

EMBASSY OF INDIA BAHRAIN

Digital Newsletter- February 2022



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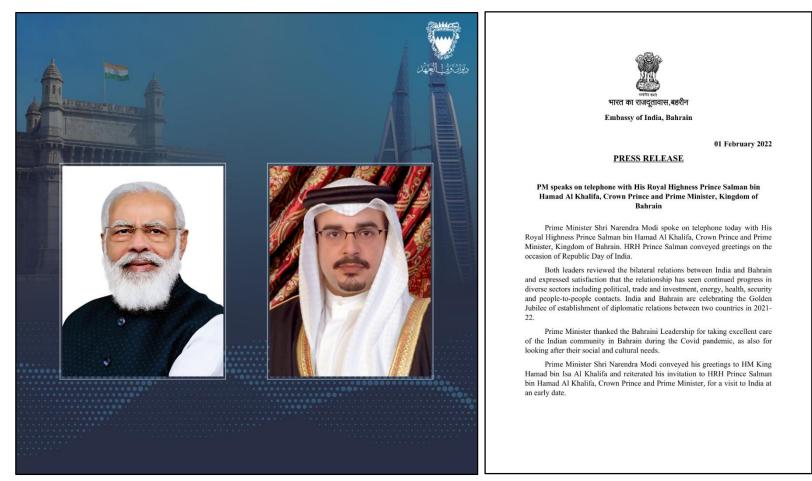
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Prime Minister held telephonic conversation with Bahrain's Crown Prince & Prime Minister

Date- 01/02/2022



Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Republic of India held a telephonic conversation with His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Ambassador Piyush Srivastava called on Bahrain's Foreign Minister

Date- 18/02/2022



Ambassador Piyush Srivastava called on H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani. They discussed various aspects of the multifaceted bilateral cooperation which is growing at all levels.

Ambassador Piyush Srivastava called on Minister of EWA, Bahrain

Date- 10/02/2022



Ambassador Piyush Srivastava called on H.E. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Electricity and Water Authority, Bahrain to discuss issues of common interest including the bilateral Webinar and B2B meeting in Renewable Energy sector.

Ambassador met Secretary General of Higher Education Council

Date- 02/02/2022



Ambassador Piyush Srivastava met H.E. Dr. Shaikha Rana bint Isa Al Khalifa, Secretary General of Higher Education Council, Bahrain and discussed matters of mutual interest in the area of higher education.

Ambassador Piyush Srivastava called on Speaker of COR, Bahrain

Date- 28/02/2022



Ambassador Piyush Srivastava called on H.E. Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal, Speaker of Council of Representatives, Bahrain and discussed various aspects of bilateral relations and ways to strengthen parliamentary cooperation.

Ambassador Piyush Srivastava visited DANAT Institute

Date- 09/02/2022



Ambassador Piyush Srivastava visited DANAT Institute and met with its Chairman of Board of Director Mr. Yaser Alsharifi and CEO Ms Noora Jamsheer to discuss ways to promote trade, training and research collaboration in the fields of pearls and gemstones between India and Bahrain.

Ambassador Piyush Srivastava interacted with young Bahraini Diplomats

Date- 24/02/2022



Ambassador Piyush Srivastava interacted with young Bahraini Diplomats of the 4th batch of the Foundational Diplomats Program at Mohamed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies under the theme 'Dialogue with Ambassador', under the aegis of the MoU on Cooperation between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, India and MBMA Bahrain.

