

Speech by H.E. Mr. Piyush Srivastava
Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain
On the occasion of Teachers' Day
[M P Hall; 05.09.2022; 6 pm]

Principals and teachers of Indian Schools in Bahrain;

Professors of various Universities of Kingdom of Bahrain;

Presidents and members of BICAS, Bahrain Chapter of ICAI, and Art of Living;

And Yoga teachers who are present here today.

Good evening!

I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to the entire teaching fraternity on the occasion of Teacher's Day.

2. Teachers' Day is celebrated across the country in memory of former President Dr. S Radhakrishnan, a philosopher-author, teacher and India's second President who was born on September 5, 1888. Even though Dr. S Radhakrishnan has numerous achievements to his credit and made immense contribution to our nation, he remained a teacher at heart throughout his life. He was a great teacher who continues to inspire the generations.

3. As we celebrate the Teachers' day this year, it is heartening to see that the Schools are returning to full in-person classes after a long gap of 2 years of distance/hybrid learning on account of Covid-19 pandemic. The unprecedented disruption of education affected the childrens' education. It is commendable how teachers have innovated and ensured that the educational journey of students continued in the Covid-19 times.

4. For me personally, this year's Teachers' Day is special. We are coming out from difficult times of Covid-19 pandemic, during which time the teachers have gone to incredible lengths to help their students keep learning. The teachers have adapted to new teaching platforms and tools and have shown tremendous adaptability to the new uncertain environment, throughout this tumultuous period. All the students and their parents are thankful to the teaching fraternity which has insured continuity of education during these difficult times.

5. I commend and appreciate all the teachers of Indian schools in Bahrain for their outstanding and exemplary services. I also take this opportunity to thank the management and administration of schools for their active involvement and support to students and teachers. I would be remiss if I do not mention the immense adaptability, and talent and creativity shown by students during these challenging times.

Friends,

6. In the last couple of months, we have celebrated two major occasions. It was really heartening to see overwhelming participation of our community members in the Independence Day celebrations. Similarly Indian, Bahraini as well as members of other nationalities overwhelmingly participated in various yoga events held throughout the month of June to mark International Day of Yoga. I am glad that we will also be felicitating the yoga teachers today.

Distinguished members of Teachers Fraternity,

7. India has made tremendous strides in Education. Universal high-quality education is the best way forward for developing and maximizing our country's rich talents and resources for the good of the individual, the society, the country, and the world. As you all are aware, the government of India has implemented the New Education Policy which has introduced much needed reforms in country's education system as per contemporary times, with the aim of making India a global knowledge superpower. It lays emphasis on development of creative potential of individual.

8. As NEP completed two years, the Government of India launched multiple initiatives in the field of education that proves to be a significant milestone in realising the goals envisaged under the NEP. Just a short while ago, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced a new initiative of development and upgradation of 14,500 schools across India under the Pradhan Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana with a view to making them model schools which will encapsulate the full spirit of the New Education Policy.

9. This would also lead to greater collaboration in education sector between India and Kingdom of Bahrain. There are a lot of complementarities. Bahrain is uniquely placed to attract higher Indian educational universities and technical institutes. The presence of highly professional and vibrant Indian schools in the Kingdom constitutes a key link in promoting this collaboration.

10. **"True teachers are those who help us think for ourselves"** – with this quote by Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, I conclude by wishing you all once again a Happy Teachers Day.

Thank you,