation that experienced 1947, freedom meant sovereignty: the right of a nation to govern itself. For today's generation, the meaning has expanded.

Freedom can be seen in a young entrepreneur building a company that reaches customers around the world. It can be seen in a scientist preparing a mission into space, an athlete standing on an international podium, or a filmmaker telling an Indian story to a global audience. It can be found in digital technology connecting millions of people and in women breaking barriers across professions. In other words, independence is no longer only about what India escaped from. It is increasingly about what Indians are able to create.

The road ahead

India's transformation does not mean its challenges have disappeared. Climate change, rapid urbanization, employment, healthcare and sustainable development remain major issues. The country's next chapter will depend not only on economic growth, but on how effectively that growth improves the lives of its people.

But adaptation has always been part of India's story. The same spirit that once fuelled the struggle for political freedom now drives scientific discovery, entrepreneurship, technological innovation and cultural confidence.

Freedom is a journey, not a destination

Every August 15, the Tricolour serves as a reminder of the sacrifices that made independence possible. But it should also remind India of the responsibility that comes with freedom.

The men and women who fought for independence dreamed of a country where every citizen could aspire to a better life. Nearly eight decades later, that dream is still being written.

India's independence story, therefore, is not simply a story about how a nation won its freedom in 1947. It is a story about what it chose to do with that freedom. And perhaps that is what makes the journey so remarkable.

The flag was raised in 1947. The journey continues today.



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INDIA



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INDIA A Journey



From the Himalayas to Kerala's backwaters, India offers travellers a world of landscapes, cultures, flavours and experiences in one extraordinary destination.

The Times Kuwait Report

India is not a country you simply visit. It is a country you experience often in ways you did not expect. You can begin a journey in the shadow of the Himalayas and, days later, find yourself surrounded by coconut palms in Kerala. You can walk through a centuries-old fort in Rajasthan, watch wildlife in a national park, sit quietly in a Himalayan monastery or lose yourself in the colours and sounds of an Indian market.

Few countries can offer such extraordinary variety within a single destination. That is perhaps India's greatest tourism advantage. It doesn't offer just one holiday. It offers a lifetime of journeys.

More than monuments

For decades, India's tourism image was built around a handful of famous attractions the Taj Mahal, the forts and palaces of Rajasthan, the beaches of Goa and the backwaters of Kerala. Those places remain enormously popular. But the India that travellers are discovering today is much bigger than its most photographed landmarks. Increasingly, people are coming to India not simply to see something, but to experience something.



They want to eat where locals eat. They want to stay in a heritage home. They want to learn about traditional crafts, walk through historic neighbourhoods, experience a festival, travel through the countryside or simply spend time with people whose lives may be very different from their own.

India's tourism story is gradually shifting from seeing places to experiencing them. And that change matters far beyond tourism. The economic power of a visitor. Tourism can sometimes appear to be about hotels, airlines and sightseeing.

In reality, its reach is much wider. Think of a traveller arriving in India. They book a room, take a taxi, eat at a restaurant, buy something from a local shop, hire a guide and perhaps purchase a handmade product to take home. Each of those transactions supports someone. It may be a family running a homestay in Ladakh, a boatman taking visitors through Kerala's backwaters, a camel guide in Rajasthan, a tea estate worker in Assam or an artisan in Kutch.



Behind every holiday is therefore an entire network of people whose livelihoods are connected to tourism. That is one reason tourism has become such an important economic engine for India. And unlike industries concentrated in major cities, tourism can bring economic activity to smaller towns, villages and remote regions that may have fewer opportunities.

A tourist may see a beautiful destination

For a local family, that visitor can represent income, opportunity and a reason for the next generation to continue a traditional livelihood. One country, countless journeys. Perhaps the easiest way to understand India's tourism appeal is simply to look at the range of experiences available.



For adventure seekers, there are Himalayan trekking routes, white-water rivers, paragliding opportunities and the coral-rich waters of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

For wildlife lovers, India's forests offer encounters with Bengal tigers, Asiatic lions, one-horned rhinoceroses, elephants, snow leopards and hundreds of bird species.

