

Remarks of Ambassador at the Inaugural Ceremony of “Glimpses of Timeless India”, an Art Exhibition and India-Kuwait Cultural Festival – Rekindling of Timeless Journey towards a Dynamic Partnership,

20 September 2021

His Excellency Mr. Kamel Abdul Jalil, Secretary General, National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters, State of Kuwait;

His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rasoul Salman, President, Kuwait Arts Association, the organizer of this Arts Exhibition; Our artist of the day Madam Joice Sibi,

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 Mishaal 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.

It is my honor to attend this inauguration of 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 are 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 celebrations. This inauguration 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,

We have seen really challenging times during the past year and half. It has extracted every ounce of our energies and strong will to stay afloat, survive and we are on the way to win this battle comprehensively. Every section of societies across the world has faced these difficult times in one form or the other; the form and magnitude of challenge was the only variable. Like in India, here in Kuwait too, all of us have faced this challenge remarkably well. Our two countries have fought this battle together and have helped each other like how traditional friends do.

With near universal coverage of COVID-19 vaccine and a steady decline in new infections, we may be nearing the end of this difficult phase for humanity as a whole. Whilst we still need to be guarded, it is important for us to also rebound, reengage and revitalize for activities. It is in this context that this 11-day Art exhibition and Cultural Extravaganza has been conceptualized. It is perhaps the time to reboot or rekindle our Timeless Journey to reach our shared destiny and realize the true potential of this long standing dynamic partnership.

Dear Friends,

India has a vibrant artistic legacy; the work of art you witnessed today is a result of this rich legacy which has been shaped and refined over several centuries of cultural influences. There is a rich diversity of art in India with vivid, distinct, and enchanting styles that represent many different civilizational periods and the many different regions and the kingdoms that dominated these regions during the course of India's long, ancient yet continuous history.

Each style of painting that emerged in India represented traditions, customs, and beliefs passed down over several generations. From the

early paintings that existed on walls or as murals, to more modern materials such as paper, canvas, cloth, and other mediums; Indian paintings embody the treasures of Indian civilization of thousands of years. Be it the evocative portrayal of culture and tradition in the Madhubani style, or the highly detailed and intricate depictions of the Miniature artists, or the vibrant imagery of the scroll painting form “Pattachitra”; Indian painting stands out for elegance and magnificence.

“Glimpses of Timeless India”, which is the title of the Art Exhibition, is a story of India, its splendor, its magnificence, its pristine beauty, its serene landscapes, its values, its traditions, its principles, its people, their lives, their emotions, their triumphs, and many more. It’s a visually rich narrative carved on canvas by the artist with every stroke of the brush bringing alive the story of the world’s most ancient, continuous civilization.

A lot of hard work has gone in the making of not only the paintings but also in curating this Exhibition. In this regard, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rasoul Salman, President of Kuwait Arts Association, and all its members for their untiring efforts in organizing this splendid event which is a true reflection of India-Kuwait friendship in action.

Dear Friends

Tonight, we are also going to enjoy an extravaganza performed by our highly talented cultural artistes. The performance, I believe will not only be magnificent but also moving and touching. I also believe, the exhibition and performance will prove to be a remarkable culture event between India and Kuwait. For the benefit of our friends in Kuwait and also keeping in mind COVID related safety precautions, we have spread out the cultural festival over the entire duration of the Art Exhibition. We will be organizing tailored, curated, and different cultural

performances over the 11-day period showcasing various facets of India's diverse cultural heritage.

To place it in context, today's event is a celebration of the vibrant and dynamic partnership between our two friendly countries, India and Kuwait. Our ties are time tested, they have been built over strong foundations by our peoples over centuries based on mutual trust and respect. Over time, nurtured by vibrant people to people connect and civilizational affinities, the partnership has blossomed into a forward looking dynamic partnership. I am confident that this relationship will continue to prosper and evolve into a new age, New India-New Kuwait partnership connecting the visions of the leadership of our two friendly countries for mutual development and progress of the peoples of our two countries.

In this rich history of our partnership, this year, 2021, bears a remarkable significance. This year we celebrate a unique confluence of 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, a diamond jubilee marker.

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 are 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 who have

joined hands in this effort to showcase Indian culture and heritage at the Cultural Festival.

Dear Friends,

To conclude, I would like to extend my best wishes to Madam Joice Sibi, the artist of the day; Kuwait Arts Association; and all other artists, individuals concerned with the Art Exhibition and the Cultural Festival for the success of the event. My special thanks to His Excellency Mr. Kamel Abdul Jalil, Secretary General, National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters, State of Kuwait who 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 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 and Indian nationals in Kuwait to visit the Art Exhibition and the Cultural Festival and get a Glimpse of the Wonder that Timeless India is.

Thank You.