

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

**At the International Day of Yoga 2022 event
At Isa Sports City Hall (Hall D), Isa Town
Organized by the Embassy of India
(21 June 2022, 1830 hrs.)**

**Mr. Mahmood Abdulsamad, Head of Operations Re-engineering,
Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs;**

**Ms. Namat Al Subaie, Advisor, Allied Medical Profession
National Health Regulatory Authority;**

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

**The Office Bearers and volunteers from Art of Living,
Bahrain Chapter of ICAI, BICAS;**

Representatives of Indian Associations;

Yoga enthusiasts and practitioners;

Namaskar!

Assalaam Aaleykum!

Good evening!

My best wishes and greetings to all of you on the occasion of 8th International Day of Yoga. I am glad to see that so many Yoga enthusiasts assembled here today.

2. At the outset, let me place on record my appreciation for the Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs and National Health Regulatory Authority of Kingdom of Bahrain for joining in and supporting Embassy's Yoga Day celebrations. I also thank Art of Living, BICAS and Bahrain Chapter of ICAI, Indian and Bahraini Yoga Centres and Indian associations, and the yoga lovers and enthusiasts across Bahrain for their active support and participation in the various events.

3. Like in previous years, we have seen great enthusiasm for the International Day of Yoga among people of Bahrain. Personally, it is a matter of great happiness for me to join all of you in person this year for Yoga Day celebrations, after a long gap of 2 years of pandemic period, during which we could only join virtually for the same.

4. The support of the Leadership, the Government and people of Bahrain has been instrumental in ensuring that the International Yoga Day celebrations in

the Kingdom have received overwhelming support and witnessed increasing participation over the years. This is in line with the close civilizational and cultural ties which our two countries enjoy since thousands of years.

Distinguished Guests; Yoga practitioners;

5. Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice which originated in India. Following its inception in United Nations General Assembly in 2014, the International Day of Yoga has been celebrated annually on 21st June since 2015. The International Day of Yoga has emerged as a major event at iconic venues in most countries. Today, Yoga is a global phenomenon uniting individuals, families and societies, who have embraced it as a way of life. The people across the world have recognised and accepted the immense health benefits of yoga, both physical and mental, during the Covid pandemic period.

6. The International Day of Yoga celebrations this year kickstarted on 3 June with a curtain raiser event at the Embassy in partnership with Art of Living, BICAS and BCICAI. The yoga campaign in Bahrain this year has stood out with its diverse segment of engagements from more than 25 organizations including schools with a participation of more than 3500 yoga enthusiasts. It has been an exclusive platform to spread the message of health and wellbeing to all segments of the society under the theme “Yoga For Humanity”. Yoga sessions were organised almost on a daily basis by various yoga centres, community organisations and schools across Bahrain. We had a special session for differently-abled children, and also yoga quiz organized by BCICAI which saw participation of more than 350 students from different schools in Bahrain.

7. The new element in IDY celebration this year is the “Global Yoga Ring”. The Yoga Ring envisages live telecast of Yoga sessions, progressively from East to West across the world, by India’s national TV Channel, Doordarshan. The morning event with seven schools in Bahrain, with participation of more than 500 students from various nationalities including Indian, Bahraini, Ethiopian, Srilankan and Bangladeshi, was part of the Global Yoga Ring. This event is also part of this Ring and is being covered live.

8. Thank you all for joining this yoga session. I wish you all a very happy and healthy yoga day!

Let’s do yoga together!