

A vibrant diaspora integral

Indian nationals form the largest expatriate community in the Kingdom

Indians are known to have come to Bahrain as early as 3,000 BC when ships plied between Harappan settlements, Oman and Bahrain en-route to Mesopotamia in pursuit of trade.

It is said that it was a group of Indians from Saurashtra that built the Anzac Temple in Dilmun (a cuneiform reference to Bahrain at the time). Indian scholar Romila Thapar interprets Dilmun as the 'sacred land'.

In more recent times, Indian merchants had established themselves in Bahrain towards the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Others moved to Bahrain from Baghdad and Basra regions in today's Iraq. At the initial stages they traded dates but gradually shifted attention to purchase and exports of the famous Bahraini pearls.

These merchant families came from the province of Sindh and Kathiawad region of Gujarat. By around 1925, around 2500 Indian families had settled in Bahrain.

Most of them were involved in small time retailing.

The discovery of oil in 1932-45, led to immigrant manpower gravitating towards the oil industry and its off shoot development activities.



Indian Community celebrates Holi festival in the Kingdom.

AJMS GLOBAL WELCOMES
SHRI. NARENDRA MODI
PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA



“

Honourable Prime Minister,
I am delighted to extend my **warmest greetings**.

India and Bahrain are the two countries which share a glorious past and a dynamic present. We share a long relationship lost in the mists of time when a flourishing trade existed between the Indus valley civilization and the Dilmun civilization.

The new developments that have taken place in the economic field in the two countries, will take economic relations to greater heights. I take this opportunity to convey our appreciation for the Prime Ministers consistent efforts to promote even closer ties between our two countries.

With warm regards
Abhishek Jajoo | Managing Partner & CEO

DUBAI • BAHRAIN • OMAN



BAHRAIN
Office 31
3rd Floor, Jeera 3
Seef District
Kingdom of Bahrain
T +973 1726 6444

UAE
206, Opal Tower
Burj Khalifa Blvd
Business Bay
Dubai, UAE
T +971 4554 2733

OMAN
Office 118, 1st Floor, Al Assalah Towers
P.O. Box 1436, P.C 133, Al Ghubra
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
T +968 2411 7578

E abhishek.jajoo@ajmsbahrain.com

We do it better!

With the subsequent expansion of the Bahraini economy, Indians started emigrating to Bahrain to start business or take up jobs as managers, salesman, assistants and workers.

Of the nearly 517,000 expatriates, nearly 290,000 Indian nationals form the largest expatriate community in Bahrain along with Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans, Pakistanis, Filipino, Indonesians and Arabs of different nationalities.

The Indian workforce is by far the largest of the expatriate workforce. Keralites constitute approximately 65 per cent of the Indian community. The other major groups are from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa and Punjab.

Today 65-70pc of the Indian expatriate workforce is employed in the construction, contracting and maintenance sectors.

The Kingdom hosts many prominent Indian businessmen including Ravi Pillai and Mohammed Dadabhai.

The retail and other business activities include provisions, hardware, jewellery, electronics, etc. Some others have taken up jobs as storekeepers, chemists, carpenters, barbers, etc.

In addition to the predominant blue-collar labour force, there is a sizeable number of doctors, engineers, chartered accountants, bankers, managers and other professionals who play a vital role in Bahrain's socio-economic development. Professionals, such as doctors, engineers, accountants, etc. have also found grow-

ing opportunities in Bahrain.

Today there is hardly any established Bahraini business organisation that does not have a senior or middle level Indian employee playing an important role in its operations. The top Bahraini business houses such as Al Zayani, Al Moayyad, Fakhro, Kanoo, Koohejis, Ahmed Mansour Al Ali, Abdullah Nass, Mohammed Jalal as well as companies like ALBA, BAPCO, GPIC, banks and finance companies etc. have Indians in their senior or middle management cadres.

Indian labour enjoys a good reputation in terms of their conduct, loyalty, higher productivity and non-involvement in local affairs. There is a preference amongst Bahrainis to employ Indians over others.

With the largest expatriate community in this country,

‘Little India’ celebrates

‘Little India’ in Bahrain is where the Indian community’s contribution to the history of Bah-

rain is documented and the relationship between the two countries is highlighted. This project, which is give

back to the Indian community while being an attraction site to locals and cultural tourists, was inaugurated on December 19,



Shaikha Mai speaks after inaugurating the ‘Little India’ project.