

23rd SEPTEMBER 2025

95th SAUDI NATIONAL DAY

"Our Pride Is In Our Nature"

H.M. Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
King of Saudi Arabia

H.R.H. Mohammed bin Salman
The Crown Prince & Prime Minister
of SAUDI ARABIA

H.E. Suliman Eid Alotaibi
Consul General, Mumbai

يوم الوطني السعودي 95

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NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE

On the auspicious occasion of the 95th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I extend my warmest Greetings and heartfelt wishes to the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King SALMAN BIN ABDULAZIZ AL SAUD, His Royal Highness Crown Prince MOHAMMAD BIN SALMAN BIN ABDUL AZIZ AL SAUD, H.E. The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to India at Delhi and H.E. The Consul General at Mumbai and to the Gracious people of the Kingdom. SAUDI ARABIA stands today as a beacon of Progress and Visionary Developments. We, the IPEPCIL Fraternity take immense pride in the strong and Historic Friendship between our two Great Nations. The vibrant Indian Community, the largest Expatriate Population in the Kingdom, has found in SAUDI ARABIA not just opportunities for Professional Growth, but also a Second Home where bonds of mutual respect and trust flourish. INDIA and SAUDI ARABIA are jointly building a future of shared prosperity and enduring partnership across diverse industries in Economic Co-operation and collaboration, but also our people share a deep cultural understanding and Human connection that continue to strengthen year after year. On this proud National Day, we celebrate this remarkable journey and look forward with confidence to even greater milestones in the years ahead.

With Warm Regards and Best Wishes,



V.S. ABDULKAREEM
PRESIDENT - IPEPCIL

Flourishing India-Saudi bilateral ties

India-Saudi diplomatic relations were established in 1947. The historic visit of His Majesty King Abdullah to India in Jan 2006 was a watershed moment that resulted in the signing of the "Delhi Declaration". It was followed later by the "Riyadh Declaration" in 2010 during the visit of then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to the Kingdom, which elevated the bilateral relations to a strategic partnership.

The visit of PM Narendra Modi to Riyadh in April 2016 led to an enhanced and comprehensive co-operation in the political, economic, security and defence realms. During the visit, His Majesty King Salman conferred the Kingdom's highest civilian honor, the "King Abdulaziz Sash", on Modi. The visit of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, to India in Feb 2019 further carried forward this momentum. During the visit, it was announced that the Kingdom would invest approximately US\$ 100 billion in India and six MoUs/Agreements were signed in various fields, including investment, tourism, housing, exchange of audio-visual programmes and an

agreement was signed to pave way for Saudi Arabia to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Prime Minister Modi had visited Riyadh again on Oct 28-29, 2019, during which the Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) Agreement was signed, establishing a high-level council to steer the bilateral relationship. As many as 12 MoUs/agreements were signed during the visit across several fields, including energy, security, defence production, civil aviation, medical products, strategic petroleum reserves, small and medium scale industries, and training of diplomats. During the visit, the PM also delivered the keynote address at the third Future Investment Initiative Summit.

Crown Prince's India visit

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince, visited India on Sept 9-11, 2023 to participate in the G20 Leaders' Summit and to co-chair the first Leaders' Meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council along with Narendra Modi. During the visit, eight MoUs/MoCs/agreements were signed across several fields including energy, banking,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

investment, manufacturing, archival co-operation, anti-corruption and water desalination.

Modi undertook a state visit to the Kingdom on April 22, 2025. Modi and HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman held official talks at Jeddah and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues. They also co-chaired the second meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia SPC. A Joint Statement was issued. Both sides agreed to collaborate on establishing two oil refineries in India. Four bilateral MoUs and agreements in the fields of Space, Health, Sports (Anti-Doping) and postal co-operation were signed. The SPC was expanded to

four Ministerial Committees, namely: (1) Political, Consular and Security Co-operation Committee; (2) Defence Co-operation Committee; (3) Economy, Energy, Investment and Technology Committee; 4) Tourism and Cultural Co-operation Committee.

Cultural activities

India and Saudi Arabia enjoy a long history of cultural engagements. In recent years, bilateral cultural activities have accelerated in line with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. A new Ministerial Committee on Tourism and Cultural Co-operation under the SPC was announced in April 2025.

India was the Guest of Honour at the Saudi National Heritage Festival

"Janadriyah". Yoga is getting popular in KSA and is recognised as a sport activity. Embassy also regularly organises Yoga events, including celebrations of International Day of Yoga. In 2021, an MoU on Yoga Co-operation was signed between the Saudi Ministry of Sports and India's Ministry of AYUSH. Saudi Yoga expert Ms Nouf Marwaai was awarded Padma Shri in .

