

India to lead global economic growth

71ST ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

Message by H.E. K. Jeeva Sagar Ambassador of India to Kuwait

On the joyous occasion of the 71st Anniversary of India's Independence, it is my honour and profound happiness to extend Warm Greetings to all the well-wishers and friends of India, and my fellow countrymen and women in Kuwait. Kuwait is a friendly country with which India enjoys an issue-free historical relationship. The relationship has the maturity and depth to deal with any situation in a spirit of cooperation and amicable understanding. And I would like to take this opportunity to convey my sincere and heartfelt gratitude, on behalf of all the Indian citizens



H.E. Jeeva Sagar

living in Kuwait and the Government of India, to the wise and enlightened leadership of Kuwait, and also our Best Wishes for the good health and wellbeing of His Highness the Amir. Kuwait defies its size and numbers when it comes to the active role it plays in the region and on the world stage for progress and betterment of all humanity. I wish this great nation all the very best and success in its endeavours. I also congratulate Kuwait on its current membership of the United Nations Security Council, and wish them an effective and productive term.

Continued on Page 10

India will be a leading source of global economic growth in coming decades, says the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest assessment on the economic and financial wellbeing of the Indian economy.

In its annual economic assessment of the country, the IMF projected GDP growth in India would rise to 7.5 percent in fiscal year 2019/20 (FY20) from the 7.3 percent growth expected in FY19, on the back of strengthening investments and robust private consumption.

"India now contributes 15 percent of global economic growth in terms of purchasing power parity, which is substantial, and next only to that of China and the US," said Ranil Salgado, International Monetary Fund's mission chief for India.

Pointing out that the IMF views India as a "long run source of global growth", he said the country could replace China as the main driver of global economic growth in the coming decades. "India has three decades before it hits the point where the working age population starts to decline. So that's



a long time. This is India's window of opportunity in Asia," he added.

Despite growth slowing to 6.7 percent in FY18, which has been attributed largely to disruptions arising from the government's currency exchange initiative introduced in November 2016, and the launch of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in July 2017, the IMF viewed India's near-term macroeconomic outlook as "broadly

favorable". India is benefiting from good macroeconomic and stability-oriented policies, as well as several important reforms that have been implemented in recent years, said the Fund, while urging the country to steadfastly pursue more structural reforms, including in restructuring labor relations, improving business climate and enhancing infrastructure.

Continued on Page 6

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Solar energy

Fueling future growth in India

India is the third largest consumer of energy and one of the fastest growing energy markets in the world. In 2017, around 47 percent of the total energy consumed in the country came from the import of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas; this dependence on imports is expected to rise to 53 percent by 2030.

Limited domestic fossil-fuel resources and increasing demand for energy from rapid urbanization and economic growth poses a serious threat to the country's energy-security.



In a bid to alleviate this dependence on imports, as well as lessen the social and environmental

impact from fossil fuels, the government is increasingly promoting renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind and nuclear power.

Though fossil fuels will continue to dominate India's energy mix in the short-term, the future is clearly in clean renewable energy with ambitious plans to increase the share of renewables in the total energy-mix to 40 percent by 2030. India already has the world's fourth largest installed wind power capacity and with five nuclear reactors under construction, and plans in the pipeline to construct 18 more reactors by 2025, the country could double the contribution of nuclear to total power generation by 2025.

However, it is solar power that could provide the best long-term renewable energy option for India as the country has an ideal combination of high annual solar radiance, vast tracts of unproductive barren land, and a large potential consumer base density. Most of India gets sunshine for more than 300 days a year, placing the country in an advantageous position to push for greater generation of and access to solar energy.

Technological advances in gathering and storing solar energy as well as the sharp fall in solar panel prices have led to solar power tariffs dropping as low as 2.44 Indian rupees per unit in 2017. This could mark the beginning of exponential growth in India's solar energy generation. Currently, India has 40 million households without electricity, and the government has set the ambitious target of providing '24x7 Power for All' by 2022. To achieve this target, India plans on realizing 175GW (gigawatts) of power from renewable sources by 2022, of which 100 GW will be from solar.

Ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, India launched an initiative to establish an International Solar Alliance (ISA), which envisaged a common green future for the planet based on efficient exploitation of solar energy and reduced dependence on fossil fuels. The initiative was welcomed by 121 nations that joined the treaty-based intergovernmental organization. By the end of 2017, the number of prospective members signing on to the ISA framework was 65 with 33 nations ratifying the treaty.

The alliance, also called the International Agency for Solar Policy and Application, aims on collaborating with developed countries to address technological gaps and galvanizing investments of US\$1 trillion to harness solar energy. Signatories to the alliance plan on cooperating with each other to learn from experiences and share

best practices to bring reliable and affordable solar energy to all. The alliance provides an unprecedented opportunity for nations rich in solar resource to bring prosperity, energy security and sustainable development to their peoples.

In mid-March of this year, India and France jointly hosted the first International Solar summit in New Delhi. In addition to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron of France, leaders 50 other ISA member states, as well as the chiefs and representatives of international and regional organizations attended the summit.

Many developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific lying in the tropical belt could utilize their abundant, freely available year-round sunshine to generate solar energy and fuel economic growth if it was made more accessible and affordable. But these countries often face insurmountable challenges to adopting solar energy, including poor infrastructure development, lack of technological know-how, inability to procure raw materials for solar panels, inaccessibility to existing storage technologies, and the unavailability of finances and foreign investments needed to develop solar energy.

India, as the initiator of ISA, and France, which guided the signing of the Global Climate Treaty, remain committed to making solar an important component of the energy mix of developing



“ Many developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific lying in the tropical belt could utilize their abundant, freely available year-round sunshine to generate solar energy and fuel economic growth if it was made more accessible and affordable. ”

countries, and in helping them overcome some of the challenges they face in adopting solar energy. Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation agreement, India has been involved in capacity-building and offering technical assistance in renewable energy to developing countries in the Global South.

