

**Remarks of H.E. Mr. Vinod K Jacob, Ambassador of India at the
Study in India Education Fair 2023
(Bahrain, 16 November 2023)**

Mr. Suresh Anand Mani, Director, International Operations, TIES Global services Pvt Lt, Mr. Jayaprakash Menon, Chairman & Managing Director, UniGrad Education, Bahrain, Mr. Ravi Jain, Second Secretary, Embassy of India in Bahrain, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to inaugurate the education fair by UNIGRADE today in Bahrain. Clearly you have brought some rain and cooler weather in your wake. My Embassy attaches high importance to the role of education in the bilateral relationship between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain. There is a substantial and highly capable student body in Bahrain whose roots and families are from India.

Of course as an Embassy we are involved in the government to government cooperation and in matters related to standards. We work with the Ministry of Education in India to promote educational exchanges. A major recent development in this regard is the announcement of the opening of a regional centre of CBSE in Dubai that would help the GCC area.

Let me turn to education after the school stage and that is where today's fair fits in. Such events take place in a context and this is provided by the fact that India is now the most represented higher education system in the Asian continent with 148 Universities featured in rankings covered by the 2024 QS World Rankings with IIT Bombay taking the top spot among Indian institutions.

Now a few words about Study in India. The Study In India (SII) programme is a flagship project introduced by the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India. The Study in India portal was jointly launched on 18 April 2018. The Study in India programme seeks to endorse India as a prime education hub for international students by inviting them to pursue their higher education in the country. With an attractive set of salient features, the programme is the perfect platform for international students to experience the best of what Indian education has to offer. Therefore, it encourages international students to explore valuable educational opportunities enabled by the top Indian universities.

Friends

India used to be a preferred education destination for generations of Bahrainis. With the New Education Policy of India and the growth of world class educational infrastructure, highly updated courses, competitive costs, geographical proximity and cultural similarities, contemporary India offers a lot for students wishing to pursue higher education in India.

In my view, there exists an excellent opportunity for continuing the centuries long ties between our two societies going forward in the contemporary context through fresh educational links. I am happy to share with you that Indians have reciprocated

the kindness of the friendly Government, people and society of Bahrain by flocking in large numbers to visit this island. 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 last year.

In conclusion, I would like to wish this Education Fair all success.

Thank you.