

Remarks by Ambassador Mr. Vinod K Jacob at the 15th anniversary celebrations of MCA in Bahrain on 9 May 2024

Mr. S Venkatesh, Managing Partner, MCA, Mr. Ambalavanan, Director, MCA, Mr. R. Lakshmanan, Senior Partner, MCA, Ms. Jamuna Muarlidharan, Partner, MCA, Mr. Mani Lakshmanamoorthy, Partner, MCA Bahrain, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to attend today's gathering. I see many friends here, all of whom have played an active role in strengthening economic relations between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain. According to Government of Indian statistics, cumulative two way investments over the past two decades is USD 1.5 billion. Further, for the period April 2023 to February 2024, total bilateral trade was USD 1.43 billion. I expect that to reach USD 1.5 billion for the financial year 2023 to 2024.

Our cooperation with the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain has been exemplary. Recently when the ban on onion exports was imposed in India due to domestic constraints, we worked closely with the Bahraini side to obtain an exemption to the tune of 3000 MT in the first quarter of 2024. It is therefore a matter of satisfaction for me that the ban has been lifted earlier this month and onion is no longer in the prohibited category.

I acknowledge the important role of organizations like MCA. It is critical for taking the economic engagement between India and the GCC region to a new level.

I therefore wish MCA all success and hope they can contribute to strengthening the close ties between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

I thank you all.