

India on Track for Developed Nation Status by 2047

President’s address spotlights poverty reduction, security gains, and the rising role of women and youth

On the eve of India’s Independence Day, the President delivered a wide-ranging national address, calling on citizens to unite in building a “Viksit Bharat”—a developed India—by the country’s centenary in 2047. She said true freedom means giving every citizen the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations.

The President paid tribute to the sacrifices of the freedom struggle, invoking Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and marked August 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, honouring those who lost their lives or were displaced. She also praised Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for integrating more than 550 princely states into independent India after 1947.

Development gains highlighted

The President pointed to a decade of progress, citing more than 25 crore people lifted out of poverty, nearly 59 crore bank accounts opened under the Jan Dhan Yojana, and free healthcare coverage extended to 60 crore people under Ayushman Bharat. She said food security had been ensured for over 80 crore citizens through free rations, while In-



dia’s economy continued to grow despite global instability, aided by the Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance) initiative.

She also highlighted India’s digital infrastructure, noting the country now accounts for more than half of the world’s real-time digital transactions, alongside major investment in highways, railways, waterways and aviation.

Women and youth central to progress

Women’s advancement featured prominently, with the President noting that women won 8 of India’s 13 gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, and that over 10 crore women

are now part of Self Help Groups. She said the target of creating 3 crore “Lakshpati Didis”—women earning over a lakh rupees—had been achieved, with a new target now set. The 2023 Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, reserving 33% of legislative seats for women, was cited as a step toward more inclusive democracy.

“The true meaning of freedom lies in ensuring that all citizens are able to utilise opportunities. Young population is our most valuable asset. A nation is not just its land, a nation is all its people.”

DROUPADI MURMU, PRESIDENT OF INDIA

On youth, the President noted 65% of India’s population is under 35, calling it the country’s greatest asset, and referenced a recent rocket launch led by a team with an average age of 28 as a symbol of youth-driven innovation.

National security and heritage

The President commended the

Key Figures

- 25 crore+ lifted out of poverty in the past decade
- 59 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts (32 crore held by women)
- 80 crore+ citizens receiving free food rations
- 60 crore covered under Ayushman Bharat free healthcare
- 8 of 13 Commonwealth Games gold medals won by Indian women
- 65% of India’s population is under age 35
- 10 crore+: Women members of Self Help Groups
- 33%: Women’s representation targeted in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures under the 2023 law

armed forces, referencing Kargil Vijay Diwas and the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, describing it as a precision operation that sent a clear message to terrorism and its backers. She also cited the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty as a decisive step for national interest, and hailed India’s Naxal-free progress, pointing to cultural revival through events like the Bastar Olympics.

She noted new UNESCO World Heritage recognitions — 12 Maratha forts and the Buddhist site of Sarnath — as symbols of India’s spiritual and historical legacy.

Environment and foreign policy

Citing the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family), the President said

India’s foreign policy rests on peace, dialogue and a rules-based international order, alongside a push for greater representation of the Global South at the United Nations. On the environment, she invoked a Santali folk song about a grieving parrot and a dying tree to stress humanity’s duty to protect nature, referencing campaigns like “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” and “Lifestyle for Environment.”

She closed by quoting Telugu writer Gurajada Apparao’s message that a nation is defined by its people, not merely its land, and urged citizens to work together to transform “Swatantra Bharat” (independent India) into “Viksit Bharat” (developed India)

“Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.”

Growth, Unity, Progress

Indian Independence Day in 2026 has special significance for many reasons. The IMF forecasts real GDP growth for India in 2026 at 6.4 to 6.5 percent, thereby retaining its status as the fastest growing major economy, while global growth outlook is projected at 3.1 percent. Between April 2000 and March 2026, cumulative gross FDI inflows into India reached USD 1.16 trillion. By end of 2025, the total installed renewable energy capacity in the country reached 253.69 GW — the fourth largest in the world. India’s digital economy is expected to grow almost twice as fast as the overall economy, contributing to nearly one-fifth of national economy by 2029-30. For FY 2025 to 2026, India’s total global trade was USD 1.84 trillion with engineering goods, electronics, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals and textiles leading the charge. On this important day, India will honour 150 years of the national song Vande Mataram. In a first, ‘Vande Mataram’ will be sung from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort in Delhi. The celebrations will also commemorate Yuva Shakti, acknowledging the contribution of young India in building a developed country by 2047. These themes resonate with the Indian Diaspora including here in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

As the developments since 28 February 2026 have only reiterated, the Indian community in Bahrain is central to the robust development of India-Bahrain bilateral relations. They stayed calm and resilient and followed the local alerts.



Vinod Jacob Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain

In short, both the Government of India and Indian friends of the Kingdom were in lockstep, extending solemn solidarity with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the entire Government and society of friendly Bahrain. Such sentiments are in keeping with the 7000 year old civilizational ties between the two countries. In March 2026, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held two telephone calls with His Majesty the King and the convergence of positions regarding Hormuz, regional stability and maritime security were reinforced. During his visit to Bahrain in July 2026, External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar had an audience with the His Majesty and His Royal Highness. A roadmap for the relationship was also

finalized. The two sides have agreed to deepen cooperation in various fields.

In the past year, the Embassy of India inaugurated an Indian Consular Application Centre at Bahrain Mall. The electronic visa system for Bahraini nationals was inaugurated in July 2025 and till date around 4700 electronic visas have been issued. We organized the ‘India in Bahrain’ cultural festival at Lulu Hypermarket in February 2026 and also organized a painting exhibition on the theme of India-Bahrain bilateral relations. This October marks the start of 55 years of establishment of diplomatic ties. Let me therefore take this opportunity to wish all Indian nationals in the Kingdom and all friends of India living in Bahrain a very happy India Independence Day 2026.

India’s Tourism, A Bridge to Bahrain

Tourism, culture and easier travel strengthen India-Bahrain people-to-people ties



Tourism remains a key driver of India’s economic growth, employment and regional development, contributing 5.22 per cent to GDP in terms of its total impact and supporting 13.34 per cent of total employment, according to the India Tourism Data Compendium 2025 by the Ministry of Tourism.

The Union Budget 2026-27 has renewed focus on tourism through new destinations, sustainable and experiential tourism, better connectivity, heritage conservation and improved visitor services. Key initiatives include Buddhist Circuits in the North-Eastern Region, eco-tourism and nature trails, archaeological sites as experiential destinations, a National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid, a National Institute of Hospitality and training for 10,000 tourist guides. Five Regional Medical Hubs are also proposed to promote medical and wellness tourism.

India’s diverse tourism landscape has been central to the



traditional attire.

Travel facilitation has also strengthened ties. Since the e-Visa system for Bahraini citizens was introduced in July 2025, 4,651 e-Visas were issued by mid-July 2026, supporting tourism, business, wellness and educational travel.

Youth engagement has expanded through the Visit Embassy Programme, with nearly 693 students from 38 schools and educational institutions learning about India’s tourism, craftsmanship, Ayurveda, higher education and technology.

As India celebrates its 80th Independence Day and India and Bahrain mark 55 years of diplomatic relations, tourism and cultural engagement continue to strengthen their longstanding friendship, creating new opportunities for travel, cultural exchange and people-to-people connections.