While India's efforts toward adopting solar energy and helping other nations develop renewable energy are recognized and appreciated, the international community, especially the developed nations need to do more in order to help reduce the cost of equipment, build infrastructure, provide low-cost financing, and reducing tariffs. For the developed countries, supporting India and the ISA will also mean supporting developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially SDG7, which calls for "ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all".

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The next frontier for India's Space Program

India's space program, which has had stellar successes over the years, added another star to its shoulders with the launch in January 2018 of its 100th satellite, which was hoisted into orbit along with 30 other satellites on board its workhorse rocket, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C40).



In February 2017, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched 104 satellites on a single PSLV rocket to set a world record that easily surpassed Russia's feat of sending 37 satellites in a single launch in 2014. In September 2014, India also successfully guided a spacecraft into orbit around Mars. Only the United States, the former Soviet Union and the European Space Agency had been able to previously do that.

The payload onboard the PSLV-C40 launched in January of this year included 710kg Cartosat-2 Earth observation Satellite, along with two more Indian satellites as well as 28 satellites from six different countries that include the US, UK, South Korea, Canada, Finland and France, including 30 other micro- and nano-satellites from six different countries. The launch is a good demonstration of both the reliability of Indian rockets as well as an example of India's mature satellite fabrication capacities.

According to the ISRO, the Cartosat is an Earth observation satellite, with a wide variety of cartographic applications, including "coastal land use and regulation, utility management like road network monitoring, water distribution, creation of land use maps, change detection to

bring out geographical and man-made features and various other Land Information System (LIS) as well as Geographical Information System (GIS) applications".

Though the ISRO is coy about it, the Indian press has reported that the Cartosat also has national security applications, especially in watching India's borders. The security implications have not gone unnoticed by India's regional rival, Pakistan. Even before the launch took place, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson pointed to the "dual use" nature of space technology and expressed concerns about the impact of the launch on "regional strategic stability".

It will also, without doubt, spur a regional space race with China, with which India increasingly compares its space program. Not surprisingly, Indo-Japanese cooperation in space technology has also dramatically grown, with the two countries agreeing last year to cooperate on a variety of areas, including "Earth observation, satellite based navigation, space sciences and lunar exploration." Japan and India

share a growing concern about China, including about China's space accomplishments.

While these are impressive achievements, India's space program faces some challenges. Although the ISRO remains one of the rare public-sector agencies that has done India proud, India needs to augment its policy and program in line with contemporary regional and global developments in the space domain.

The first challenge that India faces is the lack of a comprehensive space policy. As of now, there are sector-specific policies for remote sensing and Satcom. While these are essential to catering to the needs of specific customers, the need for a holistic approach to space is gaining greater momentum. India's leaders must think about developing a comprehensive, overarching space policy, issued by a central agency such as the Prime Minister's Office or the Ministry of External Affairs.

Today, space is not about weather prediction, DTH services, tele-education and tele-medicine alone, but also about the growing number of uses in the national security sector. Ignoring the

growing requirements in the security domain can be detrimental to India's strategic interests. India's overarching space policy should also be the by-product of a larger national security strategy approach that would outline what kind of future warfare India expects to fight and the kind of space capabilities that may be required for such wars. Such an exercise is best undertaken by the political leadership than a sector-specific department. A policy developed in the absence of such a strategic interface could be seriously problematic.

The second challenge is finding a strategy to enhance India's space capacity. While the ISRO has begun acknowledging the new reality that there are growing demands from a variety of sectors for space services, the problem lies in the capacity to deliver in a timely manner. ISRO has begun co-opting private players to meet these growing demands. While a few companies other than the traditional players such as Larsen & Tubro and Godrej are entering the domain, the Department of Space could make the outreach to commercial entities in a more coherent fashion through a comprehensive policy framework.

The third challenge India faces is how to deal with the growing demands for an international space regime. India must be mindful of the efforts at developing an effective outer space regime as it frames its own national space policy. The growing number of problems, including space debris, the potential weaponization of space, as well as deployment of anti-satellite weapons, require concerted multilateral action. India has yet to decide how to frame its national interests in outer space in a way that both promotes its own national requirements but also global needs. India has an opportunity to take the lead on this, lest it face the alternative of having others determine these rules.

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India to lead global economic growth

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Stating that economic risks are tilted to the downside in India, the IMF clarified that on the external front the most potent risks were from a further increase in international oil prices and tighter global financial conditions. In addition, a retreat from cross-border integration, including spillover risks from a global trade conflict, and rising regional geopolitical tensions, could impact Indian growth.

On the domestic front, the IMF identified growth risks stemming from tax revenue shortfalls related to continued GST implementation issues, need for more structural reforms and delays in addressing the twin balance sheet problems — arising from the parlous balance sheets of several public sector banks and their near-insolvent corporate borrowers.

While lauding the recent moves by the government to recognize the non-performing assets of banks and recapitalize public-sector banks, the IMF called for more fiscal consolidation to lower elevated public debt levels, including by further simplifying and streamlining the GST structure.

The assessment by IMF vindicates the figures and recommendations that Finance Minister Arun Jaitley provided when he tabled the Economic Survey 2017-18 in Parliament in January of this year. The government's Economic Survey had forecast a growth rate of 7 to 7.5 percent for FY2018/19, a jump from the 6.75 growth in FY18. The survey had also called for focusing on private investments and exports to sustain economic growth.

The headline inflation for FY18 projected in the Economic Survey of 3.3 percent, is only a touch lower than the IMF findings of 3.6 percent. Additionally, the IMF report found that the inflation figure, which was a record 17-year low, reflected agriculture sector reforms, subdued domestic demand, currency appreciation and low food prices on account of the return of normal monsoon rainfall in FY18.

