

**Speech by H.E Mr. Piyush Srivastava,
Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain
Multilingual Poetry Meet by Khwabgaah
SADAQATU DOSTI KA**

[Venue: MP Hall; 01.12.2022; 1830 – 1915 hrs.]

Mrs. Anupam Ramesh Kinger, CEO, Khwabgaah;

Distinguished Indian & Bahraini Poets;

Bahraini dignitaries;

Representatives from Indian Associations & the Indian community in Bahrain;

My colleagues at the Embassy;

Good evening to you all.

My wife Monika and I am pleased to join you all today to listen to this galaxy of Indian and Bahraini poets who so fittingly expressed our deep bonds of civilizational relations and the depth of our friendship, through their poems.

2. As we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Kingdom of Bahrain, we should always remember that our relationship goes back to thousands of years, marked by traders, travellers and people seeking education and enlightenment crossing the Arabian Sea to forge these relations. The Golden Jubilee celebrations witnessed the historic moment of lighting of Bab Al Bahrain and Qutub Minar in each other's national colours. The year-long celebrations included cultural performances; handicrafts, cuisine displays and fairs; seminars showcasing this rich heritage of our two countries as well as historical connect and contemporary bilateral relations; Painting exhibition and now this exquisite poetry meet.

3. Thanks to the joint efforts from the Leadership, Governments and people of all walks of life in both countries, the bilateral relationship has scaled new heights especially over recent years. We have a shared history and are well poised to have a successful shared future together.

Friends,

4. As we are slowly entering into the final year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, celebrating 75 years of progressive India and stepping into what we call the Amrit Kaal. The next 25 years, we hope to gain momentum from the last 75 years of progress and in this juncture, our relationship with our friends, in every sphere, including our shared cultural sphere plays an important part.

5. India today took leadership of G20 and has taken the pledge to make use of this opportunity to focus on global good. In the words of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and I quote – *'India's G-20 agenda will be*

inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented and decisive. Our priorities will focus on healing our one earth, creating harmony within our one family and giving hope for our one future'.

Distinguished Guests; Ladies & Gentlemen,

6. India's leadership of G-20 is a matter of pride for all of us, both at home as well as our Indian diaspora. Government of India has taken numerous initiatives for the welfare of Indian community abroad as well as for engaging with them closely with India's growth story. Government of India is organising 17th edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas at Indore, Madhya Pradesh from 8 – 10 January, 2023.

7. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, which is a flagship event for Indian diaspora, is being held in physical format after a gap of 4 years. Government of India is eagerly looking forward welcoming them and has taken all measures to ensure their smooth registration, travel, stay as well as meaningful interaction at the event. I encourage Indian community in Bahrain to participate in Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in large numbers. In case of any queries or assistance, you can always contact the Embassy.

8. Before concluding, I would like to congratulate and thank Khwabgaah for bringing together all the poets and putting up this event today. I also congratulate all the poets who have participated in the Indo-Bahrain Poetry meet and for being a part of our celebrations.

Thank you.