TODAY IN HISTORY

1513
Battle of the Spurs at Guinegate (now Enguinegatte): King Henry VIII of England and Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I defeat French forces, capturing the town and routing the French cavalry

1896
Gold is first discovered in the Klondike at Bonanza Creek in Yukon, Canada, by George Carmack

1930
First British Empire Games open in Hamilton, Canada

1945
The last Chinese Emperor and ruler of the Japanese puppet state Manchukuo, Puyi, is captured by Soviet troops while preparing to board a plane to escape to Japan

Modi sets path to developed India

Prime minister calls for faster reforms and self-reliance

- Modi targets developed India by 2047
- Stresses self-reliance and domestic manufacturing
- Highlights surge in defence and electronics
- Aims for 100 gigawatts nuclear power

TDT | Agencies

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday set out an ambitious roadmap to turn India into a developed country by 2047, calling for faster reforms, greater self-reliance and a stronger push into manufacturing, technology, defence and green energy.

Addressing the nation from the Red Fort on India's 80th Independence Day, Modi said the country must pursue larger ambitions and make the most of its economic and technological capabilities. He said the goal of building a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047 would require the combined efforts of India's 1.4 billion people.

Modi highlighted what he described as rapid progress over the past 12 years, saying defence production had nearly quadrupled, electronics manufacturing had increased nearly sevenfold and mobile phone production had risen 35-fold. He also said India had moved from being counted among the "Fragile Five" economies to becoming a major and fast-growing economy.

Push for Self-Reliance

The prime minister placed self-reliance at the centre of his strategy, saying India needed to reduce dependence on foreign supplies and strengthen domestic capabilities.

He said three semiconductor plants had begun production, with exports already under way, and predicted that another five to eight plants could begin operations over the next seven to eight years. He also highlighted plans to secure supplies of critical minerals and expand domestic energy capacity.

India aims to reach 100 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity by 2047, Modi said, while five new nuclear reactors are targeted for the current decade. He also pointed to rapid growth in solar power, saying capacity had risen from 2 gigawatts before 2014 to 160 gigawatts.

> **YOU KNOW WHAT**
> Modi said India should aim for 50 domestic companies to enter the Fortune 500 within the next decade

Seven Pillars of Growth

Modi unveiled what he called the "Sapt Dhara", or seven streams of national strength: manufacturing, agriculture and food production, technology and innovation, infrastructure and connectivity, defence, the green and blue economies, and India's soft power.

He called for Indian companies to become global leaders, including by having 50 Indian firms among the Fortune 500 within the next decade. He also said India should aim to place an Indian bank among the world's five largest banks and Indian pharmaceutical, technology, consulting and other companies among global leaders.

The prime minister urged manufacturers to compete globally on cost, quality and scale, while calling for Indian agricultural products, technology and creative industries to expand their international reach.

He said reforms would remain central to the government's strategy, arguing that India needed policies and regulations suited to future ambitions rather than those of previous decades.

Youth at the Centre

Modi also highlighted the role of young people in achieving the 2047 goal, saying India's youth would be both the main beneficiaries and a driving force behind the country's development.

He said India now had more than 250,000 registered startups and called for greater support for entrepreneurship, innovation and employment.

Modi's address also referred to recent floods and landslides in parts of India, assuring affected families that the government and the wider country stood with them.

The speech came as India marked 80 years since independence, with Modi also commemorating 150 years of the patriotic song "Vande Mataram".

A general view from Red Fort during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address

X TOP 4 TWEETS

01

Terrible news from Indonesia today. My thoughts are with the families who have lost loved ones in this devastating earthquake. From solidarity to action, Europe stands ready to deploy Copernicus, our eyes in the sky, to support search and rescue efforts. Indonesia, we stand with you.

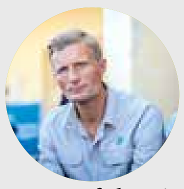
@vonderleyen

02

Girls and women in Afghanistan must be allowed to return to secondary schools and universities immediately. A country cannot thrive when half of its young people are held back.

@unicefchief

03



Across Afghanistan, mothers are running out of ways to feed their children. Child malnutrition has reached critical levels. Funding shortfalls are forcing @WFP to scale back support millions depend on. We have the capacity - but without funding, we cannot reach them on time.

@WFPChief

04

The High Fens are burning. Belgium is not facing it alone. Belgium has activated the EU civil protection mechanism: 1 helicopter and two aircraft from our EU fleet are on their way as reinforcements. Immense thanks to the firefighters and the services mobilized for hours.

@hadjalahbib

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Bahrain Navigates Global Food Inflation

CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

When global food markets shudder, import-dependent nations feel the tremors first. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Price Index reached 131.1 points in July, driven by a 3.4% monthly surge in cereal prices and a 5.8% jump in wheat, alongside climbing costs for vegetable oil (+2%) and sugar (+5.6%). Exacerbated by wars in Iran and Ukraine alongside severe weather events, this global inflation spike presents a direct challenge to trade-reliant economie.

> **Beyond short-term price stabilization, Bahrain is actively diversifying its food import channels to avoid over-reliance on single trade routes. Local initiatives in hydroponics, aquaculture, and processing facilities are expanding national self-sufficiency in key categories**

For Bahrain, which imports roughly 97% of its food supplies, international market volatility directly threatens local consumer purchasing power. However, where global supply chains face disruption, our government interventions have provided an essential defense.

Under the umbrella of the National Food Security Strategy 2020–2030, the Kingdom has taken decisive steps to insulate domestic markets from global cost surges. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce, collaborating closely with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, maintains a robust strategic reserve of essential commodities covering at least six months of national demand. This buffer ensures that temporary international shortages do not spill over into local stockouts or panic buying. Concurrently, targeted state subsidies on foundational staples like flour and bread remain firmly in place, shielding households from rising wheat costs.

Beyond short-term price stabilization, Bahrain is actively diversifying its food import channels to avoid over-reliance on single trade routes. Local initiatives in hydroponics, aquaculture, and processing facilities are expanding national self-sufficiency in key categories. Meanwhile, rigorous field inspections across storage facilities and retail markets help curb artificial price hikes and enforce compliance.

Though external geopolitical friction and weather anomalies continue to pressure international food prices, Bahrain's multi-layered approach—combining strategic stockpiling, price controls, and supply chain diversification—offers a clear roadmap for economic resilience.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)