



## India-Qatar

### Why in News

Recently, India's External Affairs Minister **met the top leaders of Qatar** and discussed **strengthening the economic and security cooperation** between the two countries.

- The visit is **part of India's ongoing outreach to West Asia**, which the country sees as part of its extended neighbourhood.
- Qatar is a member of the [Gulf Cooperation Council](#).



### Key Points

- **India and Qatar** agreed to maintain **regular consultations and coordination** on all issues of mutual interest at multilateral fora.
  - Issues of mutual interest include energy, power, petrochemicals, investments, infrastructure, development, project exports and education.
- Discussed ways to strengthen the multifaceted bilateral relationship in areas such as **energy, trade, investment, food processing, healthcare, education, culture, defence and security**.
  - Bilateral trade was worth **USD 10.95 billion in 2019-20**.
- India **thanked** Qatar for **taking care** of people from the **Indian community** during the [Covid-19](#)

## **pandemic.**

- India and Qatar have maintained close **high-level contacts** during the pandemic.
- India appreciated **Qatari Businessmen Association's** commitment for business partnerships with India and briefed them about new opportunities flowing from **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Qatar's leader **appreciated the contribution of the Indian community** in Qatar and recalled his visits to India.
- **Recent Developments:**
  - Both the countries have decided to set up a **special task force** to facilitate investments by the **Qatar Investment Authority**, part of India's ongoing outreach to key West Asian states to overcome the economic impact of the **Covid-19 pandemic**.
  - The two sides have agreed on **institutionalising measures to promote and protect the rights of workers**, including settling labour issues and facilitating the movement of people between the two countries in a safe and secure manner.

## **India-Qatar Relation**

### ▪ **Economic Relations:**

#### ◦ **Trade volume:**

- The last few years witnessed a palpable **decline in the trade volume** between the two countries due to the **decline in the rates of gas and oil** in the international market.
- **India** is considered to be the **fourth largest export destination for the State of Qatar**.
- Both India and Qatar also have a **good relation in the banking sector**.

#### ◦ **Exports:**

- **Qatar's key exports to India** include LNG, LPG, chemicals and petrochemicals, plastics, and aluminium articles.
- **India's key exports to Qatar** include cereals, copper articles, iron and steel articles, vegetables, plastic products, construction material, textiles & garments, etc.

### ▪ **Cooperation in the Field of Energy:**

- Qatar is the **largest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India**.
- India **imports around 70%** of its needs for the **natural gas from Qatar**.

### ▪ **Defence:**

- India's defence cooperation with Qatar has so far been limited to training, participation in each other's conferences/events and visits by ships of Indian Navy and Coast Guard.
- **Za'ir-Al-Bahr** (Roar of the Sea) is the **naval exercise** between Indian and Qatar Navy.

### ▪ **Cultural Relations:**

#### ◦ **Cultural exchange:**

- There is a regular flow of Indian artists performing in Qatar at events organised by community organizations affiliated to the **Indian Cultural Centre (ICC)**.
  - **ICC** is an **apex body of associations of the Indian community** functioning under the aegis of Embassy of India, Doha, and private sponsors.

#### ◦ **Yoga:**

- India **appreciated** Qatar's support, as a co-sponsor, to its Resolution at the **United Nations General Assembly**, adopted unanimously with a record 177 co-sponsors, declaring **21 June as the International Day of Yoga (IDY)**.

- **Education:**

- There are **14 Indian schools in Qatar**, offering CBSE curricula to over 30,000 students, most of whom are the children of Indian nationals working in Qatar.

- **Indian Community:**

- Indian community is the **largest expatriate group** in Qatar which is estimated to be around **700 million people**.
- They are making their **contribution in different sectors**. Indians are **highly respected** in Qatar for their **sincerity, hard work, technical expertise and law-abiding nature**.
- Indians are **employed in almost every local establishment, governmental or private, in various capacities**.
- **Remittances:**
  - The remittances which the Indian expatriate community in Qatar send to India are **estimated to be around 750 million dollar per annum**.

## Way Forward

- **Qatar** wants to make investment in India in the domain of the infrastructure which includes roads, highways, **economic corridors**, airports, ports, tourism and hotels apart from the projects related to **gas and fertilizers**.
- **India** is looking forward to the direct investment in the **manufacturing and production of the liquefied natural gas** and in **chemical industries**, especially the industry of **fertilizers, urea, petrochemicals**.

[Source:IE](#)

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