

# Ever-expanding trade, commercial relations

India is the fifth largest trading partner of Bahrain

The trade relations between the Kingdom and India have been on a growth track as revealed by the statistics.

The volume of trade between Bahrain and India reached \$1 billion in 2018, according to Deputy CEO of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Dr Abdulla Bader Al Sada.

The volume of Bahraini exports to India reached \$313.8 million, while the volume of imports from India was BD768.5m.

Meanwhile, the volume of re-exports reached BD4.126m.

India-Bahrain bilateral trade and commercial exchanges go back to about 5,000 years ago tracing their origins to the period of Delmon Civilisation in Bahrain to the era of Indus valley civilisation in India.

Ancient Bahraini traders are believed to have carried out flourishing trade of Bahraini pearls with spices from India.

The Indian community in Bahrain is the largest expatriate community.

The vast majority of the community, almost 60 per cent, are in the category of blue collar workers.

In addition, there is a sizeable number of professionals and businessmen, who play an important role in the socio economic development of the country as well as in building influence.

The large Indian business in Bahrain provide soft infrastructure for promoting trade and investment ties between the two countries.

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There are 23 branches of prominent Indian companies registered in Bahrain and 3,181 companies registered in Bahrain with Indian partnership.

India's total capital investment into Bahrain between January, 2003 to September, 2017 has been estimated at almost US \$1.5 billion; with over 45 projects and average project size of US\$ 37.50 million.

Bahrain's investment in India: Cumulative FDI equity inflows



from Bahrain into India from April 2000 onwards have registered marked increase from \$ 49.31m in March, 2015 to \$163.66m in December, 2017.

Bahrain is the most mature, well established business hub with the largest financial institutions in the Gulf, according to economic experts

With a track record of nearly 40 years and the highest number of licensed financial institutions, Bahrain is still the financial services leader in the entire region. Bahrain provides a free, open and transparent environment for businesses and has a globally competitive business en-

vironment, which focuses on sustainability, skills and good governance.

Bahrain's financial regulator is widely considered to be the best in the Middle East. Bahrain is uniquely located at the heart of the Gulf, which makes it the perfect hub to access the fast growing Gulf, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) markets.

Bahrain and India has undertaken a series of economic reforms towards opening up of the economy in the decade of the eighties and nineties respectively.

The India-Bahrain Joint Business Committee (JBC) was set up on 12th October, 1994. The first meeting was held in Bahrain

in 1996.

At the invitation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India, a 21-member high-level trade delegation organised by the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited India from 17-24 February, 2001 to attend the second meeting of the JBC.

On the sidelines of the visit of His Majesty to India during February 2014, six MoUs were signed including one between the Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to enhance financial and non-financial services for SMEs in Bahrain.

The other MoUs were between Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) and Nasscom; Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) and CII; Tamkeen and the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) of India; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and University of Bahrain; and National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of

Education and Training (QQA), Bahrain, and National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

Twelve MoUs were signed at India Business Forum, in Mumbai. Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) OIFC organised its first 'Diaspora Engagement Meet' in Bahrain on September 6, 2014, during the visit of Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs of India Sushma Swaraj to Bahrain, with the objective to acquaint the Indians living in Bahrain as well as businesspersons of the Kingdom with the various trade and investment opportunities in India. This was attended by close to 500 delegates.

In order to promote bilateral economic relations between India and Bahrain, the CII has opened an office in Manama in co-operation with the Economic Development Board of Bahrain. OIFC now remains an integral part of CII office in Bahrain. Indian community in Bahrain can also contact the CII office in Bahrain to route their business queries to OIFC.

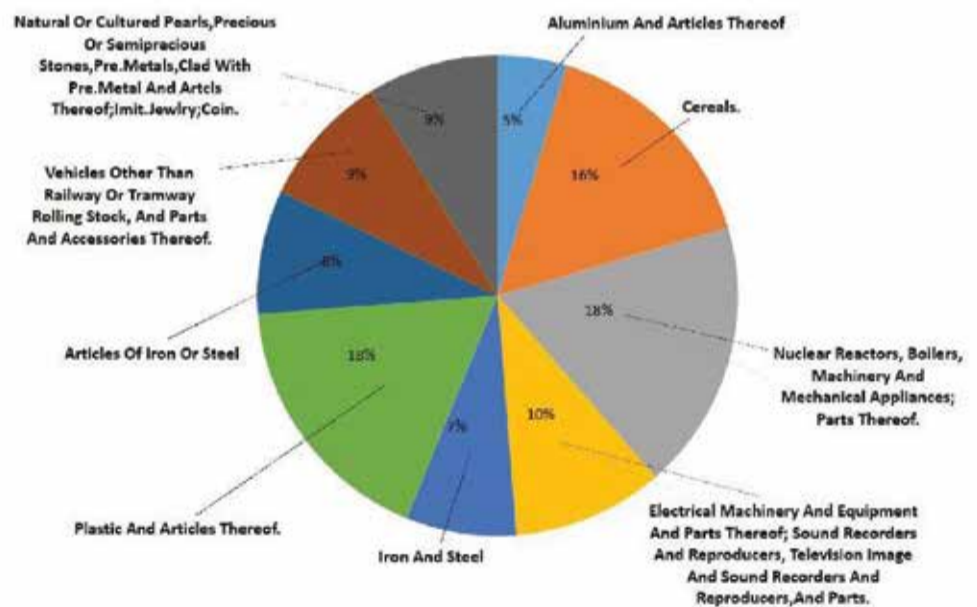
Al Hashimi Pearls Members & Staff Welcomes

**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Honorable Prime Minister Of India

Al Hoshimi Pearls **آلة الهاشمي**

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## Top Ten Items of India's Export to Bahrain (2016 - 2017)



## Top Ten Items of India's Import from Bahrain (2016 - 2017)

