

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Vinod K Jacob, Ambassador Designate at the  
“Connecting People” Awareness Camp organized by Pravasi Legal Cell-  
Bahrain Chapter, 23 September 2023**

*Mr. Hasaan Bokhamas, Hon Member of Parliament, Mr. Hussain Al Hussiani, Head of Guidance and Awareness, Ministry of Labour of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Ms. Wijeratne Mendis, Ambassador of Sri Lanka, other diplomatic colleagues, my colleague from the Indian Embassy, Mr. R S Shukla, Mr. Sudheer Thirunilath, KIMS representatives, colleagues and friends,*

Good evening to all.

I am happy to attend the “Connecting People” Legal and Medical Awareness Camp organized by Pravasi Legal Cell. I am confident that the efforts of the Pravasi Legal Cell to educate and create awareness for the expat community especially on employment related issues will be a useful contribution both for the Indian and Bahraini sides as well as for other Embassies and nationalities.

To put matters in perspective it would be useful to recall some data.

In the year 2005, the India-Bahrain bilateral trade was US\$ 575 million with around 260,000 Indians living and working in Bahrain. As of last year, bilateral trade (non-oil) had tripled to US\$ 1.6 billion and the Indian community in Bahrain with 350,000 people constituted the largest expatriate community in Bahrain.

These statistics indicate that the leadership and people of Bahrain have been creating favourable and enabling conditions for Indians to visit and work. So, it is important that the Indian community cherish and appreciate this welcome and live as good guests by following the laws and rules of Bahrain. In this regard, I would like to emphasize the importance of legal migration for work. It is important that work visas are used when seeking employment in Bahrain.

वर्ष 2005 में, भारत-बहरीन व्यापार 575 (पाँच सौ पचहत्तर) मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर का था, जिसमें लगभग 260,000 (दो लाख साठ हजार) भारतीय बहरीन में रहते और काम करते थे। पिछले वर्ष तक, भारत-बहरीन गैर-तेल व्यापार तीन गुना बढ़कर 1600 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर हो गया था और बहरीन में 350,000 लोगों वाला भारतीय समुदाय बहरीन में सबसे बड़ा प्रवासी समुदाय था।

ये आँकड़े दर्शाते हैं कि बहरीन का नेतृत्व और लोग भारतीयों के दौरे और काम करने के लिए अनुकूल और सक्षम परिस्थितियाँ बना रहे हैं। इसलिए, यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि भारतीय समुदाय इस स्वागत को संजोए और सराहें और बहरीन के कानूनों और नियमों का पालन करते हुए अच्छे मेहमान के रूप में रहें। इस संबंध में, मैं काम के लिए कानूनी प्रवासन के महत्व पर जोर देना चाहूंगा। यह महत्वपूर्ण है कि बहरीन में रोजगार तलाशते समय कार्य वीजा का उपयोग किया जाए।

Before concluding, I would like to mention that the Embassy of India in Bahrain conducts Open House on the last Friday of every month which is open to any Indian national who wishes to meet me and the Consular team without any appointment on

any urgent issue. You can make use of this opportunity to meet us and get our support and advice.

I wish you all a comfortable, healthy and safe stay in Bahrain.

Thank you.