

**Remarks by Ambassador at the event to
Honour India's Blood Donor Heroes on June 14, 2021**

President of Indian Doctors' Forum Dr. Amir Ahmed, Dr. Sadaf Alam, from Sabah Maternity Hospital, Ministry of Health, Office Bearers of Blood Donors Kerala Kuwait Chapter, Office Bearers of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Youth Club, Office Bearers of various groups and associations joining today with us, members of the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good evening and Welcome.

I begin my address today by thanking His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait for hosting the large Indian community in Kuwait and for the care and support the Government and the people of Kuwait extend to the Indian community during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Today is World Blood Donor Day. It is a very important day. For us it is a day to remember and honour many of our blood donor heroes. There are many of them, in most cases they are our unsung heroes. Today, let us also remember and thank our medical professionals, our doctors and our nurses who silently do their job and on most occasions go beyond the call of their duty to help our brothers and sisters in need particularly in this devastating pandemic situation.

Many of their services they do silently, let me mention just one experience that I had yesterday. During a visit to the domestic workers shelter run by the Embassy I was moved to hear about the silent services of our Indian Doctors Forum and our doctors who conduct regular medical tests for female and male domestic workers in the shelter. The number of workers in the shelter are small now, six female workers and three male workers are we hope to send them back to India in the next two weeks. Like our doctors and nurses, our blood donors also silently help save many lives;

without seeking any fame or glory. Let me repeat, for us in Kuwait, our blood donors are our unsung heroes. They are our national heroes because they voluntarily donate blood to save lives.

I remember reading as a child, a blood donation truly is a gift of life that a healthy individual can give to others in their community who are sick or injured. Access to sufficient, secure supplies of blood and blood products and safe transfusion services is an essential part of any strong health system, and is an important component of efforts towards achieving the goal of universal health coverage. Our blood can give a random stranger or a loved one another day in life. I am told that Indian community has been successful in providing some of the rare blood groups such as Bombay group. A feeling that you made a difference for somebody is probably one of the best feelings one can ever have. I also had the experience of donating blood during my youth, a memory that I cherish even today.

I congratulate the Indian youth in Kuwait who come voluntarily forward and regularly donate blood. Since my arrival in Kuwait in August last year, I noted with great admiration the enthusiasm shown by various Indian youth groups in Kuwait to work tirelessly to help those in need. They come forward sacrificing their time and energy to the common cause. If there is one event that I long to attend regularly or depute an officer from the Embassy to attend it is blood donation camp.

The Ministry of Health of the State of Kuwait has expressed their appreciation for the efforts of Indians who donate blood. I am happy to note that Indian youth are the highest in numbers who donate blood in Kuwait. We will soon hear a message from Dr. Hanan Al Awadhi, Director of Blood Transfusion and Administration Services. Today morning I spoke to her and we had a good conversation where she personally thanked me for Indian community being the largest blood donor community in Kuwait.

I commend the efforts of various groups and associations in regularly organizing blood donation camps. Through their campaigns in association with our doctors and medical professionals, they give the youth an opportunity to participate in blood donation drives. I was so delighted to know that Blood Donors Kerala, Kuwait Chapter has over two thousand five hundred regular donors with various blood groups that are connected through several WhatsApp groups and are ready to donate anytime on call. I also acknowledge the role being played by other groups such as Shaheed Bhagat Singh Youth Club, Tulukoota Kuwait, Indian Dentists Alliance Kuwait, Youth India Kuwait, IFL, UP NRI Forum Kuwait, The Dawood Bohras Group, Life Again, Maharashtra Mandal and many others who have joined us here, physically and virtually.

I am so happy to know about the various programs being organized by groups by organizing awareness programs for students and youth, setting up information booths and data collection, organizing

blood donation drives, campaigns in various malls, campaigns at labour camps, cross-country road shows, and online promotion using social media. Their efforts to educate, motivate and recruit new blood donors and mobilise youth as a new generation of voluntary blood donors should be appreciated and honoured.

The event that we organize today at the Embassy is part of our efforts to celebrate the contributions of our brothers and sisters and our youth who are India's blood donor heroes. I thank them I salute them. I wish them all the best. In support of their efforts, I am happy to announce the launch of a blood donation data counter at the Embassy to coordinate with various associations and groups and the Kuwaiti authorities.

With those words, I once again thank the associations and groups who came forward to join us in this celebrations. Thank you.
