

PROTOCOL
**of the 5TH Meeting of India-Qatar Ministerial Joint Commission on Economic
and Commercial Cooperation**

6th of October 2025
Doha, Qatar

The 5th meeting of the India-Qatar Ministerial Joint Commission on Economic and Commercial Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Commission) was held on the 6th of October, 2025, in Doha, the State of Qatar, pursuant to the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Republic of India, signed in New Delhi on 19 April 1984 and ratified on 14 October 1984. The meeting was Co-chaired by H.E. Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, head of the Indian side and H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Al-Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry, head of the Qatari Side. A list of the Indian and Qatari participants in the meeting is attached to this Protocol (Annex I).

The convening of 5th Meeting of the Joint Commission derives its importance from the success of the State Visit of H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, to the Republic of India on February 17-18, 2025, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, which contributed to strengthening bilateral relations and opening new horizons for cooperation between the two countries.

In light of the Strategic Partnership, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations through regular and structured cooperation in all areas, including trade, investment, and technology. Both sides welcomed the 5th Meeting of the Joint Commission, which took place in a spirit of warmth, cordiality, and mutual understanding, reflecting the strong will of both countries to pursue practical and effective solutions aimed at further strengthening and expanding their bilateral relations across diverse economic sectors.

Both sides reviewed the process of bilateral cooperation and expressed appreciation for the work of the Joint Commission, stressing the need for joint efforts to take advantage of the capabilities available in both countries in order to achieve common interests and improve bilateral trade and economic relations and raise the level of partnership between the business communities of the State of Qatar and the Republic of India to meet the aspirations of the governments of the two countries.

Both sides welcomed the convening of the meeting of the Joint Business Council between Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) and the Federation of Indian

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on October 6, 2025, that was also addressed by the Ministers of Commerce and Industry of both sides.

Both sides also acknowledged the Joint Commission's crucial role in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries. In accordance with the approved agenda of the Joint Commission meeting (Annex II), both sides discussed the following areas of bilateral cooperation during the meeting:

1. Cooperation in the Fields of Trade, Economy, and Investment

- Both sides exchanged information on economic and trade developments in their respective countries, emphasizing mutual interest in further developing of Indian-Qatari trade cooperation.
- Both sides took note of the joint statement between the state of Qatar and the Republic of India that was issued during the state visit to India on 18th February 2025 and reiterated the target to double bilateral trade by 2030 and the need to explore strategies for enhanced and diversified trade between the two countries in goods and services. In this regard both sides agreed to finalize the terms of reference of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the objective of an early conclusion of the agreement.
- Both sides noted the importance of deepening and diversifying the trade basket. To this effect, both sides agreed to intensify efforts to increase trade in sectors like engineering goods, electrical machinery, motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, gems and jewelry, agricultural goods, marine products and others.
- Both sides emphasized the importance of concluding negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between the State of Qatar and the Republic of India. The BIT will further enhance investor confidence, stimulate cross-border investments, and further strengthen the economic partnership between the two countries. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to signing the Treaty at the earliest opportunity.
- Both sides expressed their desire to elevate the Joint Task Force on Investment (JTFI) to the level of H.E. the Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs from the Qatari side and H.E. the Minister of State for Finance from the Indian side, in view of the depth of relations between the two countries. The elevated JTFI as per its present scope and mandate will actively explore investment opportunities in both countries. This step reflects the shared commitment of both sides to further enhance the work of the Joint Commission and demonstrates their seriousness in advancement of bilateral cooperation. Both sides further reaffirmed the importance of convening the next meeting of the JTFI in 2026.
- The Indian side welcomed the announcement of an investment of USD 10 billion by Qatar into India during the State Visit of His Highness the Amir of the State of

Qatar to India, as well as the announcement of opening of a QIA office in India. Building on these announcements, both sides acknowledged with appreciation the outcomes of the visit and meetings of the Qatari Investment delegation to India, led by the Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs, which convened in New Delhi on 27–28 August 2025. The meetings yielded significant and tangible results that reflect the shared commitment of both sides to advancing their economic partnership and unlocking new avenues for mutually beneficial investments.