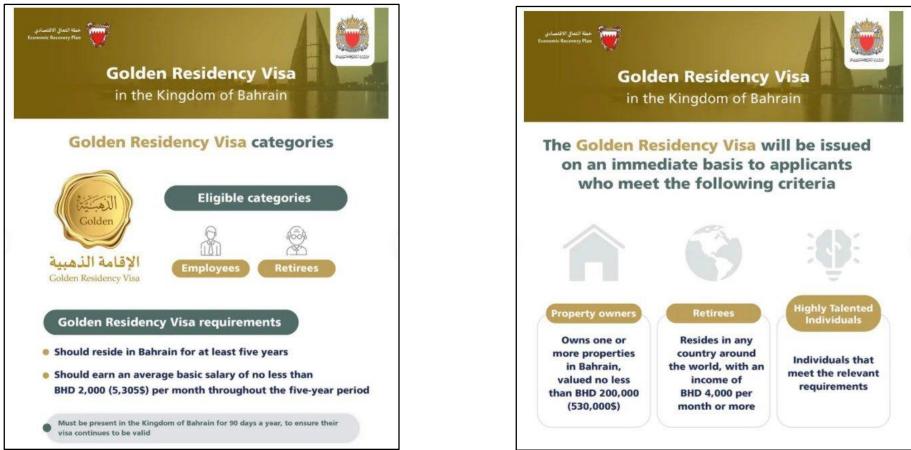




Ambassador spoke about various aspects of the strong historical ties between India & Bahrain and opportunities for further collaboration in new & emerging areas, besides sharing key points of India's growth story & his own personal experiences as being a long-serving Indian diplomat. Ambassador Fatima Abdulla Al Dhaen, Chief of Afro-Asian Affairs, MoFA & Dr. Mohammed Saleh, Acting Director of the Studies & Evaluation Directorate at the Academy were also present in the interaction.

Bahrain introduces a new 'Golden Residency Visa'

Date- 07/02/2022



The Kingdom of Bahrain announced the launch of the 'Golden Residency Visa' for residents and non-residents with immediate processing of the applications electronically upon meeting the prescribed criteria. The move is a part of the Kingdom's strategy that will serve as a catalyst for attracting foreign investments.



INDIA-UAE VIRTUAL SUMMIT

Prime Minister of India and Crown Prince of UAE held Virtual Summit

Date- 18/02/2022



Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held a Virtual Summit. Major highlight of the Virtual Summit was the signing & exchange of India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by H. E. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, India and H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy, UAE.

INDIA-UAE VIRTUAL SUMMIT

India and UAE signed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

Date- 18/02/2022



India and UAE signed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 18 Feb, 2022 which will provide significant benefits to Indian & UAE businesses, including enhanced market access & reduced tariffs..

INDIA-UAE VIRTUAL SUMMIT

India & UAE **Sign Historic Trade Pact Comprehensive Economic Partnership** Agreement (CEPA) **CEPA will bring in strong multiplier** benefits to all stakeholders GOODS SERVICES Increased flow of CAPITAL TECHNOLOGY

India & UAE Sign Historic Trade Pact

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

India's first bilateral trade agreement in the **Middle East and North African** region

> India is celebrating its 75th years of Independence & UAE its 50th anniversary of its foundation

Overview of Union Budget 2022-23

The Union Budget of 2022-23 was presented by **Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2022.** Infrastructure emerged as the topmost priority for the Narendra Modi government as the finance minister said that the Budget for 2022-2023 will lay the **foundation for economic growth** through public investment as Asia's third-largest economy emerges from a pandemic-induced slump.

The Finance Minister outlined the effects of the pandemic, saying the speed of vaccination had greatly helped in combating the pandemic.

"We are in the midst of the Omicron wave, the speed of our vaccination campaign has helped greatly. I am confident that with 'Sabka Prayaas' (everyone's efforts) we'll continue with strong growth."



60 lakh (6 million) new jobs to be

created under the productivity

linked incentive scheme in 14

The outlay in 2022-23 to be

sectors

2.9% of GDP

Key Highlights of the Budget

India's economic growth is estimated at **9.2%** to be the highest among all large economies

The outlay for capital expenditure stepped up sharply by 35.4% to INR 7.50 lakh crore (~US\$ 106 billion) in 2022-23 from INR 5.54 lakh crore (~US\$ 80 billion) in the

Effective Capital Expenditure of Central Government estimated at INR 10.68 lakh crore (US\$ 147 billion) in 2022-23, which is about 4.1% of GDP. PLI Schemes have the potential to create an additional production of INR 30 lakh crore (~US\$ 401 billion)

current year.

India@100

Entering *Amrit Kaal* - the 25 year-long lead up to **India@100** - the budget provides the impetus for growth along with four priorities

PM Gatishakti

Productivity Enhancement and Investment, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition and Climate Action

Inclusive Development for Aspirational India

Financing of Investments

The four pillars continue to build on the vision drawn in the Budget of 2021-22.







PM Gatishakti

The seven engines that drive PM Gatishakti are Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure.

PM Gatishakti National Master Plan:

This will encompass the seven engines for economic transformation, seamless multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency.

The projects pertaining to these 7 engines in the National Infrastructure Pipeline will be aligned with the PM Gatishakti framework.



Road Transport

National Highways Network to be expanded by **25,000 Km in 2022-23**

INR 20,000 Crore (~US\$ 267 billion) to be mobilized for National Highways Network expansion

Multimodal Logistics Parks

Contracts to be awarded through PPP mode in 2022-23 for implementation of Multimodal Logistics Parks at four locations.



Railways

 One Station One Product concept to help local businesses & supply chains.

 2,000 Km of the railway network to be brought under Kavach (Armour), the indigenous world-class technology and capacity augmentation in 2022-23.

 400 new generation Vande Bharat Trains to be manufactured during the next three years.

 100 PM Gatishakti Cargo terminals for multimodal logistics to be developed during the next three years.

"400 new generation Vande Bharat trains with better efficiency to be brought in during the next 3 years; 100 PM Gatishakti Cargo terminals to be developed during next 3 years and implementation of innovative ways for building metro systems."





Productivity Enhancement and Investment, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition and Climate Action

Agriculture

- INR 2.37 lakh crore (~US\$ 26 billion) direct payment to
 1.63 crore (10 million) farmers for procurement of wheat and paddy.
- Chemical-free Natural farming to be promoted throughout the county. The initial focus is on farmer's lands in 5 Km wide corridors along river Ganga.
- NABARD to facilitate funds with blended capital to finance startups for agriculture & rural enterprise.
- Kisan Drones for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients.
- INR 1,400 crore (~US\$ 187 million) outlay for implementation of the Ken – Betwa link project.
- 9.08 lakh (0.91 million) hectares of farmers' lands to receive irrigation benefits by the Ken-Betwa link project



"Procurement of wheat in Rabi season 2021-22 and the estimated procurement of paddy in Kharif season 2021-22 will give cover 1208 lakh (~121 million) metric tonnes of wheat & paddy from 163 lakh farmers & INR 2.37 lakh crores (~US\$26 billion) will be the direct payment of MSP value to their accounts".

MSME

- Udyam (Enterprise), e-shram (for unorganised sector workers), National Career Service (NCS), and Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portals to be interlinked.
- 130 lakh (~1 million) MSMEs provided additional credit under Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)
- ECLGS to be extended up to March 2023.
- Guarantee cover under ECLGS to be expanded INR 50,000 crore (~US 6 billion) to the total cover of INR 5 Lakh Crore (~US\$ 66 billion)
 - INR 2 lakh crore (~US\$ 26 billion) additional credit for Micro and Small Enterprises to be facilitated under the Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).
 - Raising and Accelerating MSME performance (RAMP)
 programme with an outlay of INR 6000 Crore (~US\$ 802 million)
 to be rolled out.



Skill Development

Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood

(DESH-Stack e-portal) will be launched to empower citizens to skill, reskill or upskill through online training.

 Startups will be promoted to facilitate Drone Shakti and for Drone-As-A-Service (DrAAS)



Health

- An open platform for National Digital Health Ecosystem to be rolled out
- National Tele Mental Health Programme for quality mental health counselling and care services to be launched.
- A network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence will be set up, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and the International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) providing technical support.

"An open platform for the National Digital Health Ecosystem will be rolled out. It will consist of digital registries of health providers and health facilities, unique health identity and universal access to health facilities."



