

Remarks of H. E. Mr. Vinod K Jacob, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain at the World Heart Day celebrations 2023 at Bahrain Specialist Hospital on 28 September 2023

I am happy to attend today's event to mark World Heart Day here in Bahrain. As you all know, World Heart Day is observed on September 29 every year to raise awareness about heart disease and measures that can help prevent cardiovascular diseases.

I wish the organizers -the Bahrain Specialist Hospital which has partnered with the famed Apollo Cardiac Centre in Hyderabad-all success in their endeavours and encourage all my Bahraini friends and Indian nationals and indeed people of all nationalities to pay special attention in this regard for their own well being and that of their families. In particular, pay attention to your blood pressure readings, pulse rate, blood test reports and monitor your cholesterol levels.

Health cooperation is an important dimension of India-Bahrain bilateral relations. Since arriving in this beautiful country, I have had the good fortune of meeting Her Excellency Dr. Jaleela bint AlSayed Jawad Hasan, Health Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain to review the cooperation in the health sector. Earlier, I also had good discussions with Dr. Mariam Adhbi Al-Jalahma, CEO of the National Health Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Let me also take this opportunity to remember the renowned agricultural scientist Dr. MS Swaminathan, the father of the Indian Green Revolution and Padma Vibhushan awardee. At a very critical period India's history, Dr. MS Swaminathan's groundbreaking work in agriculture transformed the lives of millions and ensured food security for India. Beyond his contributions to agriculture, Dr. Swaminathan was a powerhouse of innovation and a nurturing mentor to many. His unwavering commitment to research and mentorship has left an indelible mark on countless scientists and innovators. Dr. Swaminathan was awarded the first World Food Prize in 1987 following which he set up the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Taramani, Chennai.

It is also worth recalling that Dr. MS Swaminathan was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi. He was introduced to Gandhian values in the year 1933 and learnt that one must behave as trustees of our surplus wealth and should give that away for good causes. Dr. Swaminathan has said that in 1944 he listened to Gandhi's talk emphasising the need for harmony between technology and environment, this was Gandhian Agriculture. Further, Gandhiji's 'Swadeshi' which was fundamental to the Green Revolution, reoriented the thinking of agricultural scientists.

Next week, on 2 October we will mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi which is also commemorated as the International Day of Non-Violence given the role he played as leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. The UN General Assembly has acknowledged the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence. So, let me urge you all to follow non-violence in word and deed and live in harmony, in the best of health and with peace of mind.

I thank you.