

Global One-Stop Centres

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Context : The Ministry of External Affairs recently received approval from the Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to establish **nine Global One-Stop Centres (OSCs)**.

About Global One-Stop Centres (OSCs)

These centres aim to provide **comprehensive assistance to women in vulnerable situations**, addressing their immediate needs and offering critical support.

1. Locations and Facilities

- **Seven OSCs** with shelter homes will be established in **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia** (both Jeddah and Riyadh).
- **Two OSCs** in **Toronto and Singapore** will function **without shelter home facilities**.

2. Funding and Implementation

- The Ministry of External Affairs has introduced a **dedicated budget line** to support these initiatives.
- The **Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)** will play a pivotal role in extending welfare measures to distressed Indian nationals, especially women.

3. Scope of ICWF Assistance

- Provides emergency support, including **boarding, lodging, medical care, air travel, and repatriation of mortal remains**.
- Offers **legal aid and counselling** for women abandoned by their overseas Indian or foreign spouses.
- Facilitates the **payment of fines** for minor legal infractions to secure the release of Indian nationals.

4. Legal Support Measures

- **Dedicated legal panels** have been set up in countries with significant Indian populations to provide timely support.

The initiative reflects a significant step toward safeguarding the welfare of Indian women and vulnerable groups abroad.

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