

Speech by H.E. Mr. Piyush Srivastava
Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain
At the 800th meeting of Indian Club Toastmasters

Mr. Stalin Joseph, President, The Indian Club;
Mr. Srinath Srinivasan, President, Indian Club Toastmasters;
Distinguished Speakers on the panel;
Members of the Indian Club Toastmasters;
And other guests who have joined online!

Good evening!

1. Let me first of all congratulate the Indian Club Toastmasters on this huge milestone. The very fact that in little over three decades of its journey, the Indian Club Toastmasters is conducting its 800th meeting speaks for itself how active the Club has been. I understand that the Club has regularly been organising its meetings, seminars, and now webinars, in topics of significant importance which have in the past been attended by various distinguished personalities in their respective fields.

2. I would also like to commend the Indian Club, which is the mother Club of Indian Toastmasters, on this occasion. Indian Club is one of the oldest and prestigious clubs in Bahrain with more than 1000 members. It provides a forum for the Indian community in Bahrain to meet and interact, and a platform for various cultural, social and sporting activities, showcasing the rich and diverse Indian culture among the people of Bahrain.

Friends,

3. India and Bahrain share warm and friendly relations and its people to people connect goes far back in the history. Our cultural exchanges goes back 5000 years tracing their origins to the period of Dilmun and Indus Valley civilizations.

4. The vibrant and dynamic Indian community in Bahrain forms an important link in our bilateral relations. It is no secret that wherever our people have gone, through their professionalism, dedication and hard work, they have made a name for themselves and for India, as well as contributed to the development and progress of their host country. Bahrain is no exception. The contribution of our community has been acknowledged by the Leadership, Government and people of Bahrain. I would be remiss if I do not mention the key role of Kingdom's progressive nature and tolerant policies in providing enabling environment for our community.

Friends,

5. The bilateral cooperation between India and Bahrain has strengthened and diversified over the years. You all must have witnessed the close cooperation and collaboration between our two governments in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Both our countries have successfully dealt with the pandemic and have undertaken pro-active measures for post-COVID economic revival. The Government of Bahrain has provided medical and other necessary support, and is now providing free vaccines to its citizens and residents alike including Indian community in Bahrain.

6. India, world's pharmacy, has been in the forefront in global cooperation in dealing with the pandemic. India is undertaking world's largest vaccination programme by rolling out two 'Made in India' vaccines, Covaxin and Covishield. In line with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's commitment at UN that "we will help make vaccine accessible and affordable to all", India, despite its huge domestic requirements, is supplying vaccines to the global community as a reliable partner and friend. India has already supplied about 50 million 'Made in India' covid vaccines to around 50 countries including friendly Kingdom of Bahrain.

Friends,

7. Bahrain has long and distinguished association with Toastmasters. Kingdom of Bahrain is the first country in the Middle East region where the Toastmasters Club was established in 1964. Bahrain has also hosted the annual conference of District 20 Toastmasters "DTAC 2019" in April 2019 where a large number of speakers, experts and academics from various fields from all over the world participated.

8. The Indian Club Toastmasters, the second oldest Toastmasters Club in the Kingdom, is a testimony of the strong people to people relations between our two countries. It has been conducting a number of programs, aimed at developing communication and leadership skills of the people of Bahrain, particularly the Indian community. I am sure that the talks by the distinguished Speakers and discussions in today's meeting will throw up several new and innovative ideas, which will be beneficial for developing the capacities and skills of the participants.

9. I wish the Indian Club as well as the Indian Club Toastmasters every success in their future endeavours.

Thank you.
