



**Embassy of India  
Bahrain**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

March 28, 2022

**5th India – Bahrain Foreign Office Consultations  
(March 28, 2022)**

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV&OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, GOI and H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa Undersecretary (Political Affairs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bahrain co-chaired the 5th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Kingdom of Bahrain in New Delhi on 28 March 2022. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla also met Deputy NSA, Shri Vikram Misri and called on MOS for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan.

2. MoS Shri V. Muraleedharan fondly recalled his visit to Bahrain in August 2021 and expressed happiness at the increased high-level interactions between both countries which has led to further strengthening of bilateral relations. He also received Kingdom of Bahrain's Instrument of Ratification of International Solar Alliance (ISA) from Dr. Shaikh Abdulla. Bahrain joined the International Solar Alliance and became the 86th country to sign and ratify the ISA Framework Agreement. MoS thanked the Leadership and Government of Bahrain for taking excellent care of the Indian community, including during the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. During the FOC, both delegations discussed all areas of bilateral cooperation and reviewed the progress made since the 3rd High Joint Commission meeting co-chaired by EAM and FM of Bahrain in April

2021 in New Delhi. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the continued momentum in bilateral ties despite the restrictions posed by COVID-19 pandemic. India and Bahrain celebrated the Golden Jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations in October 2021. Both sides are looking forward to an early visit of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain to India.

4. Both sides agreed to further strengthen their cooperation in the fields of trade and investment, hydrocarbons and renewable energy, health and pharmaceuticals, IT, Fintech, food security, civil aviation, space, defence and security, parliamentary cooperation, culture, education and people-to-people connect focusing on youth, skill development and startups. Bilateral trade has shown upward trajectory and is likely to be the highest ever in F.Y. 2021-22 at more than USD 1.4 billion.

5. Both sides also discussed regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. Dr. Ausaf Sayeed congratulated Bahrain on the successful year of Presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in 2021 and on taking over the Chairmanship of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) in November 2021.

6. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla, who is also the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (DERASAT), also met and interacted with scholars and members of India Foundation (IF), Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), and Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

7. He arrived in New Delhi on 27 March 2022 and is scheduled to depart on 29 March 2022.

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*Dr. Shaikh Abdulla's meeting with India Foundation*



*Dr. Shaikh Abdulla's meeting with Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses*



*Dr. Shaikh Abdulla's meeting with Observer Research Foundation*