

Embassy of India Bahrain *** PRESS RELEASE

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Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs to Bahrain (30 August to 1 September, 2021)

Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs (MoS), Government of India paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain from 30th August to 1st September, 2021. This is the first official visit of Shri V. Muraleedharan, MoS. He was received by Mr. Tawfeeq Ahmed Al Mansoor, Undersecretary for Consular & Administrative Affairs, MoFA, and Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Mr. Piyush Srivastava on his arrival at the Bahrain Airport.

2. During the visit, he called on His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and met H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and H.E. Mr. Jameel Humaidan, Minister of Labour. He also visited Bahrain Economic Development Board. During the visit, Bahrain Economic Development Board, Chief Executive, Mr. Khalid Humaidan briefed MoS on the Kingdom's economic progress and policies for further strengthening bilateral trade and investment. MoS was also briefed by Prime Minister's Office Director-General & Cabinet Secretary General, Hamad Faisal Al Malki at Gudaibiya Palace about Bahrain's initiative in the field of investment and labour reforms. Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif Al Zayani also hosted a dinner in honour of MoS.

3. MoS Shri V. Muraleedharan thanked the Leadership and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for taking exceptional care of the community during the Covid-19 pandemic and for Kingdom's solidarity and support to India and their kind gesture to send medical equipment and oxygen to India during the severe second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. Bahrain Leadership thanked India for supply of vaccines, medicines and facilitating travel of doctors and paramedics to the Kingdom.

4. Mr. V. Muraleedharan held delegation level talks with Bahrain's Foreign Minister. The two Ministers discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest including cooperation and coordination in dealing with post-Covid challenges. Both sides expressed satisfaction on the steady progress on various areas of bilateral cooperation, as reviewed in the recently held 3rd

High Joint Commission meeting, and reiterated commitment to further strengthening the relationship particularly in the areas of trade and investment, defence and security, IT, fintech, space technology, health and pharmaceuticals, education, food processing, logistics and energy including renewable energy.

5. MoS also interacted with the Heads of Indian Associations, Medical Fraternity and Representatives of Educational Institutions in Bahrain. He paid a visit to historic 200 years old Shreenathji (Shree Krishna) temple in Manama. The temple and the Little India around it stand as a testimony for the enduring India-Bahrain friendship. He inaugurated BKS@75 celebrations at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam, the largest expatriate club, which is also celebrating its 75th year of establishment in Bahrain. During his interaction with the Indian community members, MoS briefed them about transformational reforms being undertaken in economic and educational domains in India through visionary initiatives of Atam Nirbhar Bharat and the new National Education Policy. He reassured our community of the high priority given by the Government of India for the welfare of our diaspora.

6. MoS also interacted with the members of Indian Universities Alumni Society (IUAS) on 31st August, 2021. The Society is formed by Bahraini dignitaries who have studied in India. The foundation of Indian Universities Alumni Society (IUAS) was laid on 30th January, 2019 as a platform where all the Bahraini alumnus in Indian universities can meet, exchange ideas and work together to promote education of Bahraini students in India as well as encourage students and faculty exchange and cooperation between the concerned Universities of the two countries.

7. An Indian community event followed by reception was organised to mark the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations on 1st September, 2021. During the event, Mr. K.G. Baburajan was felicitated with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award by MoS on behalf of the Government of India. Mr. K. G. Baburajan is one of the 30 recipients who were conferred with the award at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention held in virtual mode in January 2021. The award is the highest honour conferred by the President of India on overseas Indians. The Reception was attended by Members of the Council of Representatives, senior officials from the Government of Bahrain, PBSA awardees, prominent Indian businessmen, media personnel, members of Public Sector Undertakings and representatives of Indian community Associations in Bahrain.

8. The visit was positively received by the Leadership, Government and the people of Bahrain, which provided an opportunity to review and discuss further strengthening our multifaceted bilateral ties. The Minister also had exclusive interaction with members of Indian community and Bahraini societies and invited them to be a part of continuing celebrations of Golden Jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Kingdom of Bahrain, as well as Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorating 75th anniversary of India's independence.



Hon'ble MoS received by Ambassador Tawfeeq Ahmed Al Mansoor, Undersecretary for Consular & Administrative Affairs, MoFA.



Hon'ble Minister met H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bahrain



Hon'ble Minister called on His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa



Hon'ble Minister called on Crown Prince and Prime Minister, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa of Bahrain.



Hon'ble Minister visited Embassy of India Bahrain and offered floral tributes to Father of the Nation.



Hon'ble Ministers interaction with representatives of Indian Schools in Bahrain



Visit to Economic Development Board



Interaction with Medical Fraternity



Community interaction with Indian Associations



Community event - Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav