

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

**at Curtain Raiser Event to commence celebrations for the**  
**75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's Independence**

*(March 20, 2021)*

**H.E. Abdul Nabi Al Shoala, Former Minister and Member of Shura Council, Kingdom of Bahrain;**

**Mr. Yousuf Salahuddin;**

**Mr. Radhakrishna Pillai, President, BKS;**

**Mr. Stalin Joseph, President, Indian Club;**

**Presidents and Chairperson of other Indian Associations, Bahrain-India Society;**

**Friends from Media;**

**Ladies and gentlemen!**

**Good Morning to all of you,**

1. I welcome you all to this Curtain Raiser event organised by the Embassy, commencing celebrations for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence. We would have wished to celebrate this event in a grand manner with participation of all the associations, community members and friends of India in Bahrain. However, due to on-going Covid restrictions, we have to do it on a limited scale. We are thankful to all of you for your presence. In particular, I would like to thank H.E. Mr. Abdulnabi Al Shoala who needs no introduction and is a great friend of India in Bahrain.

2. Mr. Yousuf Salahuddin has deep old connections with India, and is currently involved in a research project tracing the roots of people to people and trade connections between our two countries.

3. And this celebrations is incomplete without participation of our community members in Bahrain, a cross section of which is present here today, while others have joined the live webcast of today's celebrations. Thank you all for enthusiastic participation.

**Friends,**

4. As you may be aware, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi launched the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in Ahmedabad, during which the re-enactment of the historic Dandi March was also flagged off from Sabarmati Ashram.

5. 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is an embodiment of India's socio-cultural, political and economic identity.

6. This Curtain Raiser celebration marks the 75 week countdown to our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence on 15 August 2022, and will continue till another year. During the course of this journey, we will be hosting a series of events in partnership with the Indian associations as well as the Government and concerned agencies in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

7. India's progress in its journey of 75 years after its independence is there for all to see. The largest democracy on earth, India has made tremendous strides in socio-economic development, and industrial, scientific and technological advances in almost all sectors of economy – from agriculture, heavy engineering, infrastructure, services to health, education, and hi-tech areas of space, IT, big data, pharmaceuticals and medical sector. Indian economy, the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world today, is well poised to become USD 5 trillion economy by 2025, and increase its GDP per capita by 50% next year as compared to 2017-18.

8. India has now become a strong voice of international cooperation and solidarity. India has always believed in sharing the fruits of development with the global community, in line with our age old tradition of 'Vasudaiva Kutumbkam' i.e. the world is one family. It was this outlook of human-centric cooperation that drove India's efforts of fighting Covid-19 pandemic and more recently the VaccineMaitri. India's pharmaceutical and medical industry responded to the demand of time and has extraordinarily ramped up the production capabilities. Despite huge domestic demand, India has supplied medicines and medical assistance to over 150 nations, and is now supplying 'Made-in-India' vaccines to the global community. We have, as of today, supplied over 60 million doses to about 70 countries.

**Friends,**

9. In India's growth story, the role of Indian diaspora has been very important. They have been instrumental in spreading Indian culture and values in their respective countries. With their achievements in various fields, they have brought glory to the motherland and raised India's stature in the international arena.

10. In Bahrain, our community represents about a quarter of Kingdom's population, and it is heartening to know that with their hard work, commitment and professionalism, they have made the name for themselves and for India in Bahrain, besides contributing to the development of Bahrain.

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

11. The presence of our Bahraini friends have enhanced our celebrations and joy manifold, and have made them more meaningful. India and Kingdom of Bahrain have civilisational and close bilateral relations and people to people connect. We share and take pride in each other's successes and development. We look forward to these celebrations in association with the government as well as other agencies in Bahrain which will further cement our bonds of friendship and deepen our multi-faceted cooperation.

12. I once again thank you all for joining in these celebrations. I look forward to celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence over next couple of years with all of you.

Thank you,

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