

BMC – SUCCESS STATEMENTS

1. India @75 - we are proud that our country has much to boast about - ranging from its rich culture and heritage through progress in all fields to that of the latest as in the digital / self-sufficient India that we are aiming it. How do you comment on Bahrain India relations contributing to this progress?

- It is a landmark year for us. India is celebrating its 75th Independence Day this year. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 12th March this year launched 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India.
- India's progress in its journey of 75 years after its independence is there for all to see. The largest democracy on earth, India has made tremendous strides in socio-economic development, and industrial, scientific and technological advances in almost all sectors of economy – from agriculture, infrastructure, services to health, education, and hi-tech areas of space, defence, IT, big data, pharmaceuticals and medical sector.
- India has now become a strong voice of international cooperation and solidarity. India has always believed in sharing the fruits of development with the global community, in line with our age old tradition of 'Vasudaiva Kutumbkam' i.e. the world is one family.
- The year 2021 is also a milestone in the journey of our bilateral relations. India and Kingdom of Bahrain are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations.
- Ours is deep-rooted historical relationship with cultural, trade and people to people contacts over centuries. Our multifaceted bilateral

cooperation today extends to virtually all fields of political, security, trade and economic, education and cultural domains.

2. Make In India - the signature project of our home government - what are the Embassy's initiatives to popularise this project among Bahraini investors?

- MAKE IN INDIA initiative was launched with renewed focus on making India the most preferred global manufacturing destination. The clarion call of “Atma Nirbhar Bharat” (Self Reliant India) made by the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2020 is the idea of an India that will engage more with the global community. It aims at India becoming a much stronger part of global supply chain and global value chain.
- This, combined with several economic and structural reforms as well as boost given to infrastructure and connectivity, has opened up opportunities for greater trade and economic cooperation between India and the world. The resilience of Indian economy and the confidence of investors in India is reflected from the fact that India received about USD 64 billion FDI in the pandemic year 2020. This is the 5th largest FDI inflows in the world.
- India and Bahrain have robust trade and economic cooperation. Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030, coupled with its favourable regulatory and business friendly environment, has made it an attractive business and investment destination, including as a gateway to the GCC countries. The pro-active measures taken by the Government of Bahrain for post-Covid economic recovery have opened up several opportunities for increased collaboration, particularly in areas such as health and pharmaceutical, energy including renewables, IT, Big Data, Fintech, food security,

education, tourism and infrastructure. The Embassy is actively promoting as well as facilitating interaction and B2B meetings between the concerned government bodies, trade and investment agencies and the private sector of two countries.

- The positive trend in our trade and investment cooperation is visible. The bilateral trade figures have remained stable at around USD 1 billion. There are encouraging signs for this year's trade figures so far, which are about 40% higher than the corresponding period last year. The cumulative Investment from India to Bahrain is over US\$ 1.25 billion, making India the 6th largest investor in Bahrain. Similarly, investments from Bahrain to India have also increased to around US\$ 180 million in 2019.

3. The pandemic proved a litmus test to true bilateral relations between countries. How do you comment on this statement in terms of Indo-Bahrain ties?

- Our two countries have had excellent collaboration in dealing with Covid-19 pandemic - be it the support of the Government of Bahrain for medical and other care of the Indian community, facilitating their repatriation by 'Vande Bharat Mission', the 'Air Bubble' arrangement between the two countries for facilitating travel of people of both sides, supply of oxygen; OR the supply of medicines, vaccines and facilitating travel of doctors and paramedics to the Kingdom by India.
- Bahrain is among the most successful countries in dealing with the pandemic, as well as for providing medical, financial and other support to its people. The Kingdom has also taken exceptional care of its expats population, of which Indian diaspora forms the majority, in terms of providing medical and other support, in addition to free vaccination at par with its citizens. I would like to express our

gratitude to His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the Government of Bahrain for ensuring welfare of the Indian community, particularly during the difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic.

- India had successfully handled the first wave of the pandemic and has also now swiftly recovered from the severe second wave. As of today, over 500 million people have already been vaccinated in India, and the daily rate of has drastically come down to around 40,000; in fact it was less than 30,000 yesterday. India's recovery rate of over 97% is among the world's highest.
- Our two countries continue our cooperation and collaboration in fighting this global pandemic. With the improved Covid situation in both countries, I am hopeful that various aspects of our multi-faceted bilateral cooperation will progress further at the swift pace, including easing of travel restrictions to facilitate greater movement of official and business delegations as well as people of both sides.

4. Your message to the Indian diaspora on the occasion of the Independence Day...

- Let me first of all convey my best wishes and greetings to all members of Indian community on the historic occasion of 75th Independence Day of India.
- Our vibrant community in Bahrain plays a very important role in cementing our bilateral ties and further strengthening the existing goodwill between our two countries. With their professionalism and high standards of work ethics, our community has made a name for itself in Bahrain by contributing to the Kingdom's economic development. This is a fact which has been acknowledged by the

Leadership of both countries. Kingdom's visionary policies of tolerance and co-existence have provided an environment to the Indian community, in which they not only have professional satisfaction but they and their families also enjoy comfortable stay and social life in Bahrain.

- As responsible residents, Indian community has followed the Kingdom's COVID protocols and guidelines, and a large majority of them have already gotten vaccinated to support the Kingdom's efforts in fighting the pandemic.
- As Indian Ambassador in Bahrain, I feel extremely proud of the good work done by Indian community in enhancing India's image as well as contributing to our bilateral relations. I look forward to working with all of you. The Embassy is 'Pardes mein apka dost', and is always there to support our community and provide help and assistance whenever required.
- This is a landmark year for us, as two milestone events – 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating 75 years of India's Independence; and Golden Jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations India and Kingdom of Bahrain are being celebrated this year. We look forward to active participation of the Indian community in these celebrations.

Your comments on Bahrain Media City:-

I am happy to be at Bahrain Media City today. In little over one year of its establishment, IMAC Bahrain Media City has made a mark by hosting and organising a number of programmes focusing on promoting India's heritage, and cultural and people to people ties between our two

countries. I would like to commend you for reaching out to families on the virtual platform by telecasting interesting and meaningful programmes in its social media channel BMC Global Live, especially during the COVID times.

I commend the media team for their efforts and wish them all the success. I look forward to continued co-operation in the future.

The video of the above interview by Ambassador can be seen at

<https://youtu.be/cjnqxIEX8S4>