Banking & e-passport

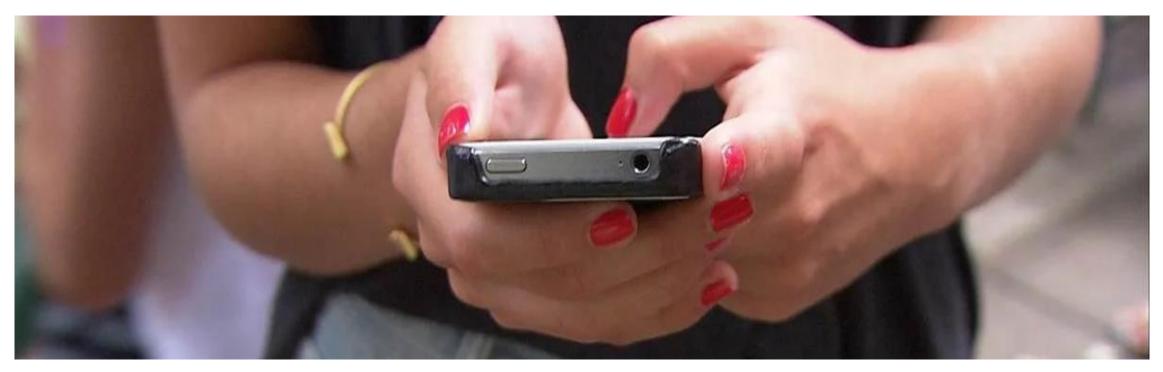
- 100% of 1.5 lakh (0.15 million) post offices to come on —— e-Passports with embedded chips and futuristic the core banking system.
- Scheduled Commercial Banks to set up **75 Digital** Banking Units (DBUs) in 75 districts.

technology to be rolled out.



Telecom Sector

- Scheme for design-led manufacturing to be launched to build a strong ecosystem for 5G as part of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme.
- Telecommunication and 5G technology will enable growth and offer job opportunities. Required spectrum auctions will be conducted in 2022 to facilitate the rollout of 5G mobile services within 2022-23 by private telecom providers



Export Promotion

Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act to be replaced with new legislation to enable States to become partners in the Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs.

The new legislation will enable the states to become partners and will cover all large existing and new industrial enclaves to optimally utilise available infrastructure and enhance competitiveness of exports,



Atmanirbharta (Self Reliance) in Defence

68% of the capital procurement budget
 earmarked for the domestic industry in 2022-23,
 up from 58% in 2021-22

- Defence R&D to be opened up for industry, startups and academia with 25% of defence R&D budget earmarked
 - Independent nodal umbrella body to be set up for meeting testing and certification requirements.



Sunrise Opportunities

 Government contribution to be provided for R&D in Sunrise sectors like Artificial Intelligence,
 Geospatial Systems and Drones, Semiconductor and its eco-system, Space Economy, Genomics and Pharmaceuticals, Green Energy, and Clean Mobility Systems.

"The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have the potential to create 60 lakh (6 million) new jobs and additional production of INR 30 lakh crore (~US\$401 billion) during the next five years."



Sunrise sector is a burgeoning sector in its infancy stage showing promise of a rapid boom. Industries in this sector are characterized by high growth rates, numerous startups, and an abundance of venture capital funding.

UNION BUDGET 2022-2023 Energy Transition and Climate Action

Additional allocation of INR 19,500 crore (~US\$ 2 billion) for
 Production Linked Incentive for the manufacture of high-efficiency
 solar modules to meet the goal of 280 GW of installed solar power by
 2030

--- CO₂ savings of 38 million metric tons (MMT) annually,

- Extra income to farmers and job opportunities to locals,
- Help avoid stubble burning in agriculture fields.
- Four pilot projects are to be set up for coal gasification and conversion of coal into chemicals for the industry
- Sovereign Green Bonds to be issued for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure.
- Data Centres and Energy Storage Systems to be given infrastructure status





Inclusive Development for Aspirational India

Public Capital Investment

- Public investment to continue to pump-prime private investment and demand in 2022-23.
- The outlay for capital expenditure stepped up sharply by 35.4% to INR 7.50 lakh crore (~US\$ 106 billion) in 2022-23
- Outlay in 2022-23 to be **2.9% of GDP.**
- Effective Capital Expenditure of Central Government estimated at INR 10.68 lakh crore (US\$ 147 billion) in 2022-23 which is about 4.1% of GDP.



Digital Rupee

Introduction of **Digital Rupee** by the Reserve Bank of —— A new crypto tax will be introduced under which virtual India starting 2022-23.

digital assets will be taxed at 30%

The move is seen as a big push for the government's Digital India programme.



