

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Piyush Srivastava,
Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain
At the Reception for 75th anniversary of India's Independence**
*Venue: Grand Ambassador's Ballroom, Diplomat Radisson
[Monday, 15 August 2022; 1900 – 2100 hrs.*

**Your Excellency, Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa,
Undersecretary of Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Your Excellencies, Members of Parliament, Senior Officers and Heads
of Authorities of the Government of Bahrain;**

**Your Excellencies, Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Members of
Diplomatic Corp;**

**Distinguished Members of Business community and other invited
guests;**

Dear members of Indian community;

Friends from Media;

Ladies & Gentlemen;

Namaskar

السلام عليكم

Good evening to all of you.

Let me begin by wishing all members of Indian community and our friends in Bahrain a very happy Independence Day! I welcome you all for joining us in celebrating 75 years of India's Independence. My special thanks to the esteemed dignitaries from the Government of Bahrain who have joined us on this historic occasion.

2. 75th anniversary of India's Independence is a significant milestone in the history of our nation. We have made significant strides as a democratic polity, a pluralistic society and an innovative economy.

3. India is among one of the fastest growing major economies in the world today. The 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' or 'Self Reliant India' program is leading India to become a pivotal partner in the global supply and value chain. In the last financial year, India attracted its highest ever FDI of

about US\$ 85 billion, a testimony to our aggressive push for economic and infrastructure development, and business and investor friendly climate.

4. As we made these strides, India has stood by the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' i.e., 'the world is one family'. It is what motivated us in our efforts in the global fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

5. With 4th largest renewable energy capacity, India is spearheading commitment towards sustainability and playing key role in global community in environment and climate change matters. With its quality and highly competitive pharmaceutical industry which is the 3rd largest in the world by volume, and world's largest vaccine production capacity, India has been a key player in ensuring equity in vaccine and medical support during the pandemic.

6. India has strived for peace and stability in all its forms across the globe. It has engaged positively in multilateral and regional arena as a responsible global power.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

7. This year is also historic in the journey of bilateral relations between India and Kingdom of Bahrain. The Golden Jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations is an occasion to celebrate our civilizational ties, and deep and rich bonds of friendship.

8. India and Bahrain enjoy excellent bilateral relations characterized by regular high level political exchanges and interactions, and cordial political, security, economic, trade, cultural and people to people ties. The visionary Leadership of our two countries have guided our relations to attain greater heights and diversify into newer areas.

9. Even during the pandemic period, the high level interactions, bilateral visits and meetings of structural mechanisms continued and bilateral cooperation moved on upward trajectory.

10. Bahrain this year joined International Solar Alliance as 86th member. In a statement of its commitment to collective responsibility of maritime security in the region, India joined Combined Maritime Forces as an Associate Partner last month. Our bilateral defence and maritime security cooperation has also progressed in the last few years.

11. In the economic sphere, both countries have achieved record levels of bilateral trade and investments. Our bilateral trade reached its highest-ever level of USD 1.65 billion. Investments from both directions are also increasing. Indian cumulative FDI in Bahrain has reached to approx. \$1.5 billion increasing by more than 35% since 2019. The cooperation is set to

intensify as India and Bahrain find themselves in a complimentary position to benefit from each other. Technology, IT, health and pharma, education, energy, skilling and start-ups focussing on youth will be the key drivers.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen,

12. Bahrain becoming a preferred destination for the Indian community is testimony to Kingdom's policies of harmony and peaceful coexistence, and its open society. I take this opportunity to convey our thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Government and people of Bahrain for welcoming our community with open arms and ensuring their wellbeing, safety and security. The Indian community, on its part, has been highly professional, apolitical and has shown strong work ethics thereby contributing significantly to the development of the Kingdom.

13. I can see among our esteemed guests today, representations of our civilizational connect. Many have studied in India, a lot of my Bahraini friends had their forefathers who lived and worked in India. I also see members of the Indian community whose ancestors arrived here hundreds of years back and made Bahrain their home.

14. I just want to take you all back to the majestic visuals of simultaneous illumination of our historic monuments of Bab Al Bahrain and Qutub Minar in each other's national colours in October last year. These vividly depicted our historical bonds of friendship, ever-growing bilateral cooperation and our shared future.

15. I once again thank all of you for taking time out of your busy schedule and gracing the occasion.

आप सभी को भारत की स्वतंत्रता की पचहत्तरवीं वर्षगांठ की हार्दिक

शुभकामनाएं

जय हिन्द

تحية الصداقة البحرينية الهندية

Thank you.