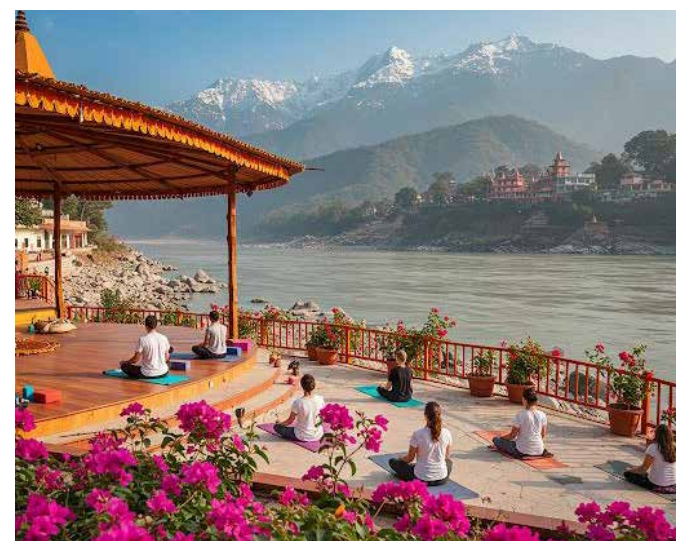


For history lovers, the country is almost an open-air archive. Ancient temples, Mughal monuments, medieval forts, colonial buildings and archaeological sites tell stories spanning more than five thousand years of civilization.

And then there are the quieter experiences the ones that may not make the front page of a travel brochure but often stay with people the longest.

When a holiday becomes something more

Long before wellness became a global travel trend, India had traditions built around the idea of balancing the mind, body and spirit. Today, travellers arrive in Rishikesh for yoga,



Kerala for Ayurveda, the Himalayas for meditation and places such as Varanasi, Bodhi Gaya and Amritsar in search of spiritual experiences.

For some, it is simply a chance to slow down. For others, it becomes something much deeper. That is an important part of



India’s tourism appeal. A journey here does not always end with a photograph. Sometimes it leaves a person thinking differently, feeling refreshed or reconnecting with something they had lost touch with.

That is why wellness tourism has become an increasingly important part of India’s travel economy. You cannot talk about India without talking about food. Ask someone about their memories of India and, sooner or later, food will probably enter the conversation.



And Indian food is not one cuisine. It is hundreds of culinary traditions shaped by geography, history, climate and culture. Hyderabad has its biryani. Kerala has its seafood. Gujarat has its distinctive vegetarian traditions. Punjab is known for its robust flavours. Chettinad brings its own intensity, while Delhi and Mumbai offer street food that has become famous far beyond India’s borders. Bengal has its own world of sweets and delicacies.



For an increasing number of travellers, food is no longer something that happens between sightseeing stops. It is the reason for the trip. People are planning journeys around regional cuisine, local markets, cooking classes and traditional food experiences.

And in India, every meal can become a history lesson. When an entire city becomes a celebration. India’s festivals offer another experience that is difficult to replicate elsewhere. During Holi, streets explode with colour. Diwali transforms homes and cities with light.



Durga Puja brings communities together in elaborate celebrations, while Ganesh Chaturthi fills streets with processions and music. Pongal and Baisakhi celebrate harvest traditions, while Rajasthan’s camel fairs and desert festivals bring another side of India’s cultural heritage to life.



These are not performances staged simply for tourists. They are living traditions. Visitors are invited to experience them from within rather than simply observe them from a distance. And that is precisely what modern travellers increasingly want.

The rise of experience tourism

Travel has changed. Many travellers today are less interested in simply ticking famous attractions off a list. They want experiences that feel personal, authentic and memorable. India is well placed for that kind of tourism.



Eco-tourism, rural stays, heritage walks, cycling tours, river cruises, plantation visits, tribal cultural experiences, luxury trains and culinary trails are giving travellers new ways to discover the country.

A restored haveli can become a hotel. A village can become a destination. A family recipe can become a culinary experience. A traditional craft can become something a visitor learns rather than simply buys. When local communities become active participants in tourism, the benefits can go beyond income. They can also help preserve architecture, crafts, traditions and ways of life that might otherwise disappear.

India’s most powerful tourism asset

There is an interesting thing about travelling in India. People often arrive with an itinerary. They leave with stories. They remember the unexpected conversation with a stranger. The meal they had never tasted before. The train journey. The festival they happened to witness. The village they had not planned to visit. The warmth of a family they met along the way.

That is why tourism has become more than an economic sector for India. It has become a form of soft diplomacy. Visitors experience the country directly through



its people, food, culture, music and hospitality. And when they return home, they carry those experiences with them.

A speech can tell people about a country. A personal experience can make them remember it. The journey is changing, but the attraction remains. India’s tourism infrastructure is changing rapidly. Modern airports, improved highways, digital travel services, luxury hotels, heritage conservation and better connectivity are making more parts of the country accessible to travellers.



But India’s greatest tourism asset is not an airport, a hotel or even a monument. It is its diversity. Every few hundred kilometres, something changes the language, the food, the landscape, the architecture, the traditions and the stories.

That means no two journeys through India need to be the same. And perhaps that is the secret of India’s enduring appeal. A visitor may come looking for the Taj Mahal, the Himalayas, a beach or a palace. But somewhere along the way, they often discover an India they were never expecting.

And that discovery is what brings many of them back. India doesn’t simply give travellers places to see. It gives them stories to take home.



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