Current account deficit, which the government survey showed had declined to reach 1.8 percent of GDP in first-half of FY18, was again reiterated in the IMF report. But the Fund's report cautioned

Indian Economic snapshot

The various reforms undertaken by the government to encourage investments and promote businesses have led to an increase in India's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index, from 130 in 2017 to 100 in 2018.

The number of indirect taxpayers in the country witnessed a growth of 50 percent to 9.8 million unique GST registrants, as of December 2017.

Foreign exchange reserves on 29 June 2018, stood at US\$406 billion

Gross Tax Revenue (GTR) collection grew by 29.9 percent year-on-year in April-May 2018-19 to over Rs2.1 lakh crore (\$31.22 billion).

More than 20 billion digital payment transactions were made in the country during 2017/18, this was a nearly ten-fold jump from the 2.2 billion transactions in 2013/14.

Cumulative FDI Equity Inflows into the country from 2000 to 2017 stood at \$ 332 billion (April 2000 to December 2017) with the major sectors attracting highest FDI equity inflows during the period being the services sector (17%), telecommunications (8%), computer software and hardware (8%), construction development (7%), automobile (5%), trading (4%), drugs and pharmaceuticals (4%), chemicals (4%), power (4%), and construction activities (3%)

that current account deficit could widen to 2.6 percent of GDP in current fiscal on rising oil prices and strong demand for imports that could be only partially offset by a small increase in remittances.

The IMF report underscores the need for continued prudent macroeconomic policies and renewed emphasis on macro-financial and structural reforms needed for India to remain the driver of global economic growth.

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TASTY TRICOLORED Recipes

Celebrate Independence Day by cooking a number of tricolored delicacies for your family. From colorful and flavored pasta to tricolored cottage cheese on skewers, these foods will instantly tantalize your taste buds. Read on for some easy-to-do recipes for you to celebrate the patriotic fervor of the country's 72nd Independence Day.



Tricolor idlis

Ingredients

Idli batter as required
 For orange colored batter
 1 big tomato
 2 red chilies

For green colored batter

1 cup coriander or mint leaves
 1 green chili
 1/4 tsp cumin seeds (jeera)

Instructions

Take the idli batter and divide it into three equal parts. Keep one part aside for the white colored idlis.



Tricolored cottage cheese skewers

Ingredients

180g — Paneer (cottage cheese) divided into 9 squares and placed in three bowls)
 Marinate the paneer in first bowl with:
 20g — Fresh basil pesto
 30g — Yogurt
 30g — Fresh Cream
 4 pcs — Green bell peppers (cut into squares)
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Marinate the paneer in second bowl with:
 30g — Fresh cream
 30g — Yogurt
 30g — Tahini paste
 1/2 tsp — Cardamom powder -
 1/2 tsp — Onion powder
 1/2 tsp — Garlic powder
 4 pcs — Onion (cut into squares)
 Salt and white pepper to taste
 Marinate the paneer in third bowl with:
 30g — Yogurt
 30g — Fresh cream
 20g — Sundried tomato pesto
 1/2 tsp — Lemon juice
 4 pcs — Red bell pepper (cut into squares)
 Salt and black pepper to taste

Instructions

Marinate the cottage cheese in their respective mixes for a minimum of 4 hours, preferably

overnight. Place them equally on skewers

Brush the grill with oil or use non-stick pan with a thin coating of olive oil and sear all sides of the skewered paneer. Transfer to a hot oven at 180 degrees C and cook for approximately 5-10 minutes or till cooked all the way through.

Serve hot with a julienned bell pepper salad, a lemon wedge and marinated onions.

Orange colored batter

Chop the tomatoes into chunks.
 Cook the tomatoes and red chilies for just a couple of minutes to remove the raw taste.
 Cool it and mash it to a smooth paste.
 Mix it with one portion of the batter to make the orange colored idlis.

Green colored batter

Chop the coriander or mint leaves roughly.
 Cook them with the green chilies for just a couple of minutes to remove the raw taste.
 Cool and mash it to a smooth paste.
 Mix it with the second portion of the batter to make the green colored idlis.
 Use the plain batter, orange batter and green batter to make three different colored idlis. Arrange the idlis on a plate as per the national flag.

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Saffron and pesto flavored pasta with chili garlic truffle oil

Instructions

Hollow out the center making a well in the middle of the flour with steep sides.

- Break the eggs into the well. Add the salt, and olive oil to the hollow center and gently mix together with a fork. Gradually start incorporating the flour by pulling in the flour from the sides of the well. As you incorporate more of the flour, the dough will start to take shape.
- With your hands or a bench scraper continue working the dough until it comes together. If the dough is too dry, add a little water; if too wet or sticky, add a little flour.
- Now rest the dough for 15 to 20 minutes. You can store the dough in the refrigerator for up to 24 hours, but allow it to return to room temperature before rolling it out.
- Now roll out the pasta and cut into shapes



- before boiling.
- For flavor and color variations
- All color additions should be added to eggs before incorporating into the flour. Keep in mind that you will need to add a little bit of flour to your basic pasta recipe to compensate for the additional liquid added
- For green color pasta, you can try blanched spinach purée
- For saffron color pasta, use saffron or tomato pasta
- Now, toss the pasta with some choice vegetables along with chopped garlic and chopped chilli. Drizzle with olive oil, season and serve.

