

Keynote Speech by H.E. Mr. Piyush Srivastava
Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain

at the MOU signing ceremony between
Bahrain Entrepreneurship Organization (BEO) and
Thattai Merchants Hindu Community (THMC)

(5 January, 2021, 3pm)

Ms. Feryal Nass, President of Bahrain Entrepreneurship Organization;

Mr. Bob Thacker, Honorary President of Thattai Merchants Hindu Community;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies & Gentlemen.

A very Good afternoon to you!

Let me begin by thanking Bahrain Entrepreneurship Organization for inviting me to be part of this important event of signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Thattai Merchants Hindu Community, the oldest community of Indian traders and businessmen in Bahrain and the Bahrain Entrepreneurship Organization composed of young & women entrepreneurs.

2. Bahrain Entrepreneurship Organisation, in a short span of little over two years, has made a mark in the Kingdom by providing platform for young and women entrepreneurs that promotes innovation and exchange of experiences in economic field. It has also provided new opportunities to develop their capability in the fields of innovation and creativity. BEO reflects the vision of the Kingdom of having equitable partnership to build a competitive and sustainable society. We welcome the forthcoming initiatives of BEO for furthering collaboration in the field of solar energy and green technology as well as the B2B summit in collaboration with FICCI Ladies Organisation to explore areas for further enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation among the youth and women entrepreneurs of our two countries.

3. India and Bahrain share warm and friendly bilateral relations and its people to people connect goes far back in the history. The trade relations can be traced back to 5000 years ago to the Dilmun civilization of Bahrain and Indus Valley Civilization of India. Thattai community from India is a testament to this fact. Thattais were perhaps the first of Indians

to reach Gulf region around 300 years back; and their history in Bahrain goes back to more than 100 years. Business at that time was related mostly to fishing and pearl farming and trading in spices. However, the community stayed on and has made Bahrain its second home. I am proud to say that the Thattai community has made a name for itself in the economic, social and cultural landscape of Bahrain.

4. This is no surprise. Kingdom's liberal and tolerant policies and welcoming society has made it the preferred destination for Indians which is reflective in the steady growth of Indian community in Bahrain over the years.

5. The MoU being signed today will open up further opportunities in our bilateral trade and economic cooperation, which has expanded and diversified in recent years. This partnership would pave the way for collaboration between experience and innovation and make stronger the synergies between the two friendly and cooperating countries.

6. I wish both Bahrain Entrepreneurship Organization and Thattai Hindu Merchants Community a harmonious partnership working towards the objective of promoting innovation, competition and especially providing opportunities to the women and youth entrepreneurs in the Kingdom.

Thank you.
