**INDIA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION OF OVERSEAS INDIANS (IDF-OI)**

India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) is a not-for-profit trust registered under Government of India established to serve as a credible institutional avenue to enable overseas Indians to engage in philanthropy to supplement India's social and development efforts. IDF-OI channelises the philanthropic propensities and resources of the overseas Indian community into national development and social projects. Trust is chaired by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs. The Trust is exempt from the provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010.

In 2015-16, IDF OI will focus its efforts on enhancing Diaspora's contribution to India's social & development programme and increase outreach to the Indian Diaspora. It will enhance engagement with overseas Indians and increase the number and variety of projects. IDF-OI will partner with the Government of India's flagship initiatives like the Swachh Bharat and Namami Gange and facilitate overseas Indian philanthropy into these projects. IDF-OI will also partner with the State Govts to select projects identified by the State Governments and seek overseas Indians' engagement with these projects.

Following are the main aspects of IDF-OI mechanisms:

(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......... through   IDF-OI”*.

As a result of revamping and outreach efforts 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.

(ii)       Rs. 25 lakh for the Namami Gange project.

(iii)     Rs. 1 lakh for the Namami Gange project.

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.

For more information please visit the following link:

<http://idfoi.org/default.aspx>