

Summary Remarks by H.E. Mr. Vinod K Jacob, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain at the event to commemorate the declaration of Garba of Gujarat as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO (Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 07 December 2023)

Ambassador Vinod K Jacob congratulated the Indian community and said that it is a matter of pride and honour for India that Garba of Gujarat was declared as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO during the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 5th -9th December, 2023 in Kasane, Botswana. He said that Garba dance form strengthens the community bonds and the celebration at the historical 200 year old Shrinathji temple stands as a testimony to the deep-rooted traditions between India and Kingdom of Bahrain. It is well known that the Garba of Gujarat has been presented every year during the Navrathri season at the Shrinathji temple.

Ambassador Jacob recalled that Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi during his state visit to Bahrain in 2019 also prayed at the Shrinathji temple. The presence of Mr. Yousuf Lori, Director of Information & Follow up, Capital Governorate and Mr. Nabeej Ajoor, Director of M/s. A.R. & E.M. Ajoor & Co. in the event reflected the continuing bonds of friendship between the communities. The active participation of the vibrant Gujarati community showed their happiness at the major international development. The ever friendly Thattai Hindu community readily agreed to host the commemorative event at the Shrinathji Temple and in association with the Embassy of India ensured that the celebrations reflected the solemnity of the occasion.

In conclusion, Ambassador Jacob shared that Garba of Gujarat is the 15th ICH element from India to join this list. This inscription underscores Garba's pivotal role as a unifying force that fosters social and gender inclusivity. As a dance form, Garba of Gujarat involves people from all walks of life and it continues to thrive as a vibrant living tradition bringing communities together. The inscription further highlights the commitment and efforts of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India towards the safeguarding, promotion and preservation of our intangible cultural heritage.
