

Remarks of H.E. Mr. Vinod K Jacob, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the reception marking the Republic Day of India in 2024

I am honoured to address this distinguished audience on the occasion of the 75th Republic Day of India. It was on 26 January 1950 that India became a Republic after the adoption of its constitution on 26 November 1949.

Friends,

India's relations with the friendly Kingdom of Bahrain are characterized by long-standing brotherly ties and our bilateral cooperation is founded on close historical bonds, shared principles, mutual interests as well as common aspirations for international peace, stability and prosperity. This is the consensus reached by the leadership of the two sides-His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister as well as by His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.

Momentum of high level exchanges was maintained in 2023 and as the year ended, in December 2023, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India had a brief interaction on the sidelines of the COP 28 in the UAE. In November last year, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa participated in the concluding leader's session of the second Voice of Global South Summit hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. H.E. Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani had regular meetings with H.E. Dr. S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India on the sidelines of various multilateral gatherings during the year that passed by. Both sides are working towards an active agenda of high level exchanges during the course of 2024 as well.

Friends,

Based on current trends, I expect the India-Bahrain bilateral trade for financial year 2023 to 2024 to reach around USD 1.4 billion. Cumulative two-way investment for the period between 2000 and 2023 was around USD 1.4 billion.

In the important area of people to people ties, both countries have deepened cooperation. During the period January to December 2023, my Embassy issued 5329 visas. According to Bahraini data, during the period January to September 2023, almost 800,000 Indians visited Bahrain, representing a nearly 60 percent increase over the corresponding period in 2022. The Indian community in Bahrain now constitutes nearly 340,000 and they have been actively contributing to the economic prosperity of Bahrain.

In the sphere of defence, I am happy to recall that India became a full member of the CMF headquartered in Bahrain in 2023. Indian Naval Ships have been playing their due role in protecting economic interests by keeping the sea lanes of communication in the region safe.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Life Insurance Corporation of India, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India for their contributions to the Republic Day events this year.

I would now like to invite H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Bahrain to share a few thoughts.