Tricolour dhokla

Ingredients

3 cups idli batter
1/4 cup spinach puree
1 green chili and 1 small piece of ginger ground into a paste
1 tbsp red chili powder
1/4 tsp Kashmiri red chili powder
1 tsp oil to grease the plate
2 tbsp grated coconut, to garnish
Chopped coriander leaves, to garnish

Seasoning

1 tsp oil
1 tsp mustard seeds
1 tsp white sesame seeds

Instruction

Divide the batter into three parts:
1. Green batter: 1 cup batter mixed with the spinach puree and ginger-green chili paste.
2. White batter: 1 cup batter.
3. Orange batter: 1 cup batter mixed with the



two chili powders.
Transfer the green batter to a greased plate and steam it. When it is done, pour one cup of plain batter for the white layer on it and steam it. Add the orange batter on top of it and steam it. Remove it and allow it to cool. Cut the dhokla into shapes of your choice and arrange the pieces on a plate. Season it with the items mentioned and garnish the dish with the coconut and coriander leaves. Serve with green or sweet chutney.



Tiranga Burfi

Ingredients:

3 cups condensed milk
1/2 cup almond meal or powder
1/2 cup cashew powder
1/2 cup pistachio powder
2 tsp saffron threads
4 tbsp warm milk
6 tbsp ghee
1 tsp cardamom powder

Instructions

- Soak the saffron threads in the warm milk, and set aside to infuse. Heat a tablespoon of ghee in a non-stick pan. Add the pistachio powder, and roast for a few minutes while stirring continuously. Take it off the heat, and set aside to cool.
- Heat the rest of the ghee in a separate non-stick pan. Add the almond and cashew

powder, and roast for three minutes. Make sure it does not brown or burn.

- Add the cardamom powder and condensed milk. Stir continuously to completely mix the ingredients. Once completely mixed together, separate the mixture into three equal parts in three bowls.
- Mix the pistachio powder in one bowl, and the saffron-infused milk in another. Now you have three barfi batters ready--one white, one green, and one saffron-colored.
- Pour the green mix on a greased, slightly deep tray. Allow it to spread evenly (you can help it along with a spatula if you need). Follow it up with the white mixture, and finally the saffron one. Make sure you do this quickly, before the mixtures have time to cool down.
- Allow the tri-colored barfi to cool and set completely. Cut it into pieces, and serve.



Independence Day Cookies

Ingredients

3 cups white flour
1/4 tsp salt
3/4 tsp baking powder
1 tsp vanilla
1 egg
1 tbsp milk
2 sticks butter (1 cup) at room temperature

1 cup sugar
Powdered sugar for rolling
Cookie cutters

Instructions

- In a stand mixer, add the butter and sugar. In another bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt.
- In another bowl, whisk together the vanilla, egg, and milk. Cream the butter and sugar on medium low speed until the color is nice and white.
- Lower the speed and slowly add the egg mixture. Once incorporated, slowly add the flour mixture. Beat on medium low speed until the dough comes off the edges.
- Divide into three equal parts and wrap each part in wax paper. Keep in fridge for two to three hours.
- Preheat oven to 190-degree C.
- Take out one slab of dough at a time. Sprinkle powdered sugar over a clean space and gently roll out the dough to 1/4 inch.
- Take your cookie cutters and cut out shapes, pressing straight down. Place on greased cookie sheet and bake in oven for 7-9 minutes. You can keep them plain, or get creative and use green and orange colored icing or sprinkles.



Tricolor Veggie Upma

Ingredients

1 cup Rawa/Sooji
Salt as per taste
1/3 cup grated carrot
1/3 cup grated cauliflower -
1/3 cup peas
1 chopped green chilies
1 finely chopped tomato
1 tablespoon Oil
Mustard, curry leaves, dry red chillies, urad dal for tadka
A pinch garam masala
Lime juice of half lime
Coriander fresh leaves
3 teaspoon grated dry coconut

Instructions

- Heat oil and temper with mustard, urad dal, dry red chillies and curry leaves. Add grated veggies (carrot and cauliflower), peas and chillies to it. Sauté them and when they grow soft, add 5 cups water. Add salt and garam masala.
- While the dish boils, add chopped tomatoes and squeeze lime juice.
- Slowly add sooji and keep stirring so that lumps are not formed.
- Finally, when all water is soaked by rawa and is mixed properly and cooked, garnish with green coriander leaves and grated coconut. Serve it hot.



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71ST ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

Message by H.E. K. Jeeva Sagar, Ambassador of India to Kuwait

Continued from Page 1

I would like to see more and more of our Kuwaiti friends visit India, both for tourism and business, and explore the history, culture and trade that have bound us together over centuries, and take advantage of the vast potential India offers today, for mutual benefit. I am glad to state that the two countries are keen to expand the relations into new dimensions including Science & Technology, Defence, Parliamentary and Cultural exchanges etc. so that our historic friendship adapts to the expectations of the 21st century dynamics.

Even as large sections of global population unfortunately are still endeavoring in search of security and stability, India, with its massive over 1300 million people, or one-sixth of the humanity, has been a picture of hope and prosperity, and has been able to provide a peaceful environment for its people to flourish: Prosperity, not just in a materialistic and economic sense, but in its full and complete meaning of the blossoming of the people to their full potential! And this

is not a small achievement, nor is it an accidental overnight happening. Painstaking efforts of millions and selfless sacrifices by several leaders over decades have contributed to the robust India of today. My dear Indian friends, the best tribute we can pay to their memory is by rededicating ourselves to the ideals they have lived by and set for the country, and apply to ourselves the same standards here in Kuwait as we join hands and work with our Kuwaiti hosts in the latter's efforts to sustain their own economic success, achieve further development, and ensure continued peace and harmony for their homeland Kuwait.

