

Strategic links

Bahrain and Italy seal data and freight deals in 2025

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TDT | Manama

Data sovereignty and sea-to-air freight deals in 2025 deepen Bahrain-Italy co-operation, with Rome keeping sovereignty over data in Bahraini centres and Italy named a freight partner; non-oil trade reached about \$775m in 2024 and more than 130 Italian firms now operate in the Kingdom.

The two steps follow months of high-level contact.

In January 2025, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni visited Manama, where the sides announced advanced logistics partnerships and set out plans for closer digital links.

In April, a Bahraini mission led by the Minister of Finance and National Economy visited Rome, Parma and Milan to meet public and private bodies, promote trade and investment, and set out openings in finance, ICT, industry, logistics and tourism.

A standing channel for follow-up has been in place since 2021, when the Bahrain-Italy



Image used for illustrative purposes only
Joint Committee was formed; it first met in Rome in 2023 to a three-year plan.

Visit

Earlier, momentum included the 2020 visit by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, after which the Italian Trade Agency (ICE) opened its Manama office and agreements worth more than 330m were signed.

The legal base has been built over two decades.

The 2006 Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investments, once ratified, gave Bahraini and Italian investors reciprocal guarantees.

Maritime trade was eased by the 2009 Agreement on Equality of Treatment in Berthing and Port Dues, placing visiting vessels on a par with national ships.

Agreement

At the turn of the millennium, an agreement on mutual tax exemption for air and sea transport aimed to spur flights

and shipping while avoiding double taxation.

Institutional links widened in parallel.

A 2006 memorandum between the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Union of Italian Chambers of Commerce provided for exchanges of information and delegations.

Memorandum

In 2017, the Economic Development Board signed a memorandum with Confindustria Assafrica & Mediterraneo to build partnerships in logistics, fintech and tourism.

In 2025, a customs memorandum with the Italian Customs Authority added exchanges of expertise and updates to procedures using modern technologies.

Together, the 2025 measures, the joint committee and the treaty framework sit behind a trade relationship that spans industry, energy, services and advanced technologies, with Bahrain positioned as a regional link for cargo that connects sea and air routes.

Capital Governor visits Maan Centre



The Capital Governor Shaikh Khalid bin Hamoud Al Khalifa visited the regional Maan (together) Centre for Research and Training, where he reviewed the Maan Mobile Security Awareness Exhibition. The initiative represents one of the innovative outreach tools used by the centre to engage with various segments of society by delivering interactive content that promotes preventive measures against harmful behaviours. The centre's officials briefed the Capital Governor on the main initiatives and strategic plans of the Maan programme aimed at combating violence and addiction.

ISB's Platinum Jubilee Concert 'Mystique Melodies' Declared a Grand Success



Honouring the musicians
TDT | Manama

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) marked its Platinum Jubilee with resounding success as the much-awaited musical concert Star VSION Presents 'Mystique Melodies' featuring the renowned Transcend Band was held on Friday, 26 September 2025, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Manama.

The event, sponsored by Zain Bahrain and supported by Hikvision and Indomie, drew a large audience and created an enchanting atmosphere with a rich blend of pan-Indian music.

The evening witnessed a mesmerising performance by Transcend, a vibrant musical collective acclaimed for its genre-defying repertoire and multilingual versatility.

The band captivated the audience with soulful ghazals, stirring Sufi melodies, nostalgic light music, and electrifying film soundtracks in Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and English, covering Bollywood, Kollywood, Mollywood, and more.

ISB Hon. Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese expressed his heartfelt gratitude in a mes-

sage: "We are deeply thankful to our parents, alumni, and well-wishers whose generous contributions made this Platinum Jubilee concert a memorable and meaningful success. Your support will go a long way in enriching the learning environment for our students."

Hon. Vice-Chairman & Hon. Member HSSE and Sports Dr. Mohammed Faizal, Hon. Secretary V. Rajapandian, Hon. Asst. Secretary & Hon. Member-Academics Ranjini Mohan, Hon. Member -Projects & Maintenance Mithun Mohan, Hon. Member-Transport Mohammad Nayaz Ullah, Principal VR Palaniswamy, Junior Wing Principal Pamela Xavier, Senior School & Academic Administration Vice-Principal G Satheesh, Junior Wing Vice-Principal Priya Laji and Staff Representative Parvathi Devadas attended.

Dr. Mohammed Faizal, Hon. Vice-Chairman and Hon. Member of HSSE and Sports, delivered the presidential address, in which he expressed heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the resounding success of the musical event.

Bahraini resident, 18, launches debut poetry collection

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

Manaal Mansoor, an 18-year-old Indian poet and resident of Bahrain, celebrated the launch of her debut poetry collection, "Perspective: Seeing the Unseen," at the Al Khayyal Lounge, Swiss-Belresidences, on September 27th.

The event saw close to 100 guests, marking the beginning of the young author's literary journey.

The book, which explores profound themes of life, love, loss, acceptance, and the beauty of changing perspective, was inspired by a deeply personal moment: the passing of Manaal's grandfather. She shared with the audience how the collection became her vehicle for expressing emotions left unsaid.

The formal ceremony began



Manaal Mansoor with distinguished guests at the book launch

with felicitations by DTM Khalid Jalal and Mr. Jahangir.

Collection

The official unveiling of the collection was performed by Principal K. Gopinath Menon of the New Indian School.

DTM Muhammed Ali Shukri then formally opened the book and presented it to Manaal, who commemorated the moment by reading the inaugural poem,

"Every Twelve Crescents."

The launch event was further highlighted by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a special video trailer showcasing the making of the book, and several interactive activities for the attendees.

Dual ambition

Manaal, the daughter of Bahrain residents Mansoor Ali and Hafsath Mansoor, emphasized that "Perspective: Seeing the

Unseen" reflects not only her journey as an emerging writer but also her dual ambition as an aspiring doctor.

The program concluded with a welcome address delivered by Mahfouz Mansoor and a vote of thanks by Mubaris Mansoor.

The evening was formally brought to a close by DTM Kamal Mohiyuddin and DTM Muhammed Ali Shukri during the closing session.

IIPA Bahrain celebrates Navratri Utsav

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Indian Institute for Performing Arts (IIPA) Bahrain successfully concluded its vibrant Navratri Utsav 2025 drawing a large turnout to its premises in Segaya.

The celebration underscored IIPA's commitment to preserving and promoting India's rich cultural heritage within the Kingdom.

The festival was a spectacular showcase of student talent across various disciplines.

Guided by experienced and



3. IIPA performers provide music, dance, and unforgettable stage artistry.jpeg

dedicated teachers, students from different departments delivered compelling performances that brought the spirit of the nine-night festival to life.

The audience was treated to

dynamic dances, soul-stirring vocal performances, and intricate displays of instrumental music, demonstrating the comprehensive training provided by the institute.

Following the cultural triumph of Navratri, IIPA is now preparing for the significant Vidyardambham ceremony, scheduled for October 2nd.

Ceremony

Vidyarambham, meaning the "initiation of knowledge," is a traditional ceremony marking the beginning of a child's formal education in arts and letters.

The ceremony will be conducted in two sessions: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM, welcoming new aspirants into the world of music and arts.