



October 12, 2021

**MESSAGE**

I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the members of Indian community, friends of India and Bahraini people on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

2. The year 2021, marking 50<sup>th</sup> year of our diplomatic relations, is a milestone in our journey. Our bilateral relations are rooted in history and close trade, cultural and people to people connect, and date back to thousands of years to the period of Indus Valley and Dilmun civilisations. Our bilateral cooperation has grown and diversified in recent years in all fields of political, security, economy and trade, culture and education.

3. The regular high level exchanges and interactions have guided our bilateral relations to newer heights. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's visit to India in 2012 gave an impetus to the relationship. The landmark visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, to India in 2014 had set the roadmap for our present bilateral engagement. Our bilateral relations got further boost and diversification to new and emerging areas of space, renewable energy and fintech during the historical visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi to Bahrain in August 2019.

4. Even during the pandemic period, this trend continued. The physical visits of the External Affairs Minister of India, Foreign Minister of Bahrain and Minister of State for External Affairs of India; as well as virtual conferences between the Ministers of Oil/ Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Youth Affairs and Sports of the two countries carried forward this momentum, and gave further push to diverse areas of our bilateral cooperation. The bilateral mechanisms, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of India-Bahrain High Joint Commission, and those in areas of renewable energy, security and counter-terrorism, health and traditional medicines have either already met this year, or are scheduled to meet later this year.

5. India and Bahrain have robust trade and economic ties. Despite restrictions imposed by COVID, the relationship at all levels has remained stable and strong, including in trade and investment. The bilateral trade figures are expected to be well over USD 1 billion this year. The cumulative Investment from India to Bahrain is over US\$ 1.25 billion, making India the 6<sup>th</sup>



largest investor in Bahrain. Similarly, investments from Bahrain to India have also increased. I see a lot of opportunities and huge potential for further strengthening and expanding our bilateral cooperation, particularly in sectors of health and pharmaceuticals, energy, IT, big data, fintech, infrastructure, and food security.

6. The resilience and strength of our friendship was evident in the excellent collaboration in dealing with Covid-19 pandemic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Leadership and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for ensuring the welfare of our community in Bahrain, particularly during the difficult times of the pandemic.

7. The vibrant and dynamic Indian community in Bahrain constitutes an important link in our bilateral ties. Indian diaspora in Bahrain has also been instrumental in spreading Indian culture and values in Bahrain.

8. We will be celebrating this momentous occasion in a befitting manner with a series of events during course of the next year focussing on diverse aspects of our multi-faceted bilateral ties, with participation of government departments, artists and cultural troupes, businessperson, academia, think tank, media and people of both countries. The Logo for the Golden Jubilee of establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Kingdom of Bahrain was launched on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

9. Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassy of India and the Indian community, is organising a week-long celebrations (12-19 October 2021) at the 'Little India in Bahrain' in the heart of Manama. These include cultural events by Indian and Bahraini artists, handicraft, cuisine and seminars/webinars showcasing the rich heritage of our two countries as well as historical connect and contemporary bilateral relations. I look forward to active participation and association of members of Indian community and our Bahraini friends in these events.

10. The Golden Jubilee of our diplomatic relations is an occasion to re-commit ourselves to work towards further strengthening the long standing dynamic partnership between India and Kingdom of Bahrain.



(Piyush Srivastava)