It is important though for us the people of India not to sit on our laurels, but to reflect deeply and carefully on what it is that has brought us thus far, and what remains to be done, and what are the shortcomings that might have delayed our triumphant journey, and what else has been ailing our nation today that we need to collectively address so that India can proudly declare that it is standing by the values and principles defined



in our Constitution. One important thing for everyone to be mindful of is that a citizen does have not just the Rights that define his/her dignity and ensure freedom, but should remind himself/herself constantly that they also entail responsibility to respect and uphold the freedom of every other citizen and his/her own right to a life of dignity. To put it simply, one man's freedom stops where the

other man's starts. India today is assuming a global role as it is a nation that respects the Rule of Law, and is a factor of peace, security and stability. And my fellow Indians, it is not just for the government to provide responsible and good governance, but each and every one of us has to play his/her part in supporting the government.

Friends, India today is seen by the world as a vibrant democratic and secular nation that respects the Rule of Law, and as a country governed by robust and progressive institutions. Largest democracy is a mere statistic, but vibrancy comes with responsibility and good governance. Every Indian in Kuwait as well as elsewhere should be proud of India's achievements that span each and every sector and dimension. We are an economy where a global & mega corporation and a tiny SME coexist in perfect blend and have taken the country to be the 6th largest GDP in the world. India is the fastest growing economy – surely this is a matter of satisfaction – but what is more important is to ensure that this growth and the resultant prosperity and wealth are equitable in their distribution.

Democracy will be rendered meaningless if we fail to make a dent in the poverty levels, and if the fruits of our nation's prosperity are denied to the underprivileged. Our government has been endeavoring towards this objective with various schemes and innovative projects, and it becomes the responsibility of all of us to extend our full support even as we benefit from the government's efforts. For instance the schemes like Pradhan Manthri Dhan Jan Yojana (a financial inclusion scheme) are targeted exactly at bringing about this inclusiveness into our growth and prosperity narrative. Whether it is Skill India, or Digital India or Smart Cities or Make in India etc., - all are aimed at eventually imparting greater depth and substance to India's economy, and prepare the country in terms of infrastructure, energy security, food security, industrial prowess etc. towards taking a leap into higher orbits of growth and progress.

My dear fellow countrymen and women, let's now take a look at ourselves in Kuwait as the largest expatriate community. What does it mean to us and what does it convey about us? Well, each one of us should note and be happy that we are in a friendly country which has a historical relationship with India, and shares tremendous amount of goodwill,

mutual respect and cultural affinity. While Kuwait shows admiration for India's long and ancient civilization and institutional strength, India greatly values Kuwait's own traditions and its contribution to peace and stability in the region and beyond. In all my interactions with the Kuwaiti leadership and decision-making levels I have been reassured that the Indian community in Kuwait enjoys the trust and confidence of the friendly people of Kuwait because of the respect for law displayed by the community, and its cultural profoundness, peaceful character and family values. There is an acknowledgement of the community's immense contribution to the socio-economic development of Kuwait. While this should make us proud, it also challenges us as the largest foreign population of the country at over 950,000 to reciprocate this trust by abiding by the values and international principles that have made India a proud country among the comity of nations. It should never be forgotten that largest size as an expatriate community is surely a compliment, but it is also a responsibility towards the host nation. The respect, friendship and trust that we enjoy in this beautiful nation should further strengthen our resolve to enhance our contribution to Kuwait's prosperity, development and wellbeing of its people.

May I also take this opportunity to inform all our friends that official level interactions between our two governments have been taking place regularly thereby lending predictability and consistency to our bilateral relations. Just in the last 5 months, for instance, three government delegations have exchanged visits – in April this year the Joint Working Group on manpower met in Kuwait; in June an Engineering and Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) delegation visited India; and in the first week of August, senior representatives of the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs met in Kuwait and held wide ranging consultations spanning all the dimensions of the bilateral relationship. Both countries are conscious of the importance of high level political visits to raise the relationship into the next level, and are working on them. The two sides are also aware of the need to infuse greater and deeper economic and commercial content into the relationship to sustain the engagement on a consistent basis. Trade, which has reached about 8 billion dollars, has been on an upward curve, while new areas are being explored for investments. The highly rated and globally respected Kuwait Investment Authority, which has already invested significantly in India in sectors such as infrastructure and Power, is keen to expand its presence further. The Indian Embassy is planning a major event in Kuwait focusing on Medical Tourism in the coming months. Once again, I would like to convey my Warm Greetings and Best Wishes to all the readers on the occasion of the Seventy First Anniversary of India's Independence.

- Thank you.
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INDIA

A MOSAIC OF SIGHTS, CULTURES AND TRADITIONS

From desert stargazing and snow leopard spotting, to mountain trekking in the Himalayas - these activities will take you to the heart and hidden corners of India.

Appreciate India's diverse wildlife: India is home to a wide array of wildlife, but it is the country's cats that garner most of the attention. It is home to five big cats - Bengal tigers, Asiatic lions, snow leopards, clouded leopards and Indian leopards - and the chances of spotting them are reasonably high if you head to the right places.



The best national parks for seeing tigers are Bandhavgarh, Ranthambore, Kanha, Pench, Satpura and Corbett. Though there are good populations of tigers in the Sunderbans, they can be difficult to see.

Leopards are widely spread across India; you will find them as far south as Kerala and as north as Rajasthan. You could very well see them on the outskirts of Mumbai, where they rummage through rubbish dumps on the edges of the city.

Snow leopards can be found near Ladakh, high in the Indian Himalaya. A visit in the winter will maximise chances of seeing them as they descend from the mountains in search of food - they seem particularly fond of the local bharal and blue sheep.

Clouded leopards live in the foothills of the Himalaya, and despite their name are not closely related to leopards. They are considered the evolutionary link between small cats and big cats. The Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve in Sikkim is one of the best places to see them.

Finally, seek out the world's only surviving Asiatic lions in Gujarat State. Smaller and shaggier than their African cousins, they can only be found in the Sasan Gir National Park.



Celebrate the world's most colorful festivals

With its pantheon of Gods and religions, there is no shortage of festivals in India. Each region has its own celebrations too - in Kerala, for example, they observe harvest with Onam, a 10-day festival of feasting. There are kite flying and camel festivals, and an event that celebrates hornbills in Nagaland. There is no better way to immerse yourself in the country's colourful traditions.

