

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Piyush Srivastava**  
**Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain**  
**On the Inaugural Session of 34<sup>th</sup> CBSE Gulf Sahodaya Principals Conference**  
*(25 June 2022; 0900 hrs; Crowne Plaza)*

**Mrs. Nidhi Chibber, Chairperson, CBSE;**

**Mrs. Lulwa Ghasan Al-Muhanna, Director, Ministry of Education, Kingdom of Bahrain;**

**Mr. Anurag Tripathi, Secretary, CBSE;**

**Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Jolly, Chairman, Gulf Sahodaya;**

**Mr. Mairaj Khan, Secretary, Gulf Sahodaya;**

**Management and Principals of CBSE Schools in Bahrain and other Gulf countries;**

Good morning to all of you!

I am delighted to be present here among this galaxy of school administrators and educators. Gulf Sahodaya Conference is an excellent platform to exchange ideas and promote culture of participation & cooperation among Indian schools. It's a matter of great happiness that this year's Conference is happening in Bahrain in hybrid mode, after two years of challenging pandemic period.

2. More than 200 CBSE schools spread across the Gulf region are an important part of education system of GCC countries. It has helped millions of Indian diaspora in the region, especially the economically weaker section of Indian community to have their families with them and educate their children. It also eases their mobility vis-à-vis India by ensuring continuity in the education system. Not only has that, CBSE schools taught Arabic as well as many Indian languages which is a big advantage. I am very happy to share that more than 20,000 Indian students are studying in the 8 Indian CBSE Schools in Bahrain.

3. CBSE schools are among the best and have earned good reputation for their quality education in the region. These schools also demonstrate the effectiveness of Indian education system as thousands of local Arabs and other expatriates prefer to admit their children in the Indian School. 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. I am sure, this will help CBSE schools further internationalizing and firmly establishing 'Brand CBSE' and 'Brand India' in GCC educational landscape.

## **Friends,**

4. Education has been a traditional area of India's bilateral and regional cooperation with Gulf countries. Our educational exchanges are historical, as are our people to people connect. Many of the prominent dignitaries from Bahrain as well as from other GCC countries have studied in India in this past. Our CBSE schools continue to play an important role in cementing this cooperation. I would like to see more students' exchanges between the schools in Gulf countries, and those in India, as it would give opportunity to local students to visit India for greater exposure and better understanding of India's rich cultural heritage, pluralistic society, diversity and huge educational, technological and scientific prowess.

5. The last two years have been quite challenging for all of us. The world has witnessed the major disruptions due to Covid-19 pandemic. I am very happy to note that all our Indian schools rose to challenges presented by this unprecedented crisis and have been able to continue the education process through virtual means in a seamless manner. I take this opportunity to thank Govt of Bahrain, especially Ministry of Education for providing all support including for conducting exams which was quite challenging task during this period. The visionary Leadership of the Kingdom has led to the impressive strides made by Bahraini education system and schools including Indian schools.

## **Dear Principals and School Administrators,**

6. Government of India has committed to provide all possible support for the children of Indian diaspora abroad. There are several scholarships and schemes available for them to get admission to higher education institutes in India. The Government has increased number of centres for JEE and NEET exams, particularly in the gulf region. I am happy that from this year onwards, Bahrain has also been added as centre for NEET exams which has brought relief to many students.

7. This Conference is being held in the year, which is a milestone in the journey of both our nations. India is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorating 75 years of India's independence. This is also a Golden Jubilee year of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Kingdom of Bahrain. I look forward to this conference coming up with some concrete ideas and suggestions which will lead to further strengthening India's educational cooperation and exchanges with Bahrain and other GCC countries.

8. I wish you all a very productive conference.

Thank you,