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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Subject: Participation of Indian Community in Kuwait in India’s social and development programmes, particularly flagship initiatives of the Government of India.**

 During the visit of Hon’ble PM and other senior leadership to foreign countries, Indian diaspora has shown keen interest in participating in India’s social and development programs, and flagship initiatives of Government of India such as, Swachh Bharat and Namami Gange.

2. To facilitate contributions/philanthropy by NRI/PIOs to India, Government of India had set up a not-for-profit Trust known as **India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI)** in 2008 to serve as a single window for overseas Indian philanthropy/contributions by NRIs/PIOs to India. Following the merger of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with Ministry of External Affairs, IDF-OI is now under the Ministry of External Affairs and is chaired by Hon’ble External Affairs Minister. The IDF-OI has gathered a pool of nearly 100 social and developmental projects pertaining to Swachh Bharat, sanitation, education, women’s empowerment and sustainable livelihood after consultation with States in India. Following are the highlights of IDF-OI mechanism:

(a)       IDF-OI has received exemption from MHA under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA 2010) owing to which it has necessary permissions to receive contributions in foreign currency.

(b)   IDF-OI does not charge/deduct any administrative charges from the contributions it receives from NRIs/PIOs. Except the bank transaction charges the entire amount received from NRIs/PIOs is transferred to the project implementing agency.

(c)  To enable oversight of implementation of programmes funded by overseas Indian donors, an agreement will be signed between IDF-OI and project implementing agency.

(d)       Implementing agency for the programme will send regular feedback reports, photos and statement of utilization of funds to the donor. These will also be posted on IDF-OI’s website.

(e)   At the site of project funded by the NRI/PIO donors will get an acknowledgement with a signage which states that   “*The project has been funded by Shri/Shrimati......... through   IDF-OI”*.

3. As a result of revamping and outreach efforts, it may be noted that IDF-OI has already received the following contributions from overseas Indians in the last six months:-

(i)        Rs.72 lakh for construction of community toilets in Kerala; and

(ii)       Rs. 26 lakh for the Namami Gange project.

4.        IDF-OI is setting up a Payment Gateway through its website which will enable NRIs and PIOs to contribute even small amounts ranging from a few dollars using their credit cards or debit cards online to projects of their choice offered by IDF-OI.

5.        The Embassy of India in Kuwait seeks active support/participation of 8.8 lakh strong Indian Diaspora in Kuwait to above social and developmental programmes/flagship initiatives of GOI for contribution to the projects offered by IDF-OI.

6. Further information is available at IDF-OI website [www.idfoi.org](http://www.idfoi.org).

**5 April 2016**