On the occasion of the 10th IDY in 2024, for the first time, a Saudi lady instructor led the common yoga protocol during the International Day of Yoga celebrations organised by the Embassy of India, Riyadh in collaboration with Saudi Ministry of Sports.

Saudi Vision 2030 -- a story of transformation

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 is a transformative and ambitious blueprint to unlock the potential of its people and create a diversified, innovative, and world-leading nation.

Since the launch of Vision 2030 in 2016, Saudi Arabia has embarked on a remarkable story of transformation. This ambitious blueprint, deeply rooted in the country's rich cultural heritage and strategic advantages, is steering the nation towards a more diversified and innovative economy.

Vision 2030 has sparked comprehensive change, ushering in an era of



openness to the world. The progress to date reflects a deep commitment to fostering a thriving economy and a vibrant society, filled with opportunities for every Saudi citizen.

As Saudi Arabia continues to build on these accomplishments, its efforts under Vision 2030 are manifesting in real and impactful changes that

pave the way for an even better future. Saudi Arabia is not just charting a new course for itself but is also establishing benchmarks for innovation and development on the global stage. In a world that's transforming rapidly and demands flexible, dynamic approaches, Saudi Arabia is leading by example.

Vision 2030 has laid the foundations for growth, uniting the country towards a shared vision for a prosperous future. Reforms have been implemented that enhance the business climate, create jobs and invite investment. The Kingdom is preparing

its people for tomorrow's world a world that is connected, technology-forward, and facing climate change head-on. Saudi Arabia's doors are now open even wider to the world, with investments pouring into sectors like

renewable energy, tourism, entertainment and other key industries. With all that's happening in the country today and with the growing momentum of Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia truly is the land of opportunities.

H.R.H. Mohammed bin Salman
The Crown Prince &
Prime Minister of SAUDI ARABIA

H.M. Salman bin Abdulaziz
Al Saud
King of Saudi Arabia

H.E. Suliman Eid Alotaibi
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**23rd
SEPTEMBER
2025**

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SAUDI
NATIONAL
DAY**

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Heartfelt Wishes to



H.M Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
King of Saudi Arabia



H.R.H Mohammed bin Salman, The Crown Prince &
P M of Saudi Arabia



H.E. Suliman Eid AlOtaibi
Consul General,
Mumbai



95th SAUDI ARABIA NATIONAL DAY



On this joyous 95th Saudi National Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings to Overseas News & Employment and its readers. This year's theme, "Pride is Our Nature", beautifully reflects the Kingdom's spirit of authenticity, generosity, resilience, and unity, values deeply rooted in its heritage, culture, and people.

At Seagull International Group, we take immense pride in our long standing partnership with Saudi Arabia. Over the years, we have had the honour of deploying thousands of talented professionals across critical sectors including infrastructure, services and industry. These skilled men and women, driven by integrity and dedication, contribute daily to the Kingdom's nation-building journey, reflecting the shared vision of progress and opportunity.

Saudi Arabia's natural and cultural heritage, its deserts, mountains, oases, and Bedouin traditions—forms the foundation of its values of courage, solidarity, and hospitality. The theme resonates with Vision 2030, which balances modernization with cultural preservation, innovation, and sustainable development.

On this occasion, we extend our respectful salutations to His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for their visionary leadership. We also convey warm greetings to H.E. Mr. Suliman Eid AlOtaibi, Royal Consul General of Saudi Arabia in Mumbai.

May this National Day inspire unity, pride, and continued prosperity.

Happy 95th Saudi National Day!



DR. SURESHKUMAR MADHUSUDHANAN PH. D

CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR,
SEAGULL INTERNATIONAL GROUP
SECRETARY GENERAL,
INDO GULF & MIDDLE EAST CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE



Saudi Arabia --economic overview

The economy of Saudi Arabia is highlighted by high income, developing and is largely reliant on its petroleum sector. Oil and gas account for about 22.3pc of Saudi GDP and 55pc of government revenue, with substantial fluctuations depending on oil prices each year.

The kingdom has the second-largest proven petroleum reserves, and the fourth-largest measured natural gas reserves. Saudi Arabia is currently the largest exporter of petroleum in the world. Other major parts of the economy include refining and chemical manufacturing from the oil reserves, much of which is vertically integrated in the state-owned enterprise, Saudi Aramco.

Monetary policy in Saudi Arabia is anchored by the fixed exchange rate of the Saudi Riyal to the US dollar. Nearly every major



business in Saudi Arabia has extensive ties to the Saudi State.

Saudi oil reserves are the second largest in the world (after Brazilian-Venezuelan oil reserves) and Saudi Arabia is the world's leading oil exporter and second-largest oil producer. Proven reserves, according to figures provided by the Saudi government, are estimated to be 260 billion barrels, which is about one-quarter of the world oil reserves. Petroleum in

Saudi Arabia is not only plentiful but also located under pressure close to the earth's surface, which makes it less expensive and more profitable to extract compared with other places. The petroleum sector accounts for roughly 87pc of Saudi budget revenues, 90pc of export earnings and 42pc of GDP.

