

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Piyush Srivastava
Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain
At Reception Onboard INS TEG
[28 July, 2022; 1930 hrs]**

**Your Excellency Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa,
Undersecretary for Political Affairs and Deputy Secretary General of
Supreme Defence Council, Kingdom of Bahrain;**

**Lt. General Dhiyab bin Saqer Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff, Bahrain Defence
Force;**

**Rear Admiral Salah Mohamed Hijres, Deputy Commander, Royal Bahrain
Naval Force;**

Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy;

Vice Admiral Charles Cooper, Commander US NAVCENT & CMF;

Hon'ble Members of Parliament;

Senior Officials of Government of Bahrain;

Heads of Diplomatic Missions;

**Senior Officials of Bahrain Defence Force, Indian Navy, NAVCENT and
Combined Maritime Forces;**

Commanding Officer and crew of INS Teg;

Members of Indian & Bahraini business community;

Friends from Media;

Good Evening to all of you!

It is a matter of great honour for me to welcome you on-board Indian Naval Ship Teg for this reception. It is my pleasure to welcome Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru, Deputy Chief of Indian Navy, who is on a 3-day visit to Bahrain.

2. It is greatly satisfying to see the tremendous progress made in diverse areas of bilateral cooperation between India and Kingdom of Bahrain. The occasion of Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations between our two countries is a celebration of our historical bonds of friendship and close and excellent ties; it is also an occasion to redouble our efforts to further intensify our bilateral relations across all domains of political, security, economic and trade, culture and people to people relations.

3. Particularly in the field of defence and maritime security, we have made good progress in recent years. In last one and a half year alone, a total of 11 Indian ships have made port calls at Mina Salman Port. The Commander of Western Fleet of Indian Navy as well as Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) visited Bahrain.

4. Our two sides are also working for further collaboration in terms of exchange of delegations, training programmes, participation in each other's flagship events such as Bahrain International Air Show and Indian Defence Expo, and other areas of cooperation.

5. The visit of Deputy Chief of Indian Navy has given push to these cooperations. During his call on with His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor as well as his meetings with BDF Leadership, both sides reviewed and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation including in defence and maritime security domains.

Distinguished dignitaries,

6. The visit of Deputy Chief of Indian Navy is significant at a time, when India has joined the Combined Maritime Forces as an Associate Partner. It is a symbol of India's commitment to regional stability, international rules based order, maritime security in the region and global commons. Vice Admiral Sanjay Mahindru held very productive and useful discussions with Vice Admiral Charles Cooper NAVCENT and CMF Commander to discuss way forward in furthering this cooperation.

7. I thank the Leadership and Government of Bahrain as well as CMF Commander for all support and facilitation in this regard. I wish Indian Navy, US Navy, Royal Bahrain Naval Force and Combined Maritime Forces all success in their future endeavours.

8. I am confident that India's bilateral relations with Kingdom of Bahrain will scale newer heights in times to come. India joining Combined Maritime Force will further strengthen India's historical bonds of friendship and collaboration with the region, which has tremendously grown in recent years and expanded to strategic areas of cooperation including high technology, energy, trade and food security and defence and maritime security partnerships.

Thank you,