

**Welcome Remarks by H.E. Mr. Piyush Srivastava,
Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain
at Grand Finale event (Virtual) marking the culmination of two year-
long celebrations of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**

(October 02, 2020)

H.E. Mr. Tawfeeq Al Mansoor, Assistant Undersecretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Kingdom of Bahrain ;

H.E. Mr. Abdulnabi Alshoala, Former Minister & Shura Council Member, and
a Gandhian Expert ;

Dr. Varsha Das Eminent Author, Gandhian Scholar & Former Director,
National Gandhi Museum;

H.E. Dr. Waheeb Essa Alnaser, Vice President, University of Bahrain;

Mr. Arun Kumar Sharma, Principal, DPS-New Millennium School;

Other distinguished guests;

My dear school children.

Namaskar!

I welcome all of you to this Grand Finale event organized by the Embassy marking culmination of two years of celebrations of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. We are honored with august presence of such a galaxy of eminent personalities. The speeches and discussions today will enrich all of us present here, particularly the school children who have joined us live.

To celebrate this momentous occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government of India during past two years has organised series of events touching on various aspects of Mahatma's life and his message to the world, not only in India but throughout the world. We will watch in a short while a glimpse of various events organised by the Embassy of India in Bahrain in this regard. I must place on record our thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for their support in making these events successful and memorable.

Mahatma Gandhi- a name that transcends the bounds of nation-states – needs no introduction. Lovingly called 'Bapu' in India, his legacy influenced leaders and eminent global personalities alike. In this context, I would like to quote the words of one of the greatest scientific mind of our times, Albert Einstein. I quote, "Generations to come, it may well be, will scarce believe that such a man as this one ever in flesh and blood walked upon this Earth." Gandhi is a world phenomenon whose relevance is eternal, timeless and universal.

Mahatma Gandhi's vision and action encompassed almost every facet of individual and collective life, and have guided the generations not only in India but also across the world. In today's world, the relevance of Gandhian values and philosophy has increased many folds, more so as the world is facing an unprecedented global health crisis because of Covid-19 pandemic which has led to serious socio-economic disruptions across the world.

Gandhian principles of "harmony", "Good for all" and "Respect for nature" will be the guiding light as we transit to the post-Covid World. In today's event, we would further hear on this from our esteemed guests and experts.

I would end my statement by quoting from Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi's speech on Gandhi@150 at UN. I quote "I believe that as long as Gandhi's philosophy remains embedded in humanity, he will remain relevant and continue to inspire us."

Thank you!