

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

SPECTRA 2020
(Award and Calendar Release ceremony)

organised by Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF)

(02 January 2021)

Mr. Aruldas Thomas, Chairman, ICRF;

Mr. W.V. Raman, Former Cricketer and current coach of National Women Cricket Team;

Mr. Sanjay Bhan, Faber Castell;

Dear Members of the Indian Community;

Dear children,

Namaskar !

I am pleased to be here and meet all of you for the ICRF Spectra Award and Calendar Release ceremony. I am glad that ICRF has maintained the tradition of organizing this annual event, though in virtual mode this time in view of the Covid-19 restrictions. This perhaps the new normal for all of us atleast in near future.

2. I commend ICRF for their exemplary work of public service and giving helping hand particularly to the economically weaker section of the Indian community in Bahrain. ICRF is providing Legal Aid, Emergency Help, Community Welfare Services, Medical assistance, Counselling etc. to the Indian Community.

3. The art carnival event – SPECTRA aimed at encouraging and honouring artistic skills among the youth, is the largest art competition for students in the Kingdom of Bahrain. This annual event aims at unearthing artistic talent among the youth. The children through their initiatives including active participations in painting competition and social and cultural activities have been instrumental in success of this event, which also contributes to generating fund for ICRF's charity activities. Started with participation of 600 children, the Spectra reached up to the participation of around 4500 students by the passage of time.

4. The winning entries and other outstanding creations by the children will figure in the Wall Calendars and Desk-Top Calendars designed for the upcoming year. I congratulate all the children who made it to the winning entries. I would also like to convey best wishes and felicitations to all the children who have enthusiastically participated in the event. For those who could not make it to the winning entry, my message is that don't be disheartened or discouraged. Most important thing is to enthusiastically participate in any event and give it to you best shot which all of you have done.

5. I would also like to thank the Indian community in Bahrain for their active participation in the SPECTRA event and promoting charity based welfare activities carried out by ICRF.

6. The last year brought unprecedented challenge for all of us in terms of Covid-19 pandemic. Our community in Bahrain had shown great resilience and stood together to help each other particularly the most needy members of our community. I would also like to thank the Leadership and the Government of Kingdom of Bahrain for the care and support extended to our community in general and in particular during these difficult times.

7. I hope that this year will gradually bring normalcy to our life. I wish all of you a very happy and healthy new year.

Before concluding, I would like to once again assure all of you and to the members of our community through you that Indian Embassy remain committed to provide all possible support and assistance to ensure their welfare.

Thank you!
