

Remarks of H.E. Mr. Vinod K Jacob, Ambassador of India at the inauguration of the International Book Fair and Cultural Festival in Bahrain jointly organized by Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam and DC Books, 09 November 2023

I am honoured to attend the inauguration ceremony of the International Book Fair and Cultural Festival in Bahrain jointly organized by Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam and DC Books today. At the outset, let me wish the event all success and commend the organizers for their efforts.

I appreciate the support given by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities for the event. This week I had an excellent introductory meeting with the President of BACA, H.E. Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa at the Pearling Visitor and Experience Centre.

Friends,

The cultural heritage of Bahrain and India are a source of deep friendship between the two societies and the initiative by BKS and DC Books will help contribute towards strengthening this friendship among the younger generation. We all agree that this generation places high premium on information and data and they have many sources from which they obtain the same. Culture and books are critical platforms around which the search for information and data is carried out. The on-going ICT revolution serve to amplify the scope and impact of both culture and books.

Friends,

Education is the most efficient and universal process for understanding and imparting knowledge. My Embassy considers deepening of links with the education sector in Bahrain as an important component of the India-Bahrain bilateral relations. We have started a fresh outreach to students under our "Visit the Embassy" programme under which schools send delegations of 15 to 20 students from Class 11 and 12 to learn about how an Embassy works. We are also exploring avenues for collaboration between educational institutions of India and Bahrain.

India provides an excellent educational experience for students around the world. According to recent statistics, India is now the most represented higher education system in the Asian continent with 148 Universities featured in rankings covered by the 2024 QS World Rankings. India is followed by China with 133 featured Universities and then by Japan in third place with 96 universities.

According to this study, the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay is the premier institution in India. Notably, the top three rankings at the national level remain consistent with the previous edition of the rankings.

So while concluding, let me encourage all interested students to actively consider India for educational and academic advancement and excellence.

Thank you all.