Diwali is the biggest festival, held every year between October and November. Known

as the 'festival of lights', as over one million clay lamps called diyyas light up the streets, houses and temples around India.

Holi, held in March, is India's most colorful festival, celebrating the victory of good over evil. It is chaotic and crazy, with people throwing powder of all different hues. Although it is observed across the whole country, celebrations in the north are more vivid and jubilant. Just remember to wear clothes that you don't mind getting ruined.



Explore the temples: With its multitude of religions and deities, it comes as no surprise that India is a land of temples. Throughout the ages they have been the canvas for ideas, architecture, sculpture and arts. Dominating landscapes or carved into mountains and caves, they are buzzing, vibrant centres of active devotion. Be amazed at the carvings of the Khajuraho temple in Madhya Pradesh. Sample food prepared under the scrutiny of



Goddess Mahalakshmi in the Lord Jagannath temple in Orissa. Marvel at the technicolour animals, gods and demons that adorn the Meenakshi Sundareshwar Temple in Tamil Nadu. And explore the Golden Temple in Amritsar - a shining beacon of religious tolerance and spiritual freedom.

From the tiniest shrine to the mightiest structure, each temple reveals something of the country's soul. Take the time to seek them out.

Trek in the Himalayas: The Indian Himalaya conjures up images of ancient pilgrimages and sacred sites - but it's far more than that. The western ranges, from Kashmir to Nanda Devi, boast an incredible variety of communities and viewpoints. In the east, paradise-like Sikkim has giant butterflies and orchid forests while Arunachal Pradesh is the last of the Himalayan wild frontiers.



The Markha Valley and Hemis Festival trek is perhaps the most popular in the Indian Himalaya, offering stunning mountain scenery, the largest monastery in Ladakh, and the chance to see snow leopards. The monastery circuit in Sikkim reveals a land of dramatic scenery, delightful monasteries and hundreds of butterflies, birds and rare plants.

Beyond Darjeeling's magnificently manicured tea estates lies a trek through the forests of pine, conifer and rhododendrons, which leads to a ridge that forms a natural border with Nepal and into Singalila National Park.

Seek out an earthly paradise: The 400km of tropical coastline separating Mumbai and Goa is among the least-visited parts of the subcontinent. Tourist hotels are virtually non-



existent and roads are narrow and meandering, though there is a train (the Konkan Railway) that will take you to quiet outposts.



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The palm-fringed shore forms a near continuous string of beaches – many of them entirely deserted and overlooked by 17th- and 18th-century citadels.

Closer to South-East Asia than the subcontinent, the 572 Andaman and Nicobar Islands are a true alternative to India. The Nicobars are off-limits; only a handful of islands in the whole archipelago are open to the few tourists that do make it out there.

The 2004 tsunami devastated island tourism, but the Andamans have bounced back and are open for business – the diving is reportedly as good as ever. Fly or sail into capital Port Blair, then drift on to Havelock Island for bird watching and beach-lazing before heading for Neil Island – the place to cycle through paddy fields, snorkel above reefs and count the other travellers on one hand.



Ride the rails: The rail system in India is more than just a way to get around, it's an experience in its own right. Each carriage is a microcosm of India – noisy, chaotic, welcoming and vibrant. You will live a lifetime in one day. Book yourself a sleeper – choosing the class according to your budget – and experience travel at the clattering pace of an ancient train.

Each rail journey is as varied as the country itself. The desert crossing from Jodhpur to Jaisalmer will take you past forts and old cities, while the 'Toy Train' from Kolkata to Darjeeling

zig-zags its way into the mountains past tea plantations and offers spectacular views of the Himalayas. The Cardamom Route from Madurai to Bodinayakkanur will take you to the southern foothills of the Western Ghats past plantations of cotton, mango, pepper, coffee and tea.

For a truly memorable Indian rail experience, consider taking the Grand Trunk Express from New Delhi to Chennai. It covers 2,186km, making it one of the longest train routes in India.



Find inner peace: India is a bit of a spiritual supermarket, with all kinds of religions, beliefs and customs. You can dip your toes into the holy waters, quite literally, watching daily ceremonies on the ghats in Varanasi or by the still waters in front of the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Or you can throw yourself into the swirling madness of Kumbh Mela, a mass of ritual bathing, naked sadhus, flashing lights and spiritual cleansing, held every three years at a designated sacred river.

Or go a little deeper by staying in one of India's Hindu Ashrams, faith-based guest houses where even the food is included with spiritual instruction. Pondicherry – and nearby Auroville – is something of a spiritual centre, as is Rishikesh, north-east of Delhi at the foot of the Himalaya. Sitting at the spot where the holy River Ganges finishes its 272km race to escape the Himalaya, Rishikesh is packed with temples, colourful characters and ashrams.



Watch the world go by from a houseboat in Kerala

The converted rice boats that ply the backwaters of Kerala offer the ultimate way to experience rural India at its most peacefully replete. Fertile soils and plentiful fish stocks mean it's one of the country's most abundant regions. Kick back and enjoy the idyllic sights of shady palms, paddy fields and quiet little rural churches and temples. This is India at its rural best.

Take time to look around Kerala's colourful city, Kochi. Kochi (or Cochin as most of the locals prefer to call it) is a series of peninsulas, islands and promontories caught between the lakes and rivers of its inland waterways and the Arabian Sea. Each district has a distinct personality, from the old colonial trading post of Fort Cochin

and concrete city towers of commercial Ernakulam, to the sandy beaches of Vypeen Island. Lace up your walking boots and jump on the ferry for a flavour of Kerala's biggest city.