Startups

- Existing tax benefits for startups, which were offered redemption of taxes for three consecutive years, has been extended by one more year till March 31, 2023
- Funds raised under the co-investment model will be facilitated through NABARD to finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprise relevant to the farm produce value chain.
 - Startups will support **Farmer Producer Organizations** and provide tech to farmers.





Allocation to Existing Schemes: 2022-23

National Health Mission

Program envisages universal access to equitable, affordable, & quality health care services that are accountable to people's needs

INR 37,800 crores (~US 5 billion)

Jal Jeevan Mission

Program aimed at providing safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections INR 60,000 crores (~US 6 billion)

National Education Mission

Program aimed at eradicating illiteracy by imparting functional literacy to non-literates INR 39,553 crores (~US 5 billion)

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

Nationwide program to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages INR 19,000 crores (~US 2 billion)

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

This government scheme allows all small and marginal farmers to avail upto INR 6,000 (US\$ 80) per year as minimum income support INR 68,000 crores (~US 9 billion)

Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana

A scheme designed to incentivize the creation of new employment INR 6,400 crore (~US\$ 855 million)

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

Program aimed at correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable and reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country INR 10,000 crore (~US 1.3 billion)



First India-Bahrain Joint Working Group Meeting on Healthcare held virtually

Date- 22/02/2022



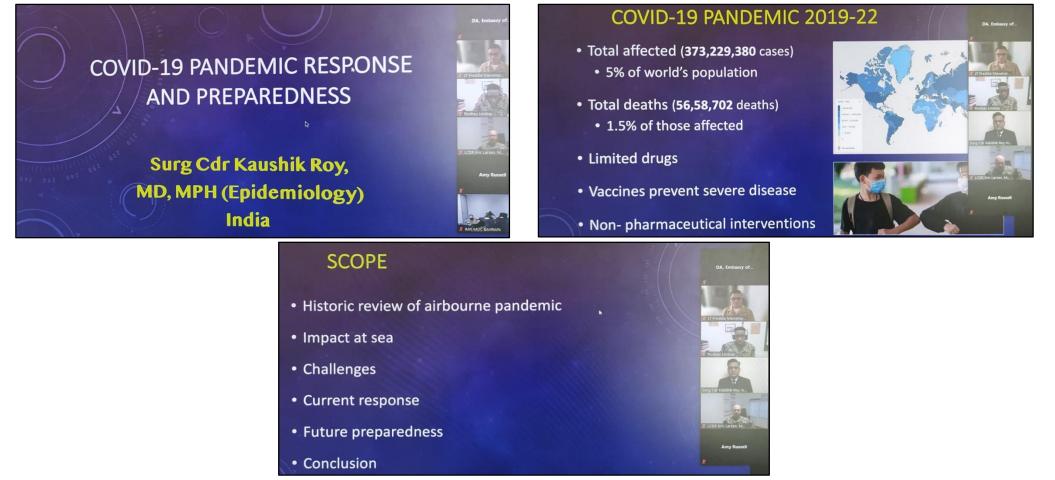
1st India-Bahrain Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on healthcare cooperation between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, India and Ministry of Health, Bahrain under India-Bahrain MoU on Healthcare Cooperation, was held virtually on 22nd February 2022.



The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Lalagarwal, Joint Secretary, MOHFW India & Bahraini delegation was led by Dr. Najat Mohamed Abulfateh, Director & Acting Assistant Undersecretary MOH Bahrain. Ambassador Piyush Srivastava was also present in the meeting. The JWG discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in fields of pharmaceuticals & medical devices; exchange of medical professionals & experts and promotion of medical value travel. Best practices adopted for effective pandemic management were also shared by both countries.

Representative from Indian Navy presented 'Indian Navy's Response to COVID 19'

Date- 01/02/2022



Representative from Indian Navy presented 'Indian Navy's Response to COVID 19' during a virtual session on 'Pandemic Response and Preparedness' in support of Multinational International Maritime Exercise (IMX) 2022 being held at Bahrain.