- In the context of the recent visit of the Qatari investment delegation to India, the Qatari side, represented by Qatar Investment Authority, welcomed receiving investment opportunities, supported by feasibility studies, for operational and advanced stage companies and projects, in various sectors, such as technology, manufacturing and logistics, agricultural and food technologies, medical industry, and others. The Indian side assured the Qatari side of all necessary facilitation to expand Qatari investments into India.
- The Qatari side, through the Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (Invest Qatar) presented an overview of the recently launched Invest Qatar Incentives Program to the Indian business delegation. In alignment with Qatar's Third National Development Strategy (NDS3) goals and objectives, the program targets four priority sectors such as advanced manufacturing, logistics services, technology and financial services. The agency also highlighted the opening of its new Invest Qatar office in India which will oversee Invest Qatar's activities in the Indian market. The Indian side welcomed the proposal of opening the Invest Qatar office in India and assured its full support in this regard.
- The Qatari side, represented by Qatar Free Zones Authority affirmed its readiness to coordinate with the relevant Indian counterparts to advance joint initiatives aimed at strengthening bilateral economic cooperation. This includes promoting investment opportunities, and exploring partnerships in logistics and advanced technologies. The Indian side also conveyed its readiness to coordinate these joint activities and investment promotion initiatives.
- Both sides agreed to proceed with the mutual recognition procedures of the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing to the operational phase by signing the agreed-upon Joint Action Plan (JAP). In this context, the Qatari General Authority of Customs and its Indian counterpart agreed to coordinate closely as a preparatory step towards the signing of the JAP.
- Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation between the chambers of commerce in the two countries, and therefore agreed as follows:
 - a. To ensure regular meetings of the India-Qatar Joint Business Council, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Qatar

Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, so that the Council may serve as the main mechanism for implementing the desired cooperation in trade and investment.

- b. To promote mutual visits and meetings between business communities from both countries in order to gain a deeper understanding of the available investment opportunities and to create viable economic partnerships and business collaborations.
- c. To establish a regular and continuous exchange of data, statistics, and economic information between the two sides.
- Both sides agreed to activate the existing memoranda of understanding signed between the Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in February 2025 in a manner that serves the mutual interests of both sides and strengthens the role of the private sector through regular visits and meetings.
- Both sides noted the importance of addressing tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and commerce through direct mutual consultations and emphasized the value of timely communication regarding any changes or modifications in standards and specifications pertaining to goods and services traded between the two countries.
- Both sides noted that the current level of bilateral trade in services remains limited and highlighted the potential for its further development.
- Indian side proposed signing of an MoU between the Gems and Jewelry Export Promotion Council of India and the Qatar Chamber Gold and Jewelry Committee in Doha to foster mutual growth in the gems and jewelry sector and to enhance the jewelry exhibition experience for all stakeholders, including in the annual Doha Jewelry and Watches Exhibition.
- The Indian side welcomed the participation of Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Trade, in the CII Partnership Summit in India on December 2-3, 2024, and looked forward to Qatar's participation in the next edition of CII Partnership Summit scheduled to be held in 14-15 November 2025 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

2. Cooperation in the Field of Banking and Finance

- Both sides expressed its desire to discuss the linkage of the digital payment systems and platforms of both India and Qatar, with a view to addressing outstanding issues and facilitating their resolution.
- Both sides welcomed the recent launch of India's UPI by NPCI International and Qatar National Bank in Qatar.
- Both sides stressed the importance of activating the Memorandum of Understanding on Financial and Economic Cooperation between the Ministry of

Finance of the State of Qatar and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of India, signed on 18 of February 2025.

- Both sides welcomed the ratification of the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, signed on 18th of February 2025.
- The Indian side expressed satisfaction over the productive visit of IFSCA Chairman to Qatar and his meetings with various institutions in Qatar including Qatar National Bank and Qatar Investment Authority. Both sides welcomed the opening of the Qatar National Bank office in GIFT City, Gujarat.

3. Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture

- Both sides expressed their readiness to deepen bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, food security, municipality, and food processing industry.
- Both sides agreed to enhance their cooperation in the fields of agriculture and food security, mapping and digitization in the field of agriculture and related areas of cooperation like innovative farming, greenhouse production, sustainable fisheries, circular economy initiatives, knowledge exchange and others.
- The Qatari side expressed its desire to strengthen cooperation in three key areas:
 - a. Food Security and Strategic Agricultural Development – including innovative farming systems, greenhouse production, and sustainable fisheries.
 - b. Agricultural and Veterinary Health – encompassing quarantine measures, laboratories, and joint programs for animal disease control.
 - c. Sustainable Development and Policy Coordination – through circular economy initiatives, knowledge exchange, and alignment of strategies in agriculture and urban planning.

4. Cooperation in the Fields of Municipality and Sustainability

- The Qatari side emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest in support of sustainable development goals. In this context, priority was given to cooperation on the circular economy, including waste recycling and treatment, and Hygiene management.
- Both sides agreed to explore the possibility of signing MOUs in the related fields.

5. Cooperation in the field of Environment

- The Qatari side expressed its desire to establish a framework of cooperation with India in the fields of environment, climate change, and nature reserves. In this regard, the Qatari side proposed cooperation in various areas, including the exchange of expertise in environmental laboratories and monitoring systems,

joint inspection and auditing of industrial projects, and collaboration in developing environmental indicators, standards, and reporting mechanisms.

