



drishti

Agreements Between India-Bahrain

 drishtias.com/printpdf/agreements-between-india-bahrain

Why in News

Recently, **India and Bahrain** have agreed to **further strengthen their historic ties, including in areas of defence and maritime security.**

Bahrain is a member of the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** and signed the **Abraham Accord** with Israel and the UAE, which was mediated by the USA.



Key Points

- The **bilateral issues**, as well as **regional and global matters of mutual interest**, included areas of defence and maritime security, space technology, trade and investment, infrastructure, IT, FinTech, health, hydrocarbon and renewable energy.

- Both sides affirmed to further **strengthen their Covid-19 related cooperation.**
 - Bahrain **appreciated the assistance provided by India during the pandemic** through the supply of medicines, medical equipment and medical professionals.
 - They expressed satisfaction on the **operationalisation of the Air Bubble** arrangement between the two countries.
 - Air bubbles** (travel corridors or **travel bubbles**) are systems established between two countries that perceive each other to be safe and allow carriers of both the countries to fly passengers either way without any restrictions.
- India **renewed invitation to Bahrain** for visiting India for the **3rd India-Bahrain High Joint Commission** meeting to be held in the upcoming months.
- In **2019**, India launched a **USD 4.2 million redevelopment project of the Sri Krishna temple** in the Bahraini capital, **Manama**.
 - The **200-year old temple** stands as a testimony for the enduring India-Bahrain friendship.
- India also conveyed **condolences on the demise of late Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**, who significantly **contributed to the strengthening of India-Bahrain relations** and to the welfare of the Indian community in Bahrain.

India-Bahrain Relations

- **Historical Ties:**
 - Their history goes back to **about 5,000 years ago**, to the period of **Dilmun Civilization in Bahrain** to the era of **Indus valley civilization in India**.
 - Ancient Bahraini traders are believed to have carried out a flourishing trade of **Bahraini pearls with Indian spices**.
- **Bilateral Agreements/Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs):**
 - **Extradition** Treaty (January 2004)
 - MoU on cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technology (May 2012)
 - MoU on the establishment of a Joint High Commission (February 2014)
 - MOU on Water Resources Development and Management (February 2015)
 - Agreement on cooperation in combating international terrorism, transnational organised crime and trafficking in illicit drugs, narcotics and psychotropic substances and precursors chemicals (December 2015)
 - MoU for cooperation in the fields of Renewable Energy and Healthcare and Agreement on Exemption from Short Stay Visa for Holders of Diplomatic and Special/Official Passport (July 2018)
 - MoU on cooperation in the exploration and uses of **Outer Space** for Peaceful Purposes (March 2019)

- **Trade and Economic Relations:**

- Total bilateral trade stands at **USD 1282.96 million in 2018-19** and **USD 753.60 million in 2019-20** (April-Dec).
- **Indian Exports to Bahrain:** Mineral fuels and oils, inorganic chemicals, organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals of rare earth, cereals, nuts, fruits, articles of apparel and clothing accessories etc.
- **Indian Imports from Bahrain:** Crude oils, mineral fuels and their bituminous substance, distillation, aluminium, fertilizers, ores/slugs/ashes of aluminium, iron and copper, pulp, etc.
- **Indian investment in Bahrain:**
 - India's total capital investment into Bahrain between January 2003 and March 2018 has been estimated at **approximately USD 1.69 billion.**
 - **Financial services** have the highest investment value (40% of total projects), followed by the **real estate and hospitality sector.**

- **Indian Expatriate Community:**

- **Approximately 3,50,000 Indians are living in Bahrain currently** and around 70% are in the category of unskilled labour.
- In addition to the predominant blue-collar labour force, there is a sizable number of other professionals who play a **vital role in Bahrain's socio-economic development.**
- In **November 2015**, Bahrain launched '**Little India in Bahrain**' project to acknowledge and mark the contribution of the Indian community to the history and progress of Bahrain.

Source: IE