

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Piyush Srivastava
Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain at the
Bilateral Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence in
Sustainability and Renewable Energy**

[April 28, 2022; 1200 hrs]

**Dr. Jassim Haji, President, International Group of Artificial Intelligence, Bahrain;
Distinguished speakers; and
Dear Participants,**

Good Afternoon!

It is my pleasure to be with you all in this conference on “Artificial Intelligence in Sustainability and Renewable Energy.” I must congratulate International Group of Artificial Intelligence for selecting such a relevant and interesting topic.

2. As we all know, India and Bahrain enjoy deep rooted historic and civilizational ties and people to people connect. India is one of the largest trading partners of Bahrain and I am happy to share that last year we achieved highest ever bilateral trade crossing USD 1.5 billion mark. India is also the 6th largest investor in Bahrain with total cumulative investment above USD 1.25 billion.

3. The civilizational and historic ties between India and Bahrain have now diversified into a number of areas such as space technology, cyber security, maritime security, renewable energy etc. reflecting the contemporary times. This year we are celebrating Golden Jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries to celebrate our historical bonds of friendship and multi-faceted contemporary bilateral cooperation.

4. It is a matter of great happiness that last month, Bahrain has become a member of International Solar Alliance. A bilateral MoU for cooperation in the field of renewable energy was also signed in 2018. The first India-Bahrain Joint Working Group Meeting under this MoU was organized in February 2021 in which special emphasis was given to promote cooperation between private sectors of our two countries. In line with this vision, to promote private sector cooperation, a B2B meeting in the field of Renewable Energy was organized by our Embassy in partnership with the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India with the support of Ministry of Electricity and Water, Govt. of Bahrain and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, GoI. Indian Solar Manufacturers Associations, Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association and Hydrogen association of India also participated in the event.

5. The purpose of my telling you all these is to give you an understanding that there are already mechanisms which provide platforms for cooperation in the field of Renewable energy between our two countries and we are making all efforts to push greater cooperation in this sector. However, our ambitions are much larger, as there is large untapped and future potential for bilateral cooperation in this sector. During the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, India has set a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070 and to meet its goal, India is working towards achieving 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. Kingdom of Bahrain has also set the target net zero emission by 2060 and it has doubled its renewable energy target to 20% by 2035.

6. Needless to say, due to ever increasing importance of renewable energy to tackle the challenge of global warming, and international developments in this regard, forging more partnerships and greater push are required to achieve our goals. We need to look at all aspects of sustainability and renewable energy. Use of artificial intelligence in renewables and sustainability is one such important aspect.

7. Artificial intelligence (AI) systems today are transforming industries and becoming an indispensable part of our daily lives. Artificial Intelligence is definitely going to help renewable energy industry by balancing electricity supply and demand needs in real time basis, optimizing energy use and storage to reduce rates and hence making it commercially sustainable and ultimately moving towards carbon neutrality. AI will also play a crucial role in managing the complexity of deploying power to industrial facilities, office buildings, homes and wherever needed. Given the world's destabilized climate and unpredictable weather conditions, shifting our current energy system to a smart one centred on AI will result in a more resilient and flexible grid when unforeseen meteorological events occur.

8. Another area where AI is playing crucial role is agriculture. Modern agri-businesses can use AI to analyse their farms data for crop yield predictions or climate control. AI allows us to grow more food with fewer resources including land which is particularly important for Bahrain.

9. On the other hand, there is a pressing need for making AI systems sustainable which can be done with the help of renewable energy. AI can be energy-intensive due to massive computation required. This comes at a substantial financial and environmental costs and leaves a huge carbon footprint. Globally, the carbon footprint for data centres is estimated at more than 2 per cent of global carbon emissions. This highlights the critical importance of

having sustainable AI which can be addressed by increasing use of renewable resources.

10. There are many more dimensions, aspects and interdependence of artificial intelligence, sustainability and renewable energy on which our esteemed speakers and experts would be throwing light, which I am also eager to hear. So I will stop here. I am confident that this conference will lead to increasing our bilateral cooperation in this crucial sector.

11. I once again wish all the best to organizers.

Thank you,