

Embassy of India Newsletter

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE EMBASSY OF INDIA, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN



No.03/2024



JUL - SEP 2024

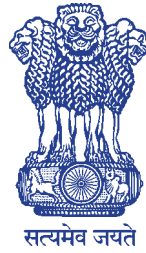


78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS



AMBASSADOR'S PAGE

Vishnu Kumar Sharma
Ambassador of India to
South Sudan

**FOREWORD**

I am delighted to present the July-September 2024 edition of our Embassy Newsletter, which highlights a dynamic quarter filled with activities, events, and initiatives.

It was uplifting to witness the enthusiastic participation of the Indian community, including peacekeepers and missionaries, in the vibrant celebration of India's 78th Independence Day on August 15 at the Embassy. The quarter also saw the observance of solemn moments like the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, reflecting on our shared history and the enduring lessons of peace and coexistence.

A key focus during this period was the extension of the transitional period under the Revitalized Peace Agreement of 2018 by the South Sudan Government. This crucial decision, supported by India, aims to ensure the necessary conditions are met for free, fair, and peaceful elections in South Sudan, underscoring the importance of proper preparations for credible elections.

Throughout this quarter, we have seen a deepening of India's strong ties with South Sudan. A significant milestone on the bilateral front was the signing of an MoU for the construction of South Sudan's first Seismic Station, a notable development cooperation project. South Sudan also actively participated in India's Voice of Global South Summit 3.0, offering key insights in the Youth Session focused on "Youth Engagement for a Better Future." The Embassy further demonstrated India's commitment to capacity-building by facilitating ICCR scholarships for 30 South Sudanese students.

Strengthening business ties was another priority this quarter. Our discussions with prominent Indian businessmen provided valuable insights into the challenges faced in South Sudan's economic climate, guiding our efforts toward improving the business environment. Indian entrepreneurship continued to shine, with the opening of the "Tannur Restaurant" and "Terrace" bar lounge at Panorama Plaza Hotel, showcasing resilience and determination during these testing times. Cultural celebrations such as Ganesh Mahotsav and Onam united our community in honouring India's rich heritage.

Aligned with India's ethos of service and sustainability, the Embassy, joined by the Indian community and local population, actively participated in the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign and the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative, reinforcing our commitment to environmental stewardship and cleanliness, in line with India's leadership on global sustainability issues.

I commend the dedication of our Indian peacekeepers in their efforts to promote stability in this region and recognize the continued impact of Indian religious organizations like the Daughters of Mary Immaculate in improving local livelihoods.

As we look ahead, I remain confident in the growing partnership between India and South Sudan. Through growth of Indian engagement in education, health-care, business and service, this relationship continues to flourish. My sincere thanks go to the Indian community, our South Sudanese friends, and our partners for their unwavering support in this shared journey.

Thank you.

(Vishnu Kumar Sharma)
Ambassador

78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Embassy of India in Juba celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotism, attracting around 200 participants. Among the attendees were members of the expanding Indian community in South Sudan, the UNMISS Force Commander, Indian peacekeepers from UNMISS, UNPOL, and representatives from other international organizations.

Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma hoisted the National Flag and highlighted the strong bilateral relationship between India and South Sudan. He expressed his appreciation for the community's support and encouraged them to register on the "Pravasi Rishta Portal."

The Ambassador commended Indian peacekeepers for their vital contributions to peace-building and enhancing India's global standing. He also recognized the efforts of Indian religious groups, such as the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, in providing livelihood opportunities to the local population.



INTERACTION WITH ICCR SCHOLARS OF 2024 BATCH



A group of South Sudanese students were awarded scholarships from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), as part of India's capacity-building efforts in South Sudan. At a special event at the Embassy, the Ambassador met the students before their departure to India, providing guidance on what to expect and encouraging them to fully embrace the academic opportunities. He urged them to contribute to South Sudan's development and further strengthen the bond between the two countries. The students expressed sincere gratitude to the Government of India for this opportunity. South Sudanese students have been awarded scholarships sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) as part of the Government of India's capacity-building efforts in South Sudan.

