

**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 2025 (26 January 2025)**

*Your Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Mr. H.E. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro Minister of Industry and Commerce of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Your Excellencies, Members of Parliament, Senior Officers of the Government of Bahrain and Heads of Authorities of the Government of Bahrain; Your Excellencies, Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Members of Diplomatic Corps; Distinguished Members of Business community and other invited guests; Dear members of the Indian community; Friends of India; Ladies & Gentlemen;*

On the occasion of the 76th Republic Day of India, it is my honour to address this distinguished audience. It was on 26 January 1950 that India became a Republic after the adoption of its constitution on 26 November 1949. Modern day India is the product of the ancient philosophy and culture of India which firmly believes that humanity is one and the whole world is a single nest.

As the Hon'ble President of India, Her Excellency, Ms. Droupadi Murmu said in her address to the nation yesterday, "The Constitution has become a living document because civic virtues have been part of our moral compass for millennia. The Constitution provides the ultimate foundation of our collective identity as Indians; it binds us together as a family. For 75 years now, it has guided the path of our progress."

*Friends,*

According to the International Monetary Fund, Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.5 percent in 2025. This is more than 3 percentage points above the expected global growth. India provides a growth opportunity for the rest of the international community.

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.

Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Bahrain in early December 2024 for the 4th High Joint Commission meeting with Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani and the Minister also participated at the Manama Dialogue where he shared India's perspectives on regional and global issues. During the visit, Hon'ble EAM met Deputy Prime Minister of Bahrain, H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

The two Foreign Ministers also met at the India - GCC Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue in Riyadh in September.

H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Alzayani also represented Bahrain in the second Foreign Ministers' Session on "Global South and Global Governance" of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit 2024 hosted by India in August.

In December, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Bahrain, H.E. Mr. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro led Bahrain's delegation at the 29th Partnership Summit of the Confederation of Indian Industries in New

Delhi. On the sidelines, the Minister met the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry of India Mr. Piyush Goyal and discussed cooperation in industry, trade, and investment, and expanding partnership horizons with India.

H.E. Ms. Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif, Minister of Sustainable Development, Chief Executive of Economic Development Board, Bahrain led a high-level business delegation and visited India in September and held meetings in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) made an official visit to Bahrain, and signed an MoU with National Audit Office, Bahrain in August.

H.E. Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, President, BACA visited India for the 46th WHC of UNESCO in New Delhi in July and met Shri. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Culture, India.

*Friends,*

India-Bahrain bilateral trade for financial year 2023 - 2024 reached around USD 1.72 billion. Cumulative two-way investment for the period between 2000 and 2024 was around USD 1.7 billion.

In the important area of people to people ties, both countries have deepened cooperation. According to Bahraini data, during the year 2023, more than a million Indians visited Bahrain, representing a over 60 percent increase over the previous year. The Indian community in Bahrain now constitutes nearly 3,32,000 and they have been actively contributing to the economic prosperity of Bahrain.

In the sphere of defence, I am happy to state that India, post becoming a full member of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) in 2023, has been actively contributing to CMF with assets and manpower. The Indian Air Force Sarang Aerobatic team of 05 Dhruv helicopters participated in the 7th Bahrain International Air Show in November 2024. Indian Navy's first training squadron ships INS Tir and ICGS Veera visited Bahrain in October 2024.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank Mr. Sudip Deshpande and other artists who have displayed here their paintings under the theme "India through my eyes." I would like to invite all distinguished to witness the exhibition.

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

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