

Speech by H.E. Mr. Piyush Srivastava
Ambassador of India at the Kingdom of Bahrain
at the Induction ceremony of Executive Committee of Indian Club
[Thursday, 30.12.2021, 2000 hrs]

Mr. K.M. Cherian, President, The Indian Club;

Mr. Stalin Joseph, former President;

**Ms. Najwa A. Lathif Janahi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary of
Rehabilitation and Welfare, Ministry of Labour & Social Development;**

Lt. Col. Mohammed Khalid, Ministry of Interior;

Executive Committee and members of Indian Club;

The President and representatives of other Indian associations;

Dear members of Indian community.

Good evening to all of you!!!

1. Let me begin by congratulating the new President and Executive Committee of The Indian Club Bahrain as they took office in November 2021. It gives me immense pleasure today to be a part of the Induction Ceremony of the new Executive Committee of the Indian Club.

2. The Embassy has been closely associated with the Indian Associations in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Indian Club has been actively involved, not only in organizing cultural events, but also in the community outreach programmes specially during the pandemic. I take this opportunity to place on record my appreciation to Mr. Stalin, outgoing President and his team for the tremendous work done during their tenure.

3. Indian Club is the oldest community organisation of Indian community in Bahrain and has been, for over a century, not only giving a place to the community members to meet, interact and express their creative and sporting talent, but has also been instrumental in showcasing India's diversity and cultural heritage to Bahraini as well as people from other nationalities.

4. I look forward to continue working with the new team of Indian Club. We have full calendar for the year 2022 as we continue with celebrations of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate 75th anniversary of India's independence, and the Golden Jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Kingdom of Bahrain.

Friends,

5. The relations between India and Kingdom of Bahrain, rooted in history and close trade, cultural and people to people connect, date back thousands of years to the period of Dilmun and Indus Valley civilizations. Over the years, our bilateral cooperation has been strengthened and diversified.

6. The vibrant and dynamic Indian community in Bahrain constitutes an important link in our bilateral ties. Indian Club and other Indian associations and community members in Bahrain have been instrumental in promoting people to people ties between our two countries which form the bedrock of our excellent bilateral relations and multi-faceted cooperation across all sectors today.

7. This was visible as our two countries collaborated and cooperated in dealing with Covid-19 pandemic. I also take this opportunity to convey, on behalf of the Indian community in Bahrain, our sincere appreciation and thanks to His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the Government of Bahrain for the care of Indian community during difficult times of the pandemic, and also convey our greetings and best wishes to them for the New Year.

Friends,

8. As we step into 2022, let's welcome the New Year with the spirit of hope as we bid goodbye to a year that has taught us many life lessons through one of the most disruptive pandemics in recent memory.

9. I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all of you. May this year be filled with joy, prosperity, hope and wellness!

10. Before concluding, I once again congratulate the new Executive Committee of the Indian Club and wish them all success. I assure you of Embassy's continuous support in all your future endeavours.

Thank you.