Sleep under the stars in the Rajasthan desert

A camel safari into the Rajasthan desert is an unmissable experience. You'll be rocked gently as your camel takes you across the Thar Desert to Jaisalmer, camping out at night in tents beneath the canopy of stars and calling upon small desert villages where curious children show you their earthen huts with pride.

Time your visit to coincide with the Pushkar

camel fair, an annual event where traders from the region gather, showing Rajasthan at its colourful, chaotic, camel-trading best.

And don't forget to spend time in the pink city of Jaisalmer. Compact, self-contained and crowned by the oldest still-inhabited fort in the world, it's a town made for strolling – and a gentle introduction to the sights, sounds and smells of India.

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Indian folk-paintings have fascinated viewers through the ages. Passed down from one generation to another, the art of folk-painting has evolved over the centuries and continues to thrive in many parts of the country. In earlier times, these paintings were rendered on walls or cloth using natural dyes and colors made from mud, leaves and charcoal, today, artists sometimes use more modern equivalents but that does not diminish the beauty and quality of the final products. Here is a look at several of these unique, admirable and inimitable art forms.



INDIAN FOLK-PAINTING THROUGH THE AGES

Characterized by exotic geometric patterns, this art form was not known to the outside world until an earthquake in 1930's revealed broken houses with Madhubani paintings. Most of these paintings or wall murals depict gods, flora and fauna.



Miniature Paintings: These paintings are characterized by its miniature size but intricate details and acute expressions. Originating around 16th century during the Mughal era, Miniature paintings are influenced by Persian styles, and flourished under Shah Jahan and Akbar's rule. Later, it was adopted by the Rajputs, and is now popularly practiced in Rajasthan. As

with other Indian art forms, the paintings depict religious symbols and epics. These paintings stand out as humans are portrayed with large eyes, a pointed nose and a slim waist, and men are always seen with a turban.



Phad: Originating in Rajasthan, Phad is mainly a religious form of scroll painting depicting folk deities. The paintings are made on long canvas or cloth called phad that sometimes stretches to nearly 10 meters. Vegetable colors and a running narrative of the lives and heroic deeds of deities characterize these paintings.



Warli: Originated by the Warli tribes from the Western Ghats of India, in 2500 BCE, this is easily one of the oldest art forms of India. It is mainly the use of circles, triangles and squares to form numerous shapes and depict daily life activities like fishing, hunting, festivals, dance and more. What sets it apart is the human shape: a circle and two triangles. All the paintings are done on a red ochre or dark



Gond: Characterized by a sense of belonging with nature, the Gondi tribe in Madhya Pradesh created these bold, vibrantly colored paintings, depicting mainly flora and fauna. The colors come from charcoal, cow dung, leaves and colored soil. If you look closely, it is made up of dots and lines. Today, these styles are imitated, but with acrylic paints. It can be called an evolution in the Gond art form, spearheaded by Jangarh Singh Shyam, the most popular Gond artist who revived the art for the world in the 1960's.

Kalamkari: Literally meaning 'drawings with a pen', Kalamkari, an art form prevalent in the state of Andhra Pradesh, is of two types: Machilipatnam, which originates from Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Srikalahasti, which originates from Chittoor in the same state. While the former refers to block-printed form of art, the latter is a free flowing art with a pen on fabric. Today, Kalamkari art is



used on sarees and ethnic clothing, and depicts anything from flora and fauna to epics such as Mahabharata or Ramayana.



Tanjore paintings: From down south in Tamilnadu comes Tanjore or Thanjavur paintings that originated in the 17th century through encouragement and support from the Nayakas of Thanjavur. You can recognize a Thanjavur painting by its use of gold foil, which glitters and lends the painting a surreal look. These panel paintings on wooden planks depict devotion to gods, goddesses and saints. It borrows its styles from Maratha and Deccani art, as well as European styles.



Cherial Scrolls: Originating in present-day Telangana, this dying art form is practiced by the Nakashi family and has been passed down for many generations. The tradition of long scrolls and Kalamkari art influenced the Cherial scrolls, a much more stylized version of Nakashi art. Depicting puranas and epics, these 15-meter-long scrolls were an essential visual accompaniment as saints wandered around singing or narrating the epics. They resemble modern-day comic panels, with about 50 on each scroll. They use primary colors and a vivid imagination, a stark contrast from the traditional rigour of Tanjore or Mysore paintings.

Kalighat Paintings: A recently discovered painting style, it originated in the 19th century from Kalighat in Bengal. It was the time when upheaval against the British was a possible, exciting idea. These paintings, on cloth and pattas, at first depicted Gods and Goddesses, but then took a turn towards social reform. With cheap paper and paint colors, squirrel hair brushes and color pigments, the art was characterized by flawless strokes, brushwork, and simple but bold drawings.



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Startup India

encouraging youth to entrepreneurship

Despite logging the fastest economic growth in the world, the unemployment figures in India are a major cause of concern to the government.

According to the Asia-Pacific Human Development Report, India faces a serious challenge of finding jobs for a growing population over the next 35 years. The report said that between 1991 and 2013, the size of the 'working age' population increased by 300 million whereas only 140 million could be absorbed in the economy.

It is in this context, the government's twin projects — 'Make In India' and 'Startup India' — seem a perfect answer to the issue.

There is an urgent need to create more jobs when the manufacturing sector is witnessing a slump due to the knock-on effect of a global slowdown in China.

The national manufacturing policy has suggested that the share of manufacturing in GDP needs to be increased to 25 percent in order to create 100 million jobs in the coming decades.

Therefore, startups along with the 'Make In India' initiative will be the next job creating industry in the years to come. Today, India has the third highest number of startups in the world behind the US and Britain.

National Association of Software Service Companies (Nasscom) estimates software startups alone will create 800,000 jobs in the years ahead. Several companies keen to invest sniff high potential in a country where cheap engineering talent is available for setting up a back office.