- The Indian side welcomed Qatar's interest in expanding cooperation in the field of environment and sustainability and expressed its shared commitment to exchanging expertise and information in this context.
- In the field of climate change, both sides agreed to explore opportunities of exchanging experiences on adaptation strategies, organizing bilateral events and workshops on environmental sustainability, and sharing best practices to promote public awareness and education on climate change.

6. Cooperation in the Fields of Communication and Information Technology

- The Qatari side proposed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Information Technology of the State of Qatar and the Government of India on digital cooperation, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence and information technology. The Qatari side further expressed its willingness to cooperate in a wide range of areas, including bridging the digital divide, encouraging innovation, sharing expertise in artificial intelligence, cooperation on data flows and cloud computing, advancing the digital economy and digital transformation, and exchanging expertise in the formulation of digital industry policies.
- Both sides were also encouraged to promote exchanges of entrepreneurs and technology startups to support innovation and R&D and expand market access, and to share expertise in digital and smart infrastructure with a view to developing joint pilot projects in the fields of smart cities and Internet of Things.
- Both sides reiterated their commitment to the India-Qatar Startup Bridge which was launched in June 2022 as a one-stop shop for all the startup ecosystem stakeholders for knowledge exchange, joint programs, networking opportunities, capacity building, and exchange of best practices. The Indian side reaffirmed its commitment to revitalizing this important initiative and leveraging its potential to foster innovation and entrepreneurship between India and Qatar.
- The Indian side commended the role of Qatar as the hosts for the annual Web Summit Qatar event which has already seen two successful editions in 2024 and 2025. The Qatari side expressed its appreciation to the Indian side for their participation in both editions, including a visit at the Ministerial level during Web Summit Qatar 2024 and setting up of an Indian Country Pavilion in Web Summit Qatar 2025. Both sides agreed to work together in taking this initiative forward and encourage greater participation of startups and businesses from India in this event.

7. Cooperation in the Fields of Tourism and Sports

- Both sides confirmed their interest in promoting mutual tourism packages and focusing on cultural, and eco-tourism opportunities available in India and Qatar, to increase tourist flows between the two nations.
- Both sides agreed on exploring opportunities to collaborate in hosting international conferences, exhibitions, and tourism fairs to showcase both countries as attractive business and travel destinations.
- Both sides agreed to increase business and Meetings, Incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) tourism.
- Both sides agreed on encouraging the exchange of expertise and best practices relating to tourism statistics and data, exchange tourism interaction, as well as cooperation in exchanging information on exhibitions, fairs, festivals, and other thematic international events held in the two countries.
- The Qatari side proposed discussion of the draft of the Second Executive Program in the Field of Youth for the Years (2025–2026-2027), and the draft of the Executive Program in the Field of Sports for the Years (2025-2026-2027).

8. Cooperation in the Field of Transportation

- Both sides agreed to continue the technical discussions between civil aviation authorities of the two countries, in order to enhance cooperation in this field. The Qatari side wishes to hold these consultations as soon as practicable.
- Both sides agreed to explore means to enhance cooperation in the field of Maritime transport, shipping and ports between India and Qatar including by considering signing of MoUs and agreements.
- Both sides agreed to explore new areas of cooperation and exchange of expertise between the two countries in the following fields:
 - a. Development of land transport systems and networks, planning of local road and highway networks, public transport, metro, and railways, and preparation of transport plans and guidelines.
 - b. Software, data analysis, and investment in artificial intelligence technologies to develop smart infrastructure, safety, reduce traffic congestion, and improve travel time relying on technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT).
 - c. Renewable energy projects and environmental technology, including solar energy for road network assets such as lighting poles and traffic signals.
 - d. Applications of land transport and railway laws, transportation of hazardous materials, passenger transport activities through electronic applications, limousines, and car rentals to improve land transport services.

- The Qatari side, represented by Qatar Railways Company, welcomed any future cooperation, whether with companies previously collaborated with or with currently qualified companies in future expansion projects.

9. Cooperation in the Field of Healthcare

- Both sides agreed to continue bilateral cooperation aimed at strengthening health systems and public health services in the two countries, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation signed between the Ministry of Public Health of the State of Qatar and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India in June 2016. They further agreed to continue discussions on cooperation in the field of pharmacy and pharmaceutical regulation, including the registration of medicines and related legislation.
- The Indian side emphasized that India has emerged as the medical tourism hub of the world providing cost-effective treatments with the latest technology enabled by several path-breaking reforms and provisions and invited the Qatari side to explore investment opportunities in the growing healthcare sector in India.
- The Indian side also highlighted that it has the largest number of USFDA-compliant pharmaceutical plants outside the US and over 2,000 WHO-GMP approved facilities, serving demand from 150+ countries worldwide, with 10,500+ manufacturing facilities.
- The Indian side welcomed the Qatari side to partner with India and expand its imports of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment from India to benefit from India's expertise in low-cost manufacturing of high-quality pharmaceuticals.
- Both sides noted with appreciation the progress made in discussions on concluding a Memorandum of Understanding on Food Safety between India and Qatar to promote cooperation between the two countries in the field of safety and suitability of food exported from India to Qatar. Both sides agreed to explore the possibility of signing the MoU at the earliest.
- Both sides agreed to exchange expertise in joint research and innovation relating to health emergencies, the prevention of communicable diseases, primary health care, as well as in the field of complementary and traditional medicine. In addition, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continued cooperation in the area of medical tourism.

