

**EMBASSY OF INDIA – BAHRAIN**

**QUARTERLY REPORT FROM INDIA'S COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVES  
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2012**

**1. Name of the Country/Mission: BAHRAIN**

**FACTS ABOUT KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN**

**Basic Data**

Official name :	Kingdom of Bahrain
Form of state :	Constitutional Monarchy
Legal System :	Based on the 2002 amended constitution. The previous constitution was drawn up in 1973.
The King :	Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
Membership :	Bahrain is a member of the UN, Arab League, Gulf Co-operation Council and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
Capital :	Manama
Land Area :	712 square kilometers (approximate, owing to ongoing, extensive land reclamation projects)
Population :	1.3 million (2011 – EIU Estimates)
Climate :	Summer : July-September (very hot and humid : temp. 25-45°C) Winter : December-February (cool or mild with occasional rain : temp. : 10°C -20°C) Remaining months – March to May and October to November – warm with occasional pleasant breezes (20°C - 30°C)
Time :	Three hours ahead of GMT
Fiscal year :	January 1 <sup>st</sup> – December 31 <sup>st</sup>
Language :	Arabic is the official language although English is widely used for business purposes and is usually understood.

- Religion : Islam is the official religion. However freedom of worship is permitted for other faiths including Hinduism and Christianity.
- Currency : Bahraini Dinar (BD) constituted of 1000 fils.  
Fixed against the US Dollar at US\$1 = BD 0.376.
- Bank Notes : 500 fils, 1, 5, 10 and 20 Dinar
- Coins : 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 and 500 fils
- Water : Tap water is clean and free from contamination. However, for drinking purposes, "sweet water" is recommended. This is widely sold by shops in bottles, or is delivered to homes in large containers.
- Visa : Visa is required by all foreigners except nationals or residents of GCC States. Visas can be obtained through sponsors or hotels in Bahrain. For extension of visa, one has to apply to the Department of Immigration.

## **2. Trade enquiries from India and Enquiries from Bahrain : Annexure I**

**3a. Trade and commercial delegation from India to Bahrain (October-December 2012): NIL.**

**3b. Trade and commercial delegation from Bahrain to India (October-December 2012): NIL**

### **4. Trade with India** (US\$ million)

#### **INDIA'S TRADE WITH BAHRAIN**

(Amount in ` Crores/\$ Million)

<b>Details</b>	<b>April 2007- March 2008</b>	<b>April 2008- March 2009</b>	<b>April 2009- March 2010</b>	<b>April 2010- March 2011</b>	<b>April 2011- March 2012</b>

India's non-oil exports to Bahrain	` 1,004.59 (\$ 250.26)	` 1,224.18 (\$ 267.39)	` 1,174.15 (\$ 247.90)	` 2,897.43 (\$ 644.03)	` 2,008.03 (\$417.77)
India's non-oil imports from Bahrain	` 947.75 (\$ 235.96)	` 1,040.42 (\$ 227.45)	` 1,205.90 (\$ 254.52)	` 1,920.08 (\$ 422.06)	` 1,381.66 (\$284.54)
Total trade	` 1,952.34 (\$ 486.22)	` 2,264.60 (\$ 494.84)	` 2,380.05 (\$ 502.42)	` 4,817.51 (\$1,066.09)	` 3,389.69 (\$702.31)

Source: MOC, New Delhi  
February 2012

### INDIA'S OIL IMPORTS FROM BAHRAIN

(Amount in Thousand US Dollars)

Details	January – December 2008	January – December 2009	January – December 2010	January-December 2011
India's Oil imports	US\$1,650.08	US\$518.26	US\$517.603	US \$1655.888
<b>January-September 2012</b>				
US \$				
625.653				

(Source: NOGA, Kingdom of Bahrain, November 2012)

**5. Trade promotional activities organized (October-December 2012):**

i) Monthly Economic and Commercial Bulletin for the months of October-December\_2012, along with details of trade enquiries received from India, forwarded to leading Bahraini companies (BAH/COM/202/1/2012).

**6. Trade promotional activities planned for coming three months:** NIL.

**7. Trade complaints received during the month of October-December 2012:**

**1 complaint received in the month of November 2012.**

1 complaint was received from Al-Jassrah Trading Est. Muharraq, Kingdom of Bahrain, against Rajesh Industries 119/6 Milestone, Village Daha, Madanpur, Karnal, Haryana-132001, India, for the supply of inferior quality of rice and the complaint has been forwarded to the Foreign Trade Development Officer(MOCI), Director (TA/TC)(MOCI), Director General (MOCI), The Secretary, Indian Council of Arbitration.

**8. Important International Trade Fairs/Exhibitions in Bahrain. Report on recent such fairs/exhibitions, including details of Indian participation & response.**

**OCTOBER 2012:**

**JEWELLERY ARABIA 2012:**

The watches and jewellery exhibition was held at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre from October 16 to 20, 2012. Jewellery Arabia 2012 was Inaugurated by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. The 2012 five-day edition attracted more than 550 local and international exhibitors from 30 countries. The expo covered over 16,500 sqm of floor space with Jewellers from Brazil, Hog Kong, India, Malaysia and other Countries also. This expo is certainly important for the economy. It's the sixth largest exhibition of its kind in the world, which puts Bahrain in the Global arena for hosting such prestigious events annually.

