

Expo to strengthen India trade ties

MORE than 100 Indian businesses will take part in the Bahrain-India Week next month, aimed at strengthening trade relations between the two countries, according to organisers.

The two-day event, on December 2 and 3 at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Sanabis will focus on commerce, culture and cuisine.

The B2B expo under the patronage of the Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry will be held in co-operation with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and Tankeen and supported by the Economic Development Board.

It will also feature fashion shows by Indian celebrity designers and models, cultural shows and traditional Indian cuisine.

This was announced at a Press conference at the BCCI headquarters in Sanabis yesterday by organiser PRM Marketing Consultancy chairman P K Ravi, in the presence of Indian MP Manoj Tiwari, Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha, BCCI chairman Khalid Almoayed, BCCI Promotion, Exhibitions and Conferences sector committee head Ahlam Janahi and other dignitaries.

"We don't have any apprehensions about the present economic scenario in the region," Mr Sinha



■ At the Press conference are, from left, Mr Ravi, Mr Grover, Mr Sinha, Mr Tiwari, Mr Almoayed and Ms Janahi

By RAJ UNNIKRISSNAN

told the GDN.

"Last year, when global trade was negating, trade between Bahrain and India registered an increase of 25 per cent, surpassing \$1 billion.

"Bahrain is among the top 10 countries with whom India registered a growth.

"We also see renewed interest in investments and Indian investments in Bahrain surpassed \$1bn, with financial segment topping the list.

"Several Bahraini companies have approved investment plans which range from the IT sector to construction, real estate, hospitality and tourism.

"The Bahrain-India Week comes at a positive time, with increasing trade and investment trends.

"Aluminium, small and medium enterprises and food processing are among the other segments which will feature at the expo, facilitating the business community to interact and collaborate.

"While it is an opportunity for existing companies to expand, it is also an opportunity for new players to come in.

"The advantage is that the strong and large businesses in Bahrain could provide the soft infrastructure to take the bilateral business ties to the next level."

Mr Almoayed said the economic situation in Bahrain was stable and bilateral relations with India will remain unaffected.

Gateway

Crises come and go but relations with India have nothing to do with this.

"The situation is not as bad as it is projected and Bahrain is far better than any other country in the region."

Mr Ravi said that the forum will promote Bahrain as a gateway for Indian investors interested in the regional market.

"Among our exhibitors is Apollo Hospital which will hold discussions with the EDB on expansion plans."

Indian partner of the event Miracle Solutions chairman Gaurav Grover described Bah-

rain as a land of "unlimited opportunities".

"The annual event hopes to develop business relations further. We plan to get more opportunities and develop trade ties better."

Ms Janahi said that the forum will help investors liaise

with local partners.

"We have all the facilities for quick business registration in Bahrain, but new investors will always be keen about local partners and the forum will help them with this."

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Actor to film song in Bahrain

AN Indian parliamentarian, also a celebrity actor, will be filming a song for his 100th movie in Bahrain next month.

Manoj Tiwari, who is on his debut visit to Bahrain as part of promoting Bahrain-India Week which will be held on December 2 and 3, said the filming will coincide with the business event.

"I am so impressed with this nation; my song will start from the Manama Gold Souq," he told the GDN.

"I am an actor and I believe culture and art also play a major part in building bilateral ties.

"My film in Bhojpuri (an Indian language) will promote Bahrain to Indians."

He said that the recent visit of Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh to Bahrain will reflect on future bilateral ties.

"Mr Singh was very happy about his visit and I am sure there are more things bound to happen between the friendly countries in the future," he said.

"Bahrain's friendliness and warmth has impressed me; it is such a lovely country."

Mr Tiwari, a member of parliament from North-East Delhi, is also a singer, TV presenter and music director, from Bihar, India.

He has acted in the Bhojpuri genre of the Indian film industry and in 2005 was reported to be one of the two leading male stars of that genre.



■ Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi honoured students who won prizes among 275 taking part in a drawing and painting contest organised by the Arabian Gulf Education Office under the theme "My Identity, Loyalty, Belonging." Hiba Adel won first prize in the age group of 13 and above. Malak Hassan claimed first prize in the 10-12 age group. The entries were judged by a panel comprising three experienced artists.

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