EOI, PLC Bahrain & BMC organized a Webinar on 'Expatriates and Legal Issues'

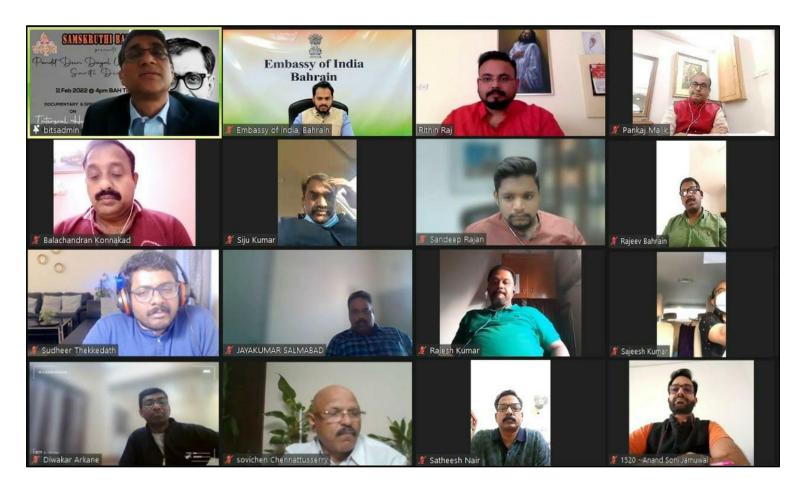
Date- 09/02/2022



Ambassador Piyush Srivastava addressed a Webinar on 'Expatriates and Legal Issues' organized by Pravasi Legal Cell (PLC), Bahrain Chapter, and BMC. Ambassador appreciated initiative of PLC to reach out to our community on such important theme & advised Indian community particularly blue collar workers to utilize various Gol's schemes for welfare of Indian diaspora including E-migrate & pre-departure orientation training programme. The Webinar was attended by Adv. Sh. Jose Abraham from Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and Adv. Madhvan Kallath from Bahrain, in addition to Mr Sudheer Tirunilath, Head of PLC Bahrain Chapter.

Virtual event to commemorate 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Smriti Din'

Date- 12/02/2022



Samskruthi Bahrain in association with Embassy of India, Bahrain hosted a virtual event to mark Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Smriti Din. The event saw a speech by Dr. KK Singh and the streaming of a documentary on Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

Webinar & B2B Meeting on 'Opportunities in Renewable Energy Sector '

Date- 12/02/2022



Embassy of India supported by Electricity & Water Authority, Bahrain and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, India held a Webinar & B2B Meeting titled 'Opportunities in Renewable Energy Sector in Bahrain on 15 Feb 2022. The event was organized in cooperation with EEPC India and in partnership with Bahrain India Society.



The event featured keynote speech by Ambassador Piyush Srivastava and addresses & presentations by Mr. Alexander Al Samahiji EWA Bahrain, Mr. Dinesh D Jagdale MNRE India, Mr. Manu Srivastava, Mr. Abdulrahman Juma, Chairman BIS, Indian Windpower & Hydrogen Association of India. Speakers presented programs & targets of their respective governments and emphasized that renewable energy sector provides significant synergies for cooperation between India & Bahrain, particularly in solar, wind and hydrogen fields. Over 80 companies from India and Bahrain attended the B2B meeting. The outcomes of the webinar are expected to lead to greater bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

Ambassador inaugurated the Photo Exhibition 'Bharath Darshan'

Date- 26/02/2022



Ambassador Piyush Srivastava inaugurated the amazing Photo Exhibition 'Bharath Darshan' put together by talented Indian school children and organized by BICAS Bahrain.



Ambassador also visited the photos exhibited which covered the portraits of Cultural Diversity, Languages, Landscape, Art, Science and Leaders of India.

EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar took part in the Fourth Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting

Date- 11/02/2022



External affairs minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar took part in the fourth Quad foreign ministers' meeting in Australia's Melbourne on along with his counterparts from Japan, Australia and the United States. EAM thanked the Foreign Minister of Australia, Marise Payne for excellent arrangements.

India dispatched first convoy of 2500 MT of wheat assistance to Afghanistan

Date- 12/02/2022



India dispatched first convoy of 2500 MT of wheat assistance from ICP Attari to Jalalabad, Afghanistan which is considered to be an important milestone in India's humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.

