

From Heritage to High-Tech

India's journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047 takes centre stage as the embassy celebrates with the diaspora



Indian Embassy in Bahrain Marks 80th Independence Day, Highlights Strong Bilateral Ties

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Pradeep Puravankara

The Embassy of India in Bahrain marked 80th Independence Day with a vibrant celebration that brought together hundreds of members of the Indian diaspora in a spirit of unity, pride, and patriotism.

Indian Ambassador H.E. Vinod K. Jacob unfurled the Tricolour at the Embassy premises, followed by the national anthem and the reading of President Droupadi Murmu's Independence Day address to the nation.

The event featured several community and cultural activities reflecting India's heritage. To mark 150 years of the iconic national song Vande Mataram, members of the Bah-

rain Keraleeya Samajam Music Club delivered a special performance.

Ambassador Jacob felicitated the top five performers of the Bharat Ko Janiye online quiz and six participants of the Madhubani Virtual Art Workshop, organized in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. The traditional Madhubani artworks were displayed alongside a defense-themed photography exhibition honoring the dedication of the Indian Armed Forces.

Attendees were encouraged to take photos at a dedicated booth as part of the #HarGharTiranga campaign. Additionally, the State Bank of India set up an advisory counter to assist non-resident Indians with digital banking and investment services.

Reflecting on President Murmu's address, Ambassador Jacob outlined India's trajectory toward becoming a developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047, guided by the principle of Antyodaya—ensuring devel-



The resilience and contribution of Bahrain's 317,000-strong Indian community remain an important part of the relationship between the two countries.

AMBASSADOR VINOD K. JACOB

opment benefits reach every citizen.

The President's message paid tribute to India's freedom fighters and social reformers while highlighting national strides in poverty reduction, financial inclusion, health-

care, and digital infrastructure expansion. Her address also emphasized the role of women and youth in innovation, space exploration, and economic growth, while reaffirming India's commitment to sustainable development and global

Annai Tamil Mandram celebrates Independence Day



Members of Annai Tamil Mandram Bahrain joined the Indian community at the Embassy of India in Bahrain to celebrate India's 80th Independence Day, marking the occasion with unity, pride and patriotism.

peace under the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world as one family).

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Jacob highlighted the deep historic and commercial bonds between India and Bahrain. He commended the resilience of the 317,000-strong Indian community in Bahrain and praised local leadership for their ongoing solidarity and support.

Recent high-level engagements—including discussions between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alongside the official visit of India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar—have laid out a roadmap for expanded bilateral ties.

The Ambassador noted key economic milestones, stating that bilateral trade reached approximately \$1.66 billion in FY 2025-26, with two-way investments surpassing \$2 billion. India's economic momentum remains robust, with the International Monetary Fund

projecting real GDP growth at 6.4 to 6.5 percent for 2026.

Consular accessibility has also seen marked progress. Nearly 5,000 Bahraini citizens have utilized the electronic visa system introduced in July 2025, while the Indian Consular Application Centre at Bahrain Mall has completed its first full year of operations.

Concluding his address, Ambassador Jacob expressed appreciation for the Kingdom's continued cooperation and urged the expatriate community to remain active partners in advancing the India-Bahrain relationship.



Freeze Bank Accounts if Phone Is Hacked



TDI | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Anyone who thinks their phone has been hacked should freeze their bank accounts at once and report any suspicious transfers, Bahrain's Interior Ministry has warned.

The advice came in a public message delivered by Captain

Manaf Al Qattan, who urged citizens and residents to act quickly when they suspect a mobile phone has been compromised.

He said the first call should be to the bank, where affected customers should freeze their accounts and report any transaction or transfer they did not make.

The case should then be re-



Captain Manaf Al Qattan

ported to the authorities by calling 992 or through the MyGov app.

Users were also told to factory reset the affected phone, a step meant to clear harmful apps or malware that could still be running on the device.

Passwords should then be changed from a secure phone or trusted computer rather than the hacked handset.

That includes email, banking and other financial apps, as well as social media accounts.

The warning, issued through the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security, urged people to stay alert to cyber fraud and move fast to protect their money, accounts and personal data.

Kuwait youth minister visits Muharraq Youth Centre

Meeting highlights Bahrain-Kuwait cooperation in youth development



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Kuwait's Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs, Dr. Tariq Hamad Al Jalahma, visited the Muharraq Model Youth Centre accompanied by Bahrain's Minister of Youth Affairs Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfeeqi.

The visit provided an op-

portunity to explore Bahrain's youth work experience and promote the exchange of expertise and successful initiatives. Al Jalahma toured the centre's facilities and the Al Manara arts and culture space, which provides young people with opportunities for learning, creativity and participation.

The visit also included an

overview of Bahrain's youth programmes and initiatives and a meeting with heads of youth organisations to discuss their roles and activities. Both sides stressed the importance of strengthening Bahrain-Kuwait cooperation and exchanging successful youth experiences to expand opportunities for young people in both countries.