

Remarks by H.E Mr. Vinod K Jacob, Ambassador-Designate to the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the reception on board Indian Naval Ship Vishakhapatnam at Mina Salman Naval Base, Kingdom of Bahrain on

16 August 2023

I thank all the esteemed guests who are attending the reception this evening on board Indian Naval Ship Vishakhapatnam.

At the outset, I would like to express gratitude to His Majesty King HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA and His Royal Highness Crown Prince SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister for their leadership and guidance to the healthy development of India-Bahrain relations.

I would like to thank the Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Forces Lt. Gen. THEYAB BIN SAQR AL NUAIMI and Commander of the Royal Bahrain Naval Forces, Rear Admiral MOHAMMED IBRAHIM AL BINALI for all their support and making the visit of Indian Naval Ship Vishakhapatnam and Indian Naval Ship Deepak with the Commander of the Western Fleet Rear Admiral VINEET MCCARTY embarked from 14 to 17 August 2023. I had the unique honour of receiving Rear Admiral VINEET MCCARTY and his delegation and have benefited immensely from his insights. The Admiral's active commitment to promoting India-Bahrain bilateral relations especially in the defence sphere is indeed infectious and encouraging.

I would also like to thank Vice Admiral CHARLES B COOPER II, Commander US NAVCENT, Fifth Fleet and Combined Maritime Force who has been a source of support all these years. On behalf of the Embassy, I would like to state that we look forward to scaling up engagements and meeting future challenges and living up to the motto of "Ready Together".

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of Ambassador H.E. Dr. Muhammed Ali Bahzad, H.E. Mr. Abdulnabi Salman Nasser and H.E. Mr. Hassan Bukhamas.

Dear friends, members of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen,

I arrived in Bahrain in the first week of August and I have been warmly received by the Govt of the Kingdom of Bahrain. I look forward to working closely with the Bahrain side to strengthen the bilateral engagement. Even as both countries mark five decades of diplomatic relations, especially encouraging in this regard, is the steady expansion of the relationship to the domains of defence and maritime security. The record of the past few years clearly indicates that our partnership with the Combined Maritime Forces has enabled active contribution to strengthening regional maritime security. It is a fact that over the past few decades the Indian Navy has been successful in building bridges of friendship across the seas.

This visit under the leadership of the Commander of the Western Fleet is timely and reflects India's role as a partner for peace, prosperity and progress in the region. For me personally, the presence of two Indian Naval ships with the FOC Western Fleet embarked is a sure sign of the depth of the bilateral relations even as Indians around the world celebrate their 77th Independence Day.

On behalf of the entire Embassy of India and in particular Defence Wing let me conclude by once again welcoming all guests on board.

I thank you.