Lok Sabha Speaker called on Crown Prince, UAE

Date- 22/02/2022



Lokh Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla and the accompanying Indian Parliamentary delegation in his visit to UAE called on His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of Armed Forces, UAE.

EOI Bahrain conveyed condolences on passing away of Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar

Date- 06/02/2022



Embassy of India, Bahrain conveyed heartfelt tribute and condolences on passing away of Legendary Singer & Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar.

India successfully launched PSLV-C52/ EOS-04

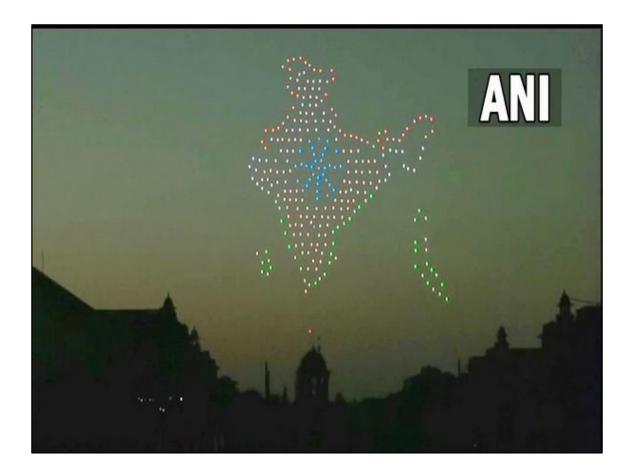
Date- 14/02/2022



India successfully launched PSLV-C52/ EOS-04, putting the Earth Observation satellite into a sun-synchronous orbit. EOS-04 is a Radar Imaging Satellite designed to provide high quality images under all weather conditions.

Drones made by BotLab Dynamics lit up sky at Beating Retreat ceremony

Date- 17/02/2022



The Drones made by Botlab Dynamics, a startup incubated at IIT- Delhi lit up the sky at the Beating Retreat Ceremony. This startup has been working on building robotics for more than 5 years and has been specified in the domain of drones.

SPORTS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bahrain organized Sports Day Celebration

Date- 10/02/2022

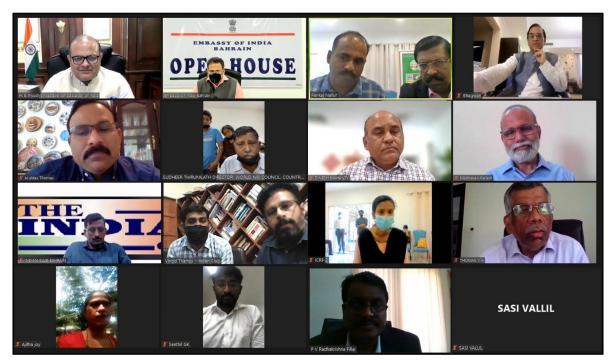


Ambassador Piyush Srivastava and other Embassy officials participated in the Sports Day celebrations led by H.E. Abdullathif Al Zayani, and organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bahrain.

OPEN HOUSE

Embassy organised the Virtual Open House on 25 February 2022

Date- 25/02/2022



Embassy of India organised the Virtual Open House on 25 February 2022. Ambassador Piyush Srivastava interacted with the local Indian community members as well as the associations directly regarding consular and labour issues. Ambassador thanked the community associations, volunteers as well as Indian and Bahraini businessmen including ICRF and World NRI Council, Indian Club, BKS, Bahrain Odia Samaja for their constant support for the welfare of our labourers and workers. Ambassador also acknowledged the tireless efforts of Embassy panel lawyers. This has led to resolution as well as positive movement in several individual cases of our workers. Shri Venkatesh, who has been Covid positive for over 6 months, has travelled to India in Air Ambulance. The case of four fishermen has been successfully resolved. The cases of Ms. Shameen, Ms. Ginjala Bhavani, Mr. Sivalingam, Ms. K. Prashanthi who have approached the Mission have been resolved. The pending case of Hari Krishnan & Kunjathan Ramanandan have made good progress.