



Pravasi Legal Cell Kerala Chapter <plckeralatvm@gmail.com>

Integration of the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) into the Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2025

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Sat, Nov 1, 2025 at 8:29 AM

To: us1.epw@mea.gov.in, consultant4.epw@mea.gov.in, so2oia1@mea.gov.in

Resolution on Integration of the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) into the Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2025

(Submitted by Anilkumar, PLC Kerala Chapter Ex. Committee Member)

Whereas, the *Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)*, established by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in 2009, serves as the primary financial mechanism for providing welfare, legal, and emergency assistance to Indian citizens living and working abroad through the network of Indian Embassies, Consulates, and High Commissions;

Whereas, despite substantial corpus funds available under the ICWF across various missions, utilisation has remained minimal, primarily due to the absence of a statutory framework mandating expenditure or ensuring accountability;

Whereas, the *Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2025*, which seeks to repeal and replace the *Emigration Act, 1983*, introduces a comprehensive structure for managing overseas employment and welfare through the establishment of the *Overseas Mobility and Welfare Council* and related institutions;

Whereas, Section 4(j) of the said Bill authorises the Central Government to constitute and administer a *Welfare Fund* for promoting the welfare of Indian citizens living abroad, and Sections 26, 27, 32, and 33 empower the Government to frame rules, regulations, and audit mechanisms in respect of such funds;

Whereas, integrating the existing ICWF into the new statutory framework would—

1. Provide legal recognition and enforceability to welfare support extended by Indian Missions abroad;
2. Enable judicial oversight and transparency through statutory audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and Parliamentary reporting;
3. Empower overseas Indian workers, their families, and community organisations to seek utilisation of funds as a matter of right, rather than at administrative discretion;
4. Promote efficient utilisation of welfare funds, ensuring that assistance for repatriation, legal aid, death compensation, and emergency relief reaches beneficiaries without delay; and

5. Strengthen India's compliance with international obligations under the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and the ILO Conventions on migrant protection.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That:

1. The Pravasi Legal Cell (PLC) urges the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to formally integrate the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) into the statutory framework of the *Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2025*, by explicitly recognising it as the Welfare Fund under Section 4(j) of the Bill.
2. The PLC further recommends that clear provisions be incorporated in the Bill or its subordinate rules to:
 - a. Ensure mandatory and transparent utilisation of ICWF funds for all approved welfare purposes;
 - b. Create a grievance redressal and appeal mechanism enabling beneficiaries and registered community organisations to demand welfare support under the Act; and
 - c. Mandate annual publication and audit of ICWF utilisation reports by all Indian Missions abroad.
3. The PLC Kerala Chapter shall transmit this resolution to the Ministry of External Affairs, with copies to the Standing Committee on External Affairs, Government of India, and the Government of Kerala (NORKA Department), urging their support for early statutory integration of the ICWF.

Adopted this 18th day of October, 2025

at the Annual General Meeting of the Pravasi Legal Cell (PLC) Kerala Chapter

Proposed by: Anilkumar, Ex. Committee Member of PLC Kerala Chapter

Seconded by: Jihangir

Resolution No.: 101 / 2025

Sincerely,



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