

Oman: Republic Day in Muscat and other Reports

February 12, 2024

EDITORIAL COMMENT: *India and Oman have age-old relations. The following Reports by www.DiGiNews360.com show that people of both the countries give great importance to the relationship.*

February 11, 2024: In an interview, published by the Times of Oman on Sunday, 11th February, **Sanjeev Sanyal**, an economist and a key advisor to the Indian Prime Minister, forecast that India's economy would soon claim the position of the **world's third-largest economy**. He anticipated that India would **overtake Germany within the next 18 months** to become the fourth-largest economy, and would subsequently **surpass Japan in the next 18 months** to claim **the third spot, trailing only the USA and China**.

Sanyal said that India is successfully moving millions of poor families to middle class, every year, going by the NitiAyog multidimensional poverty indicators. He said that, in the **entire history of mankind**, never before any **big country** has attempted **the task of complete elimination of poverty** within a few decades.

Sanjeev Sanyal asserted, "India's proficiency in **AI, space technology, and drones** positions us to actively engage with technological transformations, thereby shaping the evolving global landscape." He predicted, " With a government and policy framework marked by **unprecedented agility**, India is poised to emerge as a **global economic powerhouse**, driving inclusive growth and prosperity"

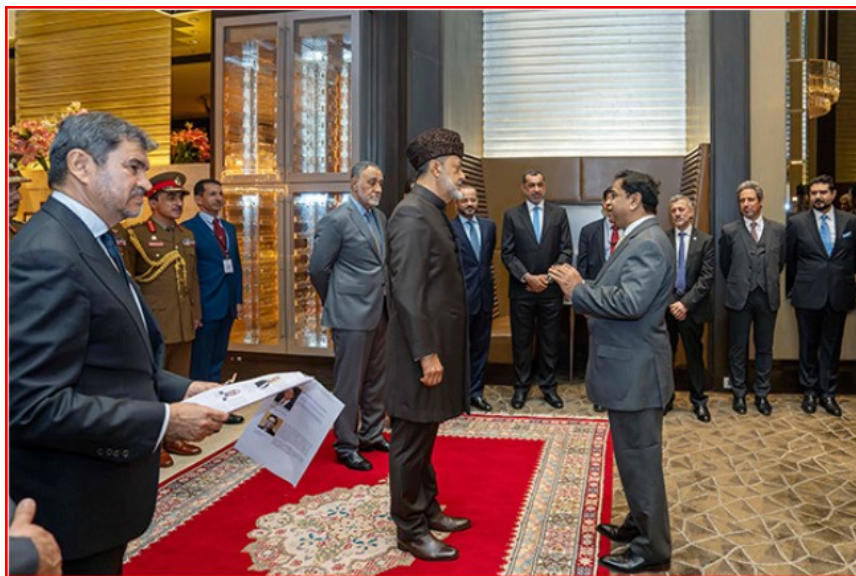


January 26, 2024: Muscat: Ambassador Amit Narang

December 15-18, 2023: At the invitation of India’s President **Droupadi Murmu**, **Sultan Haitham bin Tarik**, the Head of State of the Sultanate of Oman, embarked on a **historic state visit to India** for deepening the 5,000-year-old relationship between India and Oman.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS: During the **State visit**, the robust economic relationship between the two nations through **investment flows** and **through** the **establishment** of **Joint Working Groups** underscored the **shared vision** for **regional stability** and **prosperity** of **Oman and India**.

More than **600,000 Indians reside in Oman**, contributing significantly to the country’s workforce in various professional fields.



*December 18, 2023: New Delhi: Sultan **Haitham bin Tarik**,
An audience to business people in the Republic of India*

DEFENCE COLLABORATION: India and Oman inked a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for defence material procurement, in accordance with the India-Oman Joint Vision Document titled **“A Partnership for the Future”** adopted during Sultan Haitham’s visit.

In 2018, during the visit of Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi to Muscat**, **India** and **Oman** reached an agreement that granted India access to the **strategically vital Port of Duqm**. This access serves two critical purposes:

- **Military Use:** It enhances India’s naval capabilities in the region.
- **Logistical Support:** The port provides logistical support, allowing India to maintain a stronger presence in the Indian Ocean.

Having **access to Duqm allows India to prevent China from enlarging its “string of pearls”** – a network of strategic naval bases and ports across the Indian

Ocean. It **enhances India's maritime security** and helps counter potential threats from **piracy, terrorism and regional instability**, particularly because of **Duqm's proximity to the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman**

India and Oman have signed two agreements on Duqm: a maritime transport agreement, which was signed in December 2019 and another agreement which gave Indian Navy access to facilities at Oman's Duqm port in 2018.

Deepwater Port: Duqm boasts a deepwater port that can accommodate large vessels, **including warships, 'bulk cargo and container ships', and oil tankers** efficiently. **Economic Growth and Diversification:**

Duqm is **an important part of Oman's vision to diversify its economy beyond oil and gas**. It hosts industries such as **shipbuilding, petrochemicals and manufacturing**.

It may be of interest to know that **China has invested in** developing the **Duqm Special Economic Zone (SEZ), including the port and industrial facilities**.

February 21 - 25, 2022: Air Force Station Jodhpur, India: The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO):** The **Bilateral Air Force Exercise (Eastern Bridge – VI)** were organized with **Oman, India's strongest defence partner** in the Gulf region.

Less than a month before the joint exercise, **Oman's top defence ministry officials** and the **country's Navy chief** visited India to strengthen bilateral ties.

Strategic Importance: Oman's **tri-service joint exercises with India** play a critical role in enabling New Delhi to maintain its position as a net security provider in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

COVID-19 COLLABORATION: Both countries **collaborated successfully** together to combat the **health crisis** and **mitigate its impact**.

Formal **diplomatic relations** were **established** in **1955**, and in **2008**, the **partnership** was **elevated** to a **strategic level**. The enduring friendship between the two nations is rooted in **mutual respect** and the **contributions** of the **Indian expatriate community** to **Oman's development**. In summary, **Sultan Haitham's visit** was a **testament** to the **shared history, trust, and aspirations** of **India and Oman**.

----A Brief BACKGROUND on Oman----



Sultanate of Oman, Capital: Muscat

Population (2021 Estimate): 4.5 Mn (125th); Area: 309,500 Km² (70th);

GDP (2023 Estimate): \$108.3 Bn (66th); GDP/capita: \$21,265 (55th);

Muscat: Population (2023): Urban: 1.72 Mn; Old Muscat Wilayat: 31,409;

The metropolitan **Muscat** spans approximately 3,500 Km² and includes six **wilayats** (means “provinces”), making it the **largest city** in the **Arabian Peninsula** by area.

Note: 1. Please read “Houthis attack Commercial Shipping in Red Sea” dated January 15, 2024 at <https://diginews360.com/iran-war-with-the-west-triggered-by-houthis/>. The Report includes a **BACKGROUND** on the small, but oil/gas rich, countries of **Qatar** and **Bahrain**.

2. Please read “Israel-Hamas War: Houthis & Use of AI” dated December 23, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/israel-hamas-war-houthis-use-of-ai/>.
