

REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR SIBI GEORGE AT THE VIRTUAL BRIEFING ON CPV OUTSOURCING CENTERS, JANUARY 9, 2022

Good Afternoon everybody, a very warm welcome to this virtual briefing meeting on the new outsourcing premises by BLS.

Let me begin by wishing you all warm greetings on the occasion of Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. We join the celebrations of our brothers and sisters in India and in Kuwait on this auspicious occasion. In his message today, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji said, and I quote: "Greetings on the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. His life and message give strength to millions of people." Unquote. In his message Hon'ble Prime Minister also announced that December 26 will now be celebrated as 'Veer Baal Diwas' to commemorate the martyrdom of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh Ji and Sahibzada Fateh Singh Ji every year.

Greetings also on the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas that we celebrate every year on January 9, which is the day Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa. Today morning we had a virtual meeting of Youth PBD on the Role of Indian Diaspora in Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, Innovation and New Technologies' which was addressed by Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan Ji. Many of you attended the Conference on line.

In his message today, Hon'ble Prime Minister said, I quote" "Greetings to everyone, especially the Indian diaspora on Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas. Our diaspora has distinguished itself all over the world and has excelled in different spheres. At the same time, they have remained connected to their roots. We are proud of their accomplishments." Unquote.

Dear Friends,

I wanted today's briefing session to be organized with the participation of a live audience at the Embassy auditorium. Due to the new Covid 19 protocol we are organizing it virtually only. We are going through a very difficult time with a rapid increase in the number of Covid 19

cases. We have seen that in recent weeks there is a spike in cases. We have a few cases in the Embassy today, as a precaution we are closing the attestation services for tomorrow.

Starting January 11, we will have attestation services from the new outsourcing centers of I reiterate all to adhere to and abide by the regulations and procedures announced by the Government of the State of Kuwait to combat and limit the spread of the virus. I urge all Indians who have not taken their vaccines to immediately take vaccines and also booster shots early.

I request the ones who have any contact with any covid-19 positive patient and/or showing any symptoms to immediately visit the nearest health facility for appropriate medical consultation/check-up without any hesitation or delay. The Embassy is ready to provide any assistance including meeting the medical expenses for all emergency medical cases on a means tested basis.

We have also circulated a list of over fifty Indian doctors of Indian Doctors Forum who have volunteered to extend free tele-consultations to those in need. I thank IDF and our doctors for their service. Please note that our Indian Community Support Group (ICSG) and our many associations are ready to extend all support. Any issues, please bring it to our attention immediately. Together we will face this challenge.

I urge groups and associations to avoid all social gatherings. We will shift to virtual mode and avoid physical gathering in organizing various events such as our Republic Day celebrations on January 26 and also National Youth Day on January 12.

Dear Friends,

Today's online session is to brief you on the new outsourcing centers managed by BLS. We are moving to new premises at Sharq, Jaleeb Abassia and Fahaheel. Starting on 8 AM on January 11, we will operate from new premises. I will visit Sharq at 12 noon tomorrow followed by Jaleeb Abassiah and Fahaheel. We will regularly visit the place, we will also have our embassy officers present at the premises

on a regular basis. As this background screen here says, better services, better facilities is the motto that I have set for the new centers. We have also moved the attestation services to the outsourcing centers, as part of our efforts to bring services closer home.

I am sure that they will meet my expectations, your expectations, our expectations. We will work very closely with BLS to ensure that we offer the best services and maintain best facilities. I am confident that BLS centers in Kuwait will become the best outsourcing service in Kuwait and also offer best service of all Indian outsourcing centers abroad. I look forward to your regular feedback on the services and facilities.

We will have a few presentations today giving details of the services and facilities there. Let's listen in.

Thank you.