Another 40pc of the GDP comes from the private sector. Saudi Arabia had about 13.4 million non-Saudi residents in

2022, making up about 41.6pc of the total population, according to the Saudi census. This figure shows that a significant portion of the Kingdom's residents are expatriates, with major communities from countries like Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Egypt.

The government has been encouraging the growth of the private sector for many years to decrease the kingdom's dependence on oil and to increase employment opportunities for

the swelling Saudi population. In recent decades, the government started allowing private sector activity and foreign investor participation in certain sectors, such as power generation and telecommunications, and acceded to the World Trade Organisation. During much of the 2000s, high oil prices allowed the government to post budget surpluses and boost spending on job training and education, infrastructure development, and government salaries.



95th
Saudi National Day

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**23rd SAUDI
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H.M. Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
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Greetings and good wishes on the auspicious occasion of 95th National Day of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to

His Royal Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman

His Excellency CDA of Embassy of Saudi Arabia in India Jadi Naif A. Alraqaas

His Excellency Consul General in Mumbai Suliman Eid Alotaibi

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Consul General, Mumbai



H.R.H. Mohammed bin Salman
The Crown Prince & Prime Minister of
SAUDI ARABIA

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KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA



With Best Wishes & Heartiest Congratulations

H.M. Custodian of Two Holy Mosque

King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud

H.E.H. The Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud

Mr. Suliman Eid Alotaibi
Consul General

Mr. Mohammed Misfer Sh. Alotaibi
Vice Consul General

HamdanGlobal
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Mr. Mohammed Asif Khan
Chairman, HamdanGlobal

SAUDI NATIONAL DAY SPECIAL

The Golden Cube of Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's Darling Leap into the Future In the heart of Riyadh, a shape is rising from the desert that could change the way the world thinks about cities. It is not a tower, nor a dome, but a cube — a shimmering golden giant called The Mukaab. Part monument, part megastructure, and part fantasy, The Mukaab is set to become the centrepiece of New Murabba, Saudi Arabia's ambitious downtown district under the Vision 2030 transformation plan. At 400 metres tall, wide, and deep, this colossal cube will be large enough to swallow dozens of skyscrapers and still have space left over. To put it simply: if the Eiffel Tower lay on its side, it could fit inside. Twice. A City Within a Cube Step inside The Mukaab and you enter a world designed to dazzle the senses. Developers promise immersive environments — walls that transform into digital vistas, holographic projections that can whisk you from a tropical rainforest to the surface of Mars. But it is not only spectacle. The cube will hold more than 104,000 apartments, 9,000 hotel rooms, 1.4 million square metres of office space, and nearly a million square metres of retail. There will be cultural venues, entertainment hubs, wellness centres, and even a technology museum. In essence, it is a city in itself, wrapped in a cube. The wider New Murabba district, covering 19 square kilometres, is designed around a 15-minute lifestyle: residents should be able to walk from home to work, shopping, or a park in a quarter of an hour. An airport will sit just

(Cont. on page - 11)




A conceptual render of the proposed Mukaab


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H.R.H. Mohammed bin Salman
The Crown Prince & Prime Minister of
SAUDI ARABIA



H.M. Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
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Haj: Pilgrimage of a lifetime

The Haj is a sacred, obligatory Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for Muslims who are physically and financially able to undertake it at least once in their lifetime. The pilgrimage occurs annually during the Islamic lunar calendar month of Dhu al-Hijjah and involves a series of physical rituals and prayers, with the most significant event being the Day of Arafat, where pilgrims pray on Mount Arafat. It's a spiritually profound journey that fosters a sense of unity and connection among Muslims worldwide, despite being a physically demanding and challenging experience.

OBLIGATORY PILLAR OF ISLAM: The Haj is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, a mandatory religious duty for all capable Muslims.

TIMING: It takes place during the eighth th to 13th days of Dhu al-Hijjah, the 12th and final month of the Islamic calendar.

LOCATIONS: The pilgrimage begins in Mecca, where pilgrims visit the Kaaba and then moves to Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifah for specific rituals.

MAJOR RITUALS: Circling the Kaaba seven times.

The Golden Cube of Riyadh

(Cont. from page - 10)
20 minutes away by car. A Design Rooted in Tradition Though futuristic in scale, the design nods to Saudi heritage. The façade of The Mukaab takes inspiration from Najdi architecture, with its bold geometric patterns and desert-inspired motifs. Seen from afar, the golden lattice gives the cube an almost jewel-like presence, as if it were a modern Kaaba reimagined for the 21st century. Inside, the experience is intended to be no less grand. Think soaring atriums, dramatic digital skies, and an internal tower surrounded by vertical gardens — a futuristic oasis hidden within

SAI: Walking seven times between the hills of Safa and Marwa.

