

India honour for Doha Bank CEO R Seetharaman

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK

DOHA

DOHA Bank CEO Dr R Seetharaman has been conferred with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at an expatriates' day convention in Bengaluru on Monday.

It is the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians by the Indian government in recognition of their achievements both in the country and abroad. Seetharaman was bestowed the award for his "significant contribution to building closer links between India, the overseas Indian community in GCC and the GCC countries, and for the welfare of the local Indian community in GCC," Doha Bank said in a statement on Sunday.

"Some of the key initiatives brought by him include arranging credit and investment facilities to Indian corporates and FIs, facilitating average annual remittances to India over the last decade, creating employment opportunities for Indians in global operations, contributing to Indian SMEs, professionals and blue-collar workers abroad and enhancing multilateral trade and investment with India.

"Seetharaman is also a recipient of multiple doctorates from USA, Europe and India including two PhDs

and has provided invaluable contribution to green banking, sustainability, CSR and governance."

On receiving the award Seetharaman said, "It is a great privilege to receive the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award and I would like to thank the Indian government for choosing me for this award. India today is poised for a giant leap from the ranks of developing countries to those of the developed countries.

"Indian citizens living outside India also have their own responsibility towards this progress and hence should look forward to contributing to the welfare of their country. This can be done through remittances, investments, trade and other routes.

"I believed the Indian diaspora in GCC can play an important role on above areas and thereby promote bilateral relationships between GCC and India. This award further inspires me to contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relationships between GCC and India."

On the occasion, Seetharaman also gave insight on significant bilateral relationships between GCC and India.

He said, "Remittances to India from the Gulf countries in 2015-16 was \$35.9 billion. GCC-India trade was close to \$100 billion in 2015-16."



Indian President Pranab Mukherjee presents the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to Doha Bank CEO Dr R Seetharaman