



Embassy of India

Bahrain

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### PRESS RELEASE

The Embassy of India organised the Open House in virtual mode on 29 October 2021 between 10:00 hrs to 12:00 hrs, during which Ambassador Piyush Srivastava directly interacted with the members of Indian community directly on virtual mode for redressing their urgent/non-routine consular and labour issues.

Ambassador thanked the authorities of Government of Bahrain, particularly Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in organising the magnificent week long celebrations to commemorate the historic celebrations of Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations of India and Bahrain. The events included the illumination of our national monuments, Bab-al-Bahrain and Qutub Minar in each other's national colours and a diverse array of cultural and musical performances display of art and handicraft and stalls focussing on cuisine and crafts. Ambassador also thanked the members of the Indian and Bahraini community for their overwhelming participation in these celebrations.

Ambassador briefed the community about India's historic achievement as it administered one billion vaccination doses in its decisive war against COVID-19.

Ambassador briefed the community that India has resumed its tourist e-visa issuance w.e.f 15.10.2021. The first 5 lakh visas shall be issued globally on a gratis basis.

Ambassador also thanked Bahraini Government authorities and the concerned Indian associations for resolution of long pending cases of some of our Indian nationals including Mr. Asokan Asari, Mr. Sairam Saapa, Mr. Gangadhar Pashikam and Ms. Avvamma. Their cases have been resolved and they have travelled back to India.

While expressing happiness at the start of activities with significant improvement of Covid situation in the Kingdom, Ambassador cautioned the community to continue follow Kingdom's Covid advisories and protocols. Ambassador also briefed the community members about efforts being made for making consular services more convenient and friendly to the people including shifting of IVS centre as well as launching of an appointment mobile app, the work on which is going and we hope to launch these soon.

It was a productive interactive session. The grievances/issues of the Indian community were successfully addressed; some resolved at the open house, while others will be taken up at the earliest possible. Ambassador thanked all the Indian associations and community members for their active participation in the open house.

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