It is hoped the Indian Government's initiative offering a slew of tax breaks for companies as well as investors will act as a catalyst in supporting new businesses. The government has announced cheaper and faster patent applications, offering up to 80 percent rebates on the cost of patents besides setting up a '10,000 crore special fund for startups. Experts believe that exemptions from tax and compliance inspections for three years will prove to be a shot in the arm for the sector.

India is seen as one of the world's fastest growing startup hotspots in the backdrop of a rapid expanding population of internet users. Mobile internet user

base in the country has steadily increased from 15.1 percent in 2013 to 34.18 percent in 2016, it grew a further 17 percent to top 456 million subscribers by the end of 2017. In 2016, 43.8 percent of internet users in India had purchased products online. In 2019, this figure is expected to grow to 64.4 percent.

India is on the threshold of a second-generation digital revolution, which will change the dynamics in new economy enterprises like healthcare, education, e-commerce, hospitality, agriculture and rural leading to the creation of new jobs.

Encouraged by the growing digital buyer penetration, several venture capital funds have raised billions of dollars for their Indian investments in recent years. Japan's Softbank and WeWork, a New York-based provider of shared office space, are among several companies that have announced their India plans. Bank of America Merrill Lynch has forecast that Indian e-commerce will surge to \$220 billion by 2025.

Besides the software, there is considerable investor interest in startups in areas like healthcare software for the poor and low-cost solar panels for homes. India offers a huge market as far as investment in social impact startups is concerned. Millions of people in rural India still have no access to clean and potable water, toilets and electricity.

The rural segment is growing at a healthy pace of 8-10 percent per annum and is expected to add over \$100 billion in consumption demand by 2018. The Government is getting an encouraging response and billions of dollars in funding for a push into solar energy after the government promised to provide electricity to every village before the end of 2018. The Government has drawn up ambitious plans to raise solar capacity five-fold to 100,000 MW by 2022 to meet the growing power needs and create jobs.

India is the youngest startup nation in the world as close to 70 percent of the entrepreneurs are less than 35-years-old. About three to four IT startups are born every day in India. Over the years, there has been a tactical shift in the mindset of the youth who want to be seen as job creators than job seekers. And 'Startup India' is a perfect platform to give wings to the dreams of the youth of the country.



Wishing all Indians a Happy Independence Day



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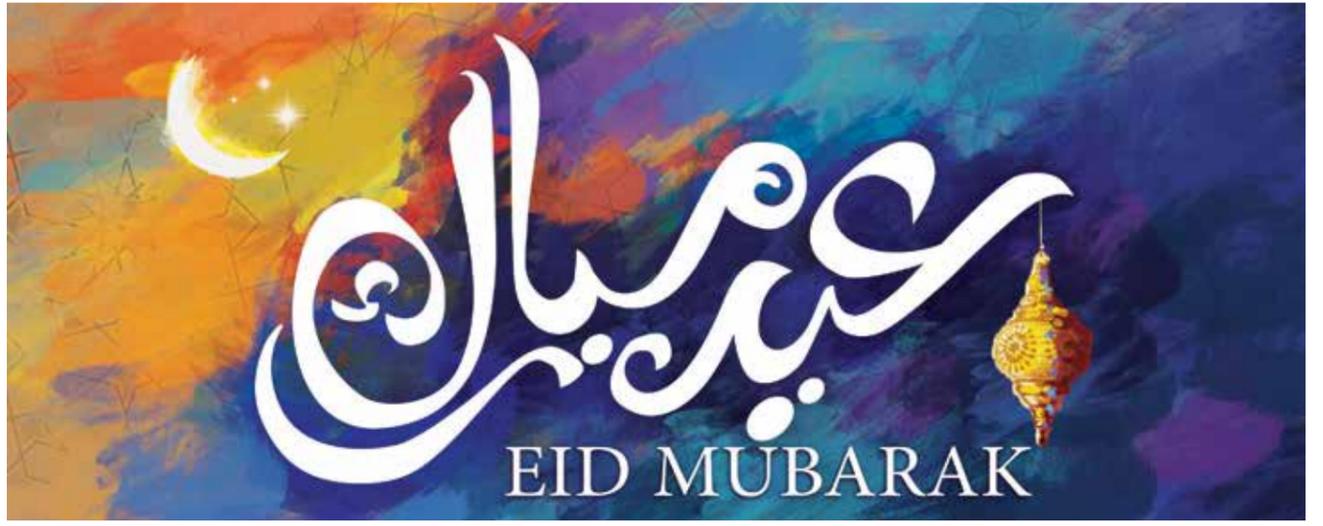
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شراب فورا دونيلي
750مل × 2 متنوع
Donelli Sparkling Juice
Assorted 2X750ML



1.990 KD

شوكولاتة
جولييان 250جم
Guylian Chocolate
250Gm



1.990 KD

فيريرو روشيه 300جم
Ferrero Rocher
300Gm

47
Pieces
Set



8.950 KD

طقم عشاء انتوهوم
47 قطعة متنوع
INTOHOME
Dinner Set Assorted
(Foam Packing)



3.800 KD

جلاكسي جواهر مشكل
علبة حديد اكجم
Galaxy Jewels Assorted
Chocolates Tin 1Kg



1.990 KD

زيت دوار الشمس
عافية 1,8 لتر × 2 + 750مل
Afia Sunflower Oil
2 X 1.8 Liter + 750ML



0.995 KD

أرز برياني مهال
5كجم
Mahal
Biryani Rice 5Kg



2.995 KD

ماكنتوش كواليتي
ستريت 850جم
Nestle Mackintosh Quality
Street 850Gm

Available at City Centre

Shuwaikh • Salmiya • Dajeej • Jahra • Dasmah • Bneid Al Qar

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