# Remarks by Ambassador Vinod K Jacob at the event organized by Bahrain India Society on occasion of visit of Chairman of State Bank of India to Bahrain on 8 April 2025

I am happy to attend this event hosted by Bahrain India Society in honour of the visiting Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI), Mr. Challa Sreenivasulu Setty.

I hope the Chairman had a useful discussion with the Bahraini side. May your visit to Bahrain as well as your entire tenure be successful.

I appreciate the work done by SBI in Bahrain. They have been closely working with the Embassy throughout the decades and I hope this fruitful collaboration will continue.

I always fondly recall my cooperation with the entire SBI system during my previous tenure as Deputy High Commissioner in Sri Lanka from 2019 to 2023.

The Bahrain India Society (BIS) under the leadership of its Chairman, Mr. Abdul Rahman Juma has been a pillar of support for me during my tenure. They have collaborated in organizing investment related seminar and other talks, interactions and engagements as well as undertaking useful research studies.

BIS also went in a joint delegation with Bahrain Chamber recently to India, which I am given to understand was a productive visit. I am sure that the delegation would have been impressed by the strides India made.

In fact, if there is a constant in today's inter-connected world, it is the gradual development of India. A rapidly growing India is a positive factor for all its foreign partners.

The facts speak for themselves in the case of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Bilateral trade was USD 1.72 billion last year and was almost evenly balanced. This year, I expect this number to rise.

Indian investment into Bahrain increased by more than 44 percent since August 2019 after the successful state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and now stands at around USD 1.6 billion.

In 2023, one million Indian tourists visited Bahrain.

I look forward to further strengthened cooperation and I request both SBI and BIS to be active partners in this important process.

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