**NOVEMBER 2012:**

**EMERGING TRENDS IN THE INDIAN ECONOMY & PROSPECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH:**

Ahlia University organized a conference on "Emerging Trends in the Indian Economy & Prospects for Sustainable Growth" on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 at Golden Tulip Hotel in Manama. H.E. Dr. Mohan Kumar, Ambassador of India to Bahrain, delivered the keynote speech, followed by Q & A.

**CAREER EXPO:**

The tenth edition of the Career Expo, organized by the National Society for the Support of Education, strategically partnered with Tamkeen, and supported by VIVA Telecommunications and Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), was held at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre (BIEC) from 6-8 November, 2012. Around 20,000 people attended the expo and it was a huge success. More than 140 organizations from educational, industrial, hospitality, training, health sectors, universities and vocational institutes participated in the expo.

**IRRESISTIBLE INDIAN CULTURE SHOWCASED:**

Hundreds of people attended the Irresistible India Gala Dinner on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at the Sofitel Bahrain Zallaq Thalassa Sea and Spa. Dubai-based DJ Daenan was flown in for the event, which was held under the patronage of the Indian Embassy and organized by La Bonn V events. Event sponsors included Lexus, BBK, Jashanmal, Kempinski, Royal Bahrain Hospital, Gulf Brands, Gulf Daily News, Mannai Properties and B4U.

**DECEMBER 2012:****MAJOR BOOK FAIR:**

A Major book fair was opened on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre (BIECC). The fair continued until 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013. This event took place successfully for years and attracted large crowds.

**THE THIRD GCC CONFERENCE:**

The third GCC Conference of the Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (BCICAI) concluded on a high note at the Crowne Plaza on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2012. More than 300 participants from across the region took part in the conference themed Chartered accountants: Expanding Horizons. Dr. Mohan Kumar, the Ambassador of India to Bahrain, highlighted the expanded role of chartered accountants in the rapidly evolving economic environment and technological advancement across the world. He suggested that the way forward for the chartered accountants is to look at big picture, acquire soft skills, international mobility, adaptability and flexibility. There were a number of presentations from experts with a focus on the challenges confronting the accounting professions and strategies to address them.

**9. Any other relevant inputs (October-December 2012) :**

- i) Economic and Commercial Report for the months of October, November, December 2012, along with details of trade enquiries received from India during the period and Details of Trade Disputes Between Indian and Bahraini Companies as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012, was sent to Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of External Affairs and Export Promotion Councils/ Commodity Boards, DGFT etc. (BAH/COM/201/1/2012)

- ii) A total of around 25 trade enquiries covering around 56 items received from India, during the month of October 2012, A total of around 12 trade enquiries covering around 31 items received from India, during the month of November 2012, and A total of around 21 trade enquiries covering around 46 items received from India, and 1 trade enquiry covering around 3 item from Bahrain during the month of December 2012 were duly replied to (BAH/COM/245/1/2012).
- iii) Progressive Expenditure Statement for the month of October, November, and December 2012 was sent to TA/TC Section, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi (BAH/COM/551/1/2011).
- iv) Upon request, status report on M/s. Travelex, W.L.L, Bahrain, obtained from the Central Bank of Bahrain, a Government of Bahrain financial regulatory authority, was forwarded to ICICI Bank for the month of November 2012 and Upon request, status report on M/s. National Finance & Exchange Co. W.L.L., Bahrain, obtained from the Central Bank of Bahrain, a Government of Bahrain financial regulatory authority, was forwarded to Canara Bank. (BAH/COM/217/1/2012)
- V) Weekly Economic Bulletins received from the ITP Division of the Ministry of External Affairs were forwarded by e-mail to Ministry of Finance, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Economic Development Board and to the leading Bahraini companies

### **11. Monthly expenditure out of the Commercial Budget**

(Expenditure incurred from 01.04.2012- 31.12.2012)

Sr. No.	Month	Salaries	Medical	Travel Expenses	Office Expenses	Rent, Rate & Taxes	Adv & Publicity	Trade Promotion	Total Expenditure
1.	April 2012	253386	16143	0	564	0	0	0	270093
2.	May 2012	129579	9672	0	29870	0	0	0	169121
3.	June 2012	164054	41061	0	38032	0	0	0	243148
4.	July 2012	139653	16646	0	21450	159763	0	0	337512
5.	August 2012	138223	0	0	9813	0	0	0	148036
6.	September 2012	188219	48466	0	896	160237	0	0	397818
7.	October 2012	131424	7396	83632	5739	0	0	0	228191
8.	November 2012	133218	0	0	2833	0	0	0	136051
9.	December 2012	134176	10474	0	10568	158824	33088	0	347129

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Bahrain's strategic geographical position has made it a natural trading hub throughout its long history. Bahrain has emerged as the region's principal offshore banking hub and also as an important centre for insurance and Islamic banking. With oil and gas reserves limited, the Government sector is not as large as in neighbouring states, although it remains the main motor of growth. Because of the small scale of its hydrocarbons reserves, Bahrain Government was ahead of its GCC counterparts in seeking to diversify the local economic base away from reliance on energy. Services constitute the bulk of GDP, reflecting Bahrain's success in exploiting its location to become an important services and distribution centre for the Gulf. Secondly, Bahrain has FTA with USA, which can be useful to Indian Investors if they choose to manufacture items for US in Bahrain with Indian Inputs and export to USA as per demands in US market.

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