DAY OF ARAFAT: Spending a day in prayer and seeking forgiveness on Mount Arafat.

STONING THE DEVIL: Throwing pebbles at stone pillars to symbolise rejecting evil.

ANIMAL SACRIFICE: Observing the Feast of Sacrifice (Eid al-Adha).

SIGNIFICANCE: The Haj is a profound spiritual journey meant to demonstrate devotion to God, foster unity among Muslims and offer a chance for spiritual cleansing and merit.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The pilgrimage is physically demanding, testing a pilgrim's patience and resilience, especially due to extreme heat during the Saudi summer.

PREPARATION: Pilgrims may spend years saving money and preparing mentally, physically and spiritually for the trip.

GOVERNMENT FACILITATION: Many governments, including India's, provide assistance programmes to facilitate the pilgrimage for their.

History of Haj The Haj is a pilgrimage to Mecca

a cube of glass and steel. The Big Picture The Mukaab is not just about architecture. It represents a statement of intent: that Saudi Arabia wants to pivot from an oil-dependent economy to one powered by tourism, technology, and culture. Planned for completion by 2030, the project is expected to generate thousands of jobs, attract international investors, and contribute significantly to non-oil GDP.

It joins other Vision 2030 mega-projects — from the futuristic NEOM city to the Red Sea tourism developments — in reshaping the kingdom's global image.

performed by millions of Muslims every year, coming from all over the Muslim world. Its history goes back many centuries. The present pattern of the Islamic Haj was established by Islamic prophet Muhammad, around 632 CE, who reformed the existing pilgrimage tradition of the pagan Arabs. According to Islamic tradition, the Haj dates from thousands of years earlier, from when Abraham, upon God's



command, built the Kaaba (the "house of God"). This cubic building is considered the most holy site in Islam and the rituals of the Haj include walking repeatedly around it (circumambulation).

In medieval times, pilgrims would gather in cities like Basra, Damascus and Cairo to go to Mecca in groups and caravans comprising tens of thousands of pilgrims. Some came from further afield in sailing ships. The Sultans of the Ottoman Empire supported the pilgrims, appointing the Amir al-Haj ("Commander of the Haj") to organise and lead the caravans. As other modes of transport including steamships and trains were introduced, pilgrims were able to make the trip to Mecca easily.

The nomadic tribes of the desert — known as Bedouin — had been a persistent security issue for the Haj caravans. The annual pilgrim-

age offered pilgrims as well as professional merchants the opportunity to conduct various merchandising activities both on route and in Mecca, Damascus and Cairo.

Through its history, the Haj has influenced literature and art as pilgrims have written guides and created artistic depictions of the holy sites and rituals.

Reaching Mecca Journeying to Mecca for Haj (pilgrimage) is no ordi-

lenges, including ensuring adequate food, water and sanitary facilities in Mecca and the neighbouring deserts of Mina and Arafat, which pilgrims must visit as part of the Haj ritual.

Eid-al-Adha The culmination of the Haj pilgrimage is the observance of Eid-al-Adha, the "Festival of Sacrifice," which marks the end of the pilgrimage rites. This is the most sacred festival for Muslims and is celebrated

nary undertaking for many Muslims. Haj represents the culmination of years of spiritual preparation and planning. Once they have completed the pilgrimage, pilgrims are given the honorific title Haji (pilgrim).

Haj commemorates the patriarch Abraham's readiness to sacrifice his son Ishmael in biblical times. Performing Haj is one of the five pillars of Islam and is therefore obligatory for all adult Muslims who can afford to undertake the journey and are in good health. Haj lasts for five days, and, as the Islamic calendar is lunar, the precise Gregorian calendar dates of the Haj season will vary each year. Muslims travel to Mecca at other times to perform a lesser pilgrimage called Umrah.

Mecca's resident population of about two lakh swells to well over two million during the Haj season. This rapid increase in numbers poses many chal-

by performing communal prayers, making the animal sacrifice of a ritually acceptable animal (qurbani) and with family and friends.

Eid- al-Adha: The festival directly follows the main Haj rituals, particularly the Day of Arafat on the ninth of Dhul Hijjah, the last month of the Islamic calendar.

Muslims worldwide observe Eid-al-Adha with special congregational prayers (salat) and the sacrifice of animals, which is then shared.

While Haj concludes in Mina, Saudi Arabia, Eid-al-Adha is a major global celebration for Muslims, symbolising compassion, unity and the spirit of giving.

FINAL HAJ RITES: Before Eid, the Haj concludes with the farewell tawaf (Tawaf al-Wada), where pilgrims perform a final circumambulation of the Kaaba before leaving the holy city.