

# Prominent Indian community members welcome Modi visit

India's outstanding bilateral ties with Bahrain set for further growth

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Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Shri Krishna Hindu Temple in Manama.



TDT | Manama

Prominent members of the Indian community in the Kingdom have welcomed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Kingdom.

They opined that the visit would further enhance strong bilateral ties between the both nations.

India and Bahrain enjoys high-level bilateral relations, which could be dated back to hundreds of years.

Speaking to Tribune, Dr Varghese Kurian, Chairman of VKL Holdings and Al Namal

Group of Companies, said the visit by Narendra Modi is nothing but a great honour for every Indian residing in the Kingdom. "Modi's economic policies, social commitment, hard work, dedication and right strategies have made him the tallest of all world leaders.

"I am greatly impressed by his vision to develop India and his courage to take decisive actions.

"Demonetisation was a master stroke to root out black money. The launching of many schemes including Jan Dhan Yojana, Swachh Bharath and initiatives like Make in India,



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DR KURIAN

Digital India and Skill India will take India to greater heights.

"India under the vision of Modi is targeting \$1.44 trillion of capital investment in infrastructure by 2024, which will make India on par with any Western or advanced country."

Dr Kurian said that Modi's visit will open a new chapter in the trade relations between India and Bahrain. "I am sure he will enjoy the hospitality and warmth of this beautiful island and its people."

Echoing a similar view, Mohammed Dadabhai, Chairman of Dadabhai Group, said the visit by Modi will certainly have a

positive impact on the economies of Bahrain and India.

"We, the members of Indian community is overwhelmed to receive the Indian Prime Minister. This is his first visit to the Gulf countries after inaugurating his second term as premier.

"I am expecting that the visit will further bolster trade ties between the Kingdom and India, especially in light of recent oil discovery at Khaleej Al Bahrain basin.

"Indian institutions, of late, have emerged big players in the oil and gas sector and this is one field where India and Bahrain can further collaborate.

"We are thankful to the Kingdom's leadership - His Majesty the King, HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince for inviting Modi to the Kingdom. We should also acknowledge the remarkable efforts of Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha in this regard."

Bhagwan Asarpota, Owner of P Haridas Sons Company and Honorary Vice-Chairman of Thattai Bhatia Community, which manages Shri Krishna Hindu Temple in Manama, said Modi visit is a real honour for Indians residing in the Kingdom.

"We are very much excited about the visit. We are also quite fortunate as the visit coincides with the 200th year celebration of Manama Temple.

"It's a long-awaited visit, which has finally come true. Modiji's visit is going to leave a remarkable memory in the history of the Kingdom.

"We are fortunate to have Indian leaders including Sushma Swaraj and Atal Bihari Vajpayee making visits to the temple.

"But it is for the first time that an Indian Prime Minister is set to visit the temple. We are very much thankful to him."



**"I am expecting the visit to further boost bilateral trade relations, especially in the oil and gas sector in light of recent oil discovery at Khaleej Al Bahrain basin.**

MR DADABHAI



**"We are quite fortunate as Modiji's visit coincides with 200th year celebration of Manama Temple. It's a moment of pride for every Indian residing in the Kingdom.**

MR ASARPOTA

## Gulf Air promotes five Bahrainis to cabin service managers

Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, recently promoted five long service Bahraini staff to become Cabin Service Managers - a position that is ranked the highest amongst hospitality services in the air.

The five employees have progressed throughout their career from Flight Attendants to Cabin Senior and lately to Cabin Service Managers, marking their 25-year

service for the national carrier.

The new position will entitle the group to be in charge of all hospitality operations of the flight, managing the entire team of flight attendants with the ultimate goal of total customer satisfaction for the passengers.

A celebratory event took place at the airline's headquarters where Gulf Air's Deputy Chief Executive Officer Captain Waleed Al Alawi said: "Gulf Air takes pride in being a corporate leader in Bahrainisation in the

Kingdom of Bahrain. With 100 per cent of our male flight attendants being Bahrainis, we definitely lead the way amongst the regional carriers."

He also added: "We are proud of our local, specialised and professional resources who are serving our international customer base with pure Bahraini hospitality, a quality that is associated with the Kingdom of Bahrain since the ancient times when we were a central trading point between the East and West".

On this occasion, the newly appointed Cabin Service Manager Abdulmajeed Mohamed said: "This is an important day in my career in Gulf Air. I spent 25 years flying with Gulf Air and today I am proud to manage the hospitality operations of my flights and share my experience with the new joining crew."

Also commenting during the event Mr. Sami Al Qayed said: "This feels great to be amongst this group of Bahraini Cabin Service Managers being promoted on

the same day. We thank the airline and its management for giving us this opportunity to show customers true and genuine hospitality from the heart."

The airline is unique comparing to all its neighbouring airlines as it employs young Bahraini males as flight attendants and have reached total Bahrainisation in this big area of the business, Gulf Air said in a statement issued.

Gulf Air is committed to invest in its Bahraini workforce and their

career development and as such, it continues to provide opportunities for Bahraini nationals to take over senior positions in the company, the statement added.

With 90pc of employees that are based at the headquarters in Muharraq being Bahraini along with nearly 70pc of its pilots, Gulf Air is a leader in the Bahrainisation programme in the Kingdom as it provides the opportunity for local talents and experienced personnel to work in its various areas of the airline's business.