

**Remarks of Ambassador at the Closing Ceremony of
Namaste Kuwait- “Glimpses of Timeless India”, an Art
Exhibition and India-Kuwait Cultural Festival – Rekindling of
Timeless Journey towards a Dynamic Partnership,
30 September 2021**

His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rasoul Salman, President, Kuwait Arts Association, the organizer of this Arts Exhibition;
Excellencies; Distinguished Dignitaries; Esteemed Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen

A very Good Evening to all of you. Welcome to the Glimpses of Timeless India and the India-Kuwait Cultural Festival.

At the outset, I would like to thank 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, for hosting the large Indian community in Kuwait and for looking after our community during the Covid 19 pandemic. On behalf of the Government of India and the Indians in Kuwait, I extend our sincere greetings to His Highness on this important anniversary of his assumption of the highest office of Amir of the State of Kuwait.

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to attend this concluding session of Namaste Kuwait. Two important cultural initiatives, an Art Exhibition on the essence of Timeless India, and the Cultural Festival bringing alive the cultural heritage of the majestic land that India is and connecting cultures and peoples of our two friendly countries. Both of these initiatives were aimed at further broadening the rich canvas of cultural engagement and further strengthening our already close civilizational affinities and linkages.

I am delighted to see many of the friends of India in Kuwait and Excellencies, my colleagues from diplomat corps in Kuwait who have come here to join this grand finale. This grand finale is indeed an occasion of grand gathering of dear friends and eminence. I would like to, on behalf of the Embassy and our co-host of the event Kuwait Arts Association, extend warm welcome to all the distinguished guests.

Dear Friends,

For the last ten days we have been witnessing extravaganza performed by our highly talented cultural artistes. I also believe, the exhibition and performance proved to be a remarkable culture event between India and Kuwait.

As I said at the inaugural event, in the rich history of our partnership, this year, 2021, bears a remarkable significance. This year we celebrate a unique confluence of two important milestones. The year 2021 marks the 60th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Kuwait. This is an important milestone in our shared journey towards a shared history of sustainable progress, development and prosperity of the peoples of our two friendly countries. And this year, we, in India, celebrate the 75th Independence Day of India.

Both these milestones are significant and we at Embassy have made it a top priority to celebrate these events with our close partners from Kuwait and our Indian nationals and friends of India in Kuwait in a befitting manner. Many events have already been organized the Embassy under these broad themes and we will continue to do so in the days, weeks and months ahead. This Arts Exhibition and the Cultural Festival were a part of this overall endeavor when friends from both sides join hands to tell a common tale resonating with all sections of our societies. I would like to thank all the Indian Community Associations, Community members and all the Indian artists and our children who have joined hands in this effort to showcase Indian culture and heritage at the Cultural Festival.

On this occasion, I am happy to announce that the Embassy is today formally launching the Indian Women Network (IWN). I have seen the talent and contribution of our women during the last ten days. In fact, they have been in the forefront of community support during the Covid-19 crisis. I have seen some of our women taken the initiative of working with hospitals and also helping our special need children.

I think it is important to join hands together to celebrate India in Kuwait and also to promote our talent. At the same time, continue to help those in need. We have already conducted a registration drive for Indian Women's Network. I look forward to more events being organized by Indian Women's Network in coming weeks and months.

Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my best wishes to Madam Joice Sibi whose paintings have helped Kuwaiti friends to explore more about India. It was so gratifying experience to see so many of our Kuwaiti friends and our friends of India in Kuwait visiting this painting exhibition. She has promised to organize another exhibition exclusively of paintings made in Kuwait. I look forward to that.

My special thanks to His Excellency Mr. Kamel Abdul Jalil, Secretary General, National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters, State of Kuwait who inaugurated our festival and is in the forefront of taking our cultural relations to a new higher level of partnership. I thank His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rasoul Salman, President, Kuwait Arts Association, who always welcomes us with open hands and his entire team for the personal attention they showed in making this event a reality.

I would also like to personally invite all friends of India in Kuwait to visit India and explore more of Indian diverse culture. India offers everything that a tourist is looking for. Let's continue this partnership, let's continue this friendly relationship.

Thank You.