10. Holding the 6th Meeting of the Joint Commission:

Both sides agreed to hold the meetings of the Joint Commissions more regularly, with view to continuing to analyze the state of bilateral cooperation and to drive the way forward.

To fulfill this objective, it is fundamental that entities from both sides, either at institutional or business level, meet more regularly and agree to develop joint activities to enhance bilateral cooperation.

The Sixth Meeting of the India Qatar Ministerial Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation will be held in India, at a date to be determined by mutual agreement through diplomatic channels.

This Protocol was signed in Doha on October 6th, 2025, in two original copies, in English and Arabic. In case of variation, the English version shall prevail.

**Minister of Commerce and Industry of
the Republic of India,**

H.E. Shri Piyush Goyal

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Piyush Goyal', written diagonally across a horizontal line.

**Minister of Commerce and Industry of
the State of Qatar,**

H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Al-Thani

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Al-Thani', written diagonally across a horizontal line.

Annex I

Indian Delegation

	Name	Title / entity
1	H.E. Mr. Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry of India / Head of the Indian delegation
2	H.E. Mr. Vipul	Ambassador of India to the State of Qatar
3	Mr. Aseem Mahajan	Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs
4	Mr. Sanjiv	Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
5	Ms. Priya Nair	Economic Advisor, Department of Commerce
6	Mr. Sandeep Kumar	Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India
7	Mr. Gyanveer Singh	Counsellor, Embassy of India
8	Mr. Aman Mittal	Additional PS to Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry
9	Mr. Deepak Pundir	Attache, Embassy of India
10	Mr. Goutam Ghosh	Senior Director, FICCI
11	Mr. Manish Mohan	Senior Director, CII

Qatari Delegation

	Name	Title	Entity
1	H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani	Minister of Commerce and Industry	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
2	H.E. Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Sayed	Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
3	H.E. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Jassim Al Thani	Chairman of the Board	Qatar Chamber
4	H.E. Mohammed bin Mahdy Al-Ahbabi	Board Member	Qatar Chamber
5	Sultan Ali Al-Falase	Minister's Office Manager	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
6	Hamad Abdulaziz Al-Mohnadi	Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs office	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
7	Saleh Abdulla Al-Mana	Director of International Cooperation and Trade Agreements	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
8	Aljohara Yousif Al-Obaidan	Director of Asian Affairs Department	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9	Sheikh Khalid bin Ghanim Al-Thani	Assistant Director of International Cooperation and Trade Agreements Department	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
10	Maryam Ali Al-Khalaf	Head of Bilateral Relations and Joint Commission	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
11	Sheikh Saud bin Ahmed Al Thani	Director of International Cooperation	Qatar Central Bank
12	Ahmed Al-Mana	International Relations Officer	Qatar Central Bank
13	Sara Youssef Darwish	Senior International Relations Researcher	Civil Aviation Authority
14	Abdulla Saad Al-Romaihi	Director, Emerging Markets – CEO Office	Qatar Investment Authority
15	Nasser Ali Al-Kaabi	Senior Specialist of Investor Relations	Investment Promotion Agency Qatar
16	Sheikh Jassim Bin Fahad Al-Thani	Head of Aeropolitical and Corporate Affairs	Qatar Airways
17	Maryam Al Hamadi	International Cooperation Department	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology
19	Munira Fakhroo	International Cooperation Department	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology
19	Hamad Ali Al-Marri	Director of Land Transport Licensing	Ministry of Transport
20	Dr. Masoud Jarallah Al-Marri	Director of Food Security Department	Ministry of Municipality
21	Jassim Yaqoub Al-Rumaihi	Assistant Director of Operations and Customs risk Department	General Authority of Customs

Annex II

Agenda of the 5th Meeting of the India-Qatar Ministerial Joint Commission on Economic and Commercial Cooperation

1. Cooperation in the Fields of Trade, Economy, and Investment
2. Cooperation in the Field of Banking and Finance
3. Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture
4. Cooperation in the Fields of Municipality and Sustainability
5. Cooperation in the field of Environment
6. Cooperation in the Fields of Communication and Information Technology
7. Cooperation in the Fields of Tourism and Sports
8. Cooperation in the Field of Transportation
9. Cooperation in the Field of Healthcare