

Speech by H.E. Mr. Piyush Srivastava

Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain

at Logo Launch Event to commence the celebrations for the Golden Jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Kingdom of Bahrain

(September 19, 2021, 1100 hrs.)

Your Excellency Ambassador Abdulrahman Al Gaoud,
Ambassador of Kingdom of Bahrain to India;

Your Excellency Ambassador Fatima Abdulla Al Dhaen
Chief of Afro-Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Dignitaries of the Government and Private sector of Bahrain;
Chairpersons of Indian and Bahraini Associations;

Distinguished Guests;
Friends from Media;

A very Good Morning to all of you!

Namaskar!

Salaam Walekum!

I welcome you all to this Logo Launch ceremony to mark the celebrations for the golden jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Kingdom of Bahrain.

2. We are thankful to all of you for your presence today. In particular, I would like to thank H.E. Ambassador Abdulrahman Al Gaoud and Her Excellency Ambassador Fatima Abdulla Al Dhaen for gracing this occasion.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

3. This is a landmark year for us as we are reaching a milestone in the journey of our bilateral relations. India and Kingdom of Bahrain are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of establishment of diplomatic relations.

4. Though the diplomatic relation between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain has been established for the past 50 years, our two countries share warm and friendly bilateral relations and its people to people connect goes far back in the history. The trade relations can be traced back to 5000 years ago to the Dilmun civilization of Bahrain and Indus valley civilisation of India. The deep cultural connect between India and Bahrain is showcased in the LITTLE INDIA in Bahrain at the heart of Manama and the 200 years old Shreenathji temple.

5. Our bonds of friendship have been further strengthened in recent years due to regular high level political interaction and exchanges, and our bilateral cooperation has diversified and expanded. Despite restrictions imposed by COVID, the relationship at all levels have remained stable and strong.

6. This was evident in our excellent cooperation and collaboration in dealing with COVID-19 pandemic. Bahrain is among the most successful countries in dealing with the pandemic. The Kingdom's care of Indian diaspora, including providing free vaccination at par with its citizens, is praiseworthy. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the Government of Bahrain for the same.

7. On its part, the Indian community in Bahrain has stood together in these difficult times and contributed to the Kingdom's efforts in fighting the pandemic. They have followed all the Covid protocols and guidelines of the Government of Bahrain. Majority of our community has already got vaccinated. Our vibrant community continue to play a key role in furthering our bilateral ties.

Friends,

8. Today, as we launch the Golden Jubilee logo, I would like to congratulate the winner Mr. Ajo Antony for his participation in this contest. The Logo was selected from among more than 200 entries received. There was enthusiastic participation from the general public and after an elaborate process, the logo was jointly selected by the Indian and Bahraini Government.

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

9. I look forward to celebrating this landmark occasion with a series of events lined up over the course of next year, including the main event on 12th October 2021 this year. I invite all of you – the Bahraini dignitaries, Indian community members and associations as well as friends of India in Bahrain to join us in these celebrations. I also take this opportunity to thank the Bahraini Government authorities for their support as well as to our Indian associations for their efforts and collaborating with the Embassy in organising these.

10. I once again thank you all for joining the celebrations. It is an occasion also to re-commit ourselves to work towards further strengthening the long standing dynamic partnership between India and Kingdom of Bahrain.

Long live India – Bahrain friendship!

Thank you.