

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

At St. Mary's Orthodox Syrian Church Bahrain

[Thursday, 16 December 2021; 1030 hrs]

Reverend Father Biju Philipose, President, St. Mary's Church;

Reverend Dileep Davidson Mark, President, KCEC;

Adv V.K. Thomas, Vice Chairman, ICRF;

**Mr. Soman Baby, noted journalist and Pravasi Bharatiya
Sammaan Awardee;**

Friends,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

A very Good Morning to all of you!

1. It is my pleasure to be present amongst you today for “Hamari Mitti Hamari Awaaz” event being organized by St. Mary's Orthodox Syrian Church Bahrain as a part of India@75 celebrations. It is a matter of great happiness and joy that this event coincides with 50th National Day celebrations of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

2. This year is a milestone in the journey of our bilateral relations as we are also celebrating the Golden Jubilee of establishment of Diplomatic relations between India & Bahrain. Our relations 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. The vibrant and dynamic Indian community in Bahrain constitutes an important link in our bilateral ties.

3. I am pleased to see this unique patriotic song competition put together by all of you, to celebrate India's diversity and rich cultural heritage. I am looking forward to hearing some patriotic songs sung in diverse languages including Hindi and Malayalam.

4. As you all are aware, the Government of India is celebrating the 75th anniversary of India's independence in a grand manner, not only in India but also in countries abroad. The one of the common themes of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations is showcasing India's rich history, culture as well as tremendous strides in socio-economic development and scientific, technical and industrial advances.

5. I am really encouraged by the enthusiastic participation of Indian community and organisations in putting together a vibrant bouquet of events celebrating these facets of our motherland.

6. It is heartening to see participation of our Bahraini friends in these events. Both our peoples celebrating each other's success and festivals reflects the resilience of friendship between the people of our two countries. Just today morning, I flagged off a biker rally consisting of about 60 Indian bikers celebrating the National Day of Kingdom of Bahrain.

7. Before concluding, I would like to place on record my appreciation and thanks to the organisers for putting together this wonderful program. I wish the event all success.

Thank you!