

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR SIBI GEORGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH  
OF THE THEMATIC LIBRARY OF THE EMBASSY, AUG 26, 2020**

Good Afternoon everybody,

Welcome to Embassy of India.

I am happy to join you today at the launch of the Thematic Library at the Embassy.

These are difficult times for all of us and certainly for many of our brothers and sisters here. Many are in no mood or in a position to celebrate any festivals. Many families are divided, with parents at some place and children at another place. Some have not been able to meet their aged parents and young children for several months.

We in the Embassy could not celebrate the Independence Day here on Aug 15 in a big way. We missed the gathering here at this premises, where people from all walks of life came in large numbers to meet together, greet together and celebrate together our values and our ethos. We do not know when will be able to come together in such large numbers

While we will do everything we can do to help our brothers and sisters in need here in Kuwait, we cannot let our several festivals and memories of our heroes go unobserved and uncelebrated. We have a rich and varied culture, a continuous civilization, which we are all proud of. As a nation of festivals and celebrations, we are committed to celebrate every Indian festival here. We will also together remember, honour and pay homage to every Indian hero. We are committed to cherish and uphold the values and principles of our constitution. We are determined to celebrate our unity in diversity. The launch of our Thematic Library is a small step in that direction.

As you can see, we have a rich library here, with thousands of books. But in this day of digital world, the physical use of the library has come down drastically. Even before the Covid pandemic hit us, the footfalls at the library had fallen considerably. Our endeavor through the Thematic Library is to hold convert this library into a digital platform for celebrating India in Kuwait every day. I thank my colleagues in the Mission for their initiative in this, particularly Shri Fahad Ahmed Suri and his team for their efforts in making this happen today. I thank our journalist friends for joining us today.

As a diplomat who spent considerable time in this part of the world, I recall the several Onam celebrations that I attended with my family. Onam was one of the most celebrated festivals in the Gulf, perhaps the most celebrated. We are all missing this Onam celebrations today. It is in this context that we in the Embassy has selected Festivals of India, particularly Onam as the inaugural theme of our Thematic Library.

I wish all of you, all Malayalees, Indians and Friends of India a happy Onam.

Thank you.

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