

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

**SPECTRA 2021 FINALE**  
**(Award and Calendar Release ceremony)**  
**organised by Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF)**  
*(02 January 2022; 1800 hrs)*

**Dr. Babu Ramachandran, Chairman, Indian Community Relief Fund;**

**Mr. Sanjay Bhan, Managing Director, Faber Castell;**  
**Advisors, Executive Committee, Members and volunteers of ICRF;**

**Members of Indian community;**

**My dear children;**

Good Evening!

1. Let me first of all convey my greetings for a very happy and healthy new year 2022 to all of you!
2. I am pleased to be here with all of you at this Spectra 2021 Award and Calendar release ceremony. Despite the challenges posed by pandemic, ICRF has managed to hold this art competition observing all Covid protocols and guidelines.
3. I am glad that this year's Spectra is being organised in a hybrid form, giving me an opportunity to atleast meet all the winners of various categories of art competition. I am sure that next year, we will be able to hold it at a much bigger scale as in pre-Covid times.
4. Spectra, the annual art competition being organised by ICRF since 2008, is perhaps the largest art competition for students in the Kingdom of Bahrain. It provides an opportunity to students to express their artistic and creative talent. This year Spectra has also gone international with the first edition having participation from around 16 countries including all of GCC countries.
5. I am glad to know that more than 300 children from Bahrain and over 250 students from other countries took part in this year's event. The winners of the competition are present here. Their winning entries will feature in the wall and desktop calendars, which will also be released today. My congratulations to all the winners. You have made it to the top of this tough competition. I wish you all the best! My message to the other children, who have enthusiastically participated but could not make it to the winning

entries, is not to get disheartened and discouraged. You have also put in your best efforts and that is equally important.

**Friends,**

6. We all have seen tireless efforts of the members and volunteers of ICRF alongwith other Indian associations in serving the needy members of our community during the difficult period of the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes provision of food, medical, sanitisation kits, accommodation; legal aid and counselling; emergency help; community welfare services etc. – the list is endless. Let me place on record my appreciation for this exceptional work done by ICRF as well as other Indian associations. I also take this opportunity to thank the Leadership and the Government of Bahrain for the care and support extended to our community.

7. I would also like to thank the Indian community in Bahrain and sponsors for their active participation and contribution to ensure success of this event; thereby contributing to the noble cause of welfare and assistance to the Indian community members, particularly, the low income group.

8. I am sure that this year will gradually bring life to normalcy and we will be organising a number of socio-cultural events showcasing our rich cultural heritage and scientific and technological advancement, as well as various facets of the historical and multi-faceted bilateral relations between India and Kingdom of Bahrain, as we celebrate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorating 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence and Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations between India and Kingdom of Bahrain. I look forward to active participation of our community particularly the children in these events.

9. I wish the Spectra 2021 all success! My best wishes to all of you for a very happy New Year 2022!

Thank you!