

Bahrain has grown still growing: NASA

Bahrain's land area has grown a lot in recent decades and is still growing, says NASA's earth observatory report

Comparing both the images, NASA points out that the "change is most apparent in the country's north, where shallow coastal waters have made it technically and economically feasible to build new land from the seafloor."



These images show changes across 35 years. The first image was captured by the Thematic Mapper on Landsat 5 on August 17, 1987. The second image, captured by the Operational Land Imager (OLI) on Landsat 8, shows the same area on August 17, 2022.

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Bahrain has grown and is growing further - both in terms of population and land area, the latest report by NASA's earth observatory said.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration or NASA also released two areal images of Bahrain -- taken in a gap of 35

years -- to support their claims.

The first image is from Thematic Mapper on Landsat 5 on 17th August 1987. The second image, captured by the Operational Land Imager (OLI) on Landsat 8, shows the same area on 17th August 2022.

The first image comes soon after Bahrain got linked to Saudi Arabia via the King Fahd cause-

way in 1986.

Comparing both images, NASA points out that the "change is most apparent in the country's north, where shallow coastal waters have made it technically and economically feasible to build new land from the seafloor."

NASA tells this based on a report by Sabah Aljenaid, ge-

ographic information systems and remote sensing scientist at Arabian Gulf University, who used Landsat images to classify changes to the land between 1986 and 2020.

Aljenaid and colleagues found that built-up (urban) areas dominated the changes during this period, increasing on average by 7.5% each year. The growth

came primarily at the expense

of vegetated land and wetlands.

Aljenaid also highlights the dramatic expansion of Muharraq Island, which now spans more than 60 square kilometres (23 square miles) northeast of Manama, the capital city. She also pointed to changes on the island of Nabih Saleh.

While the focus of urban ex-

pansion is in the north, parts of the southern coastline had undergone a change too, the report adds.

Dredging for the artificial islands of Durrat Al Bahrain, which began in 2004, added about 5 square kilometres (2 square miles) of land to the southeast coast by 2007.

The report, quoting John Burt, a marine biologist at New York University Abu Dhabi, said: "A decade ago, I wrote that 11% of the island of Bahrain is reclaimed land, and the growth continues today."

He further points out that the shape of Bahrain in 35 more years remains to be seen.

"There was on-and-off talk of building a bridge across Fasht Al Adhm to Qatar," Burt said. "It has not come to fruition, but it may be a future mega-development to watch out for."

Citing new reports, NASA also shows that in July 2022, a record 2.5 million motor vehicle passengers travelled on the 25-kilometre (16-mile) stretch of road.

What fuels this growth?

According to Eman Ghoneim, a physical geographer at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, the rapid population growth and the simultaneous increase in urbanization, along with land scarcity, have pushed Bahrain to invest in mega land reclamation projects to extend its coastline.



Padmashri Yusuff Ali M A, CMD of LuLu Group International, yesterday inaugurated Sraavanam 2022 of the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam. The inauguration was in the presence of Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure, Osama Bin Ahmed Khalaf Al Asfoor, the Minister of Social Development and Piyush Srivastava, the Indian Ambassador. The event, on the occasion of Onam, - the harvest festival of Kerala, India - was in the presence of PV Radhakrishna Pillai, BKS President, Varghese Karakkal, General Secretary, MP Raghu, Chairman of Sraavanam, Sankar Palloor, General Convenor of Sraavanam and several other officials and guests. A Music concert by Padmabhoosham K S Chitra and their team followed the inauguration.

Royal Medical Services training citizens and residents on CPR, first aid



The Lifelong First Aid training held at City Centre on World First Aid Day

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Bahrain Royal Medical Services, in association with the Crown Prince Centre for Training and Medical Research, is training citizens and residents on emergency lifesaving procedures in the City Centre Complex as part of World First Aid Day.

The two-day event, which started yesterday and concludes today, aims to train citizens and residents in CPR - or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and first aid.

Every year on the second

Saturday of September, World First Aid Day is observed to promote awareness about how first aid can save several lives. This year the theme for World First Aid Day is "Learning First Aid for Life."

The first objective of World First Aid Day is to take the required steps to save the lives of injured or sick individuals. The second is to manage an injured person's condition by administering first aid and attempting to avoid infection. And the third objective is to get the wounded individual to the hospital as soon as possible.