INTERACTION WITH INDIAN BUSINESSMEN



Prominent Indian businessmen in South Sudan gathered at the Indian Embassy in Juba to discuss the business environment. The participants shared their experiences of establishing and managing their businesses over the past 10-15 years under challenging circumstances. They expressed concerns about the ongoing economic situation, particularly the impact on oil revenue due to the disruption in oil transportation caused by pipeline damage in Sudan. They shared insights and feedback with Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma and Mr. Charles Andrew, World Bank Country Manager, about the challenges of doing business, such as the economic downturn and hyperinflation. The discussions included ways to improve the business climate, foster trade, and address security concerns.

PARTITION HORRORS REMEMBRANCE DAY

On August 14, 2024, the Embassy of India in Juba observed "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" to honour the immense suffering during India's 1947 partition. A photo exhibition, inaugurated by Mr. Sanjay Patel, Chairman of the Indian Association in South Sudan, displayed images from partition era. This solemn occasion served as a moment of reflection on one of the most tragic chapters in India's history. The exhibition was also available in digital format.



INDIAN FOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL AT UN HOUSE

Panorama Plaza Restaurant hosted an Indian food and music festival at UN House premises in Juba, featuring authentic Indian cuisine and Bollywood music, creating a vibrant cultural experience. Attendees from UNMISS and expatriates from various nationalities enjoyed a multicultural experience, with guests singing in their native languages. Among the attendees were the Indian Ambassador, the Force Commander of UNMISS, and the ONGC-Videsh country head. Mr. Ravi Prakash, the owner of Panorama Plaza Restaurant, described the gathering as a heartfelt tribute to UNMISS officials, both from India and other nations, who continue to contribute to peace-building efforts in South Sudan despite facing numerous challenges.



MEDICAL CAMP ORGANIZED BY YASHODA HOSPITALS

From August 26-28, 2024, Yashoda Hospitals and Juba Medical Complex held a medical camp, offering specialized consultations and treatments. This collaborative effort aimed to improve healthcare access and providing advanced medical facilities for the South Sudanese community.

Heartfelt thanks to teams from Yashoda Hospitals and Juba Medical Complex for making this camp a success. Looking forward to work together towards better healthcare outcomes for the people of South Sudan.



OPENING NEW BAR LOUNGE TERRACE IN JUBA

On 21 September 2024, Panorama Plaza Hotel, opened "Terrace" Bar Lounge. This new venture reflected the resilience of Indian entrepreneurship, especially in the challenging economic climate of South Sudan. The new "Terrace" lounge adds to the amenities with a relaxing atmosphere and spectacular city views. The opening was attended by ambassadors, diplomats, UN representatives, and members of both the local and expatriate communities, who enjoyed Indian cuisine and live music.



HINDI DIWAS CELEBRATIONS ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Embassy of India in Juba, in collaboration with the Indian Association in South Sudan, celebrated "Hindi Diwas" on 14 September 2024 at the Hindu Temple (JIT premises). The event featured screenings of speeches by India's Honorable Home Minister and Defense Minister, alongside addresses from the Indian Ambassador and other community members, all aimed at promoting the Hindi language. A Hindi essay and poetry competition, as well as poetry recitations, were part of the event. The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the Indian community and Indian peacekeepers serving with UNMISS.



SWACHHATA HI SEWA CAMPAIGN

As part of the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2024, the Indian Embassy in Juba took the Swachhata Pledge, organized Shramdaan (voluntary labour), and worked on reorganizing and managing its official records and files. This initiative was aimed at streamlining operations, enhancing efficiency, and promoting transparency and accountability, reaffirming the Embassy's commitment to cleanliness and service. Let's maintain the momentum and spirit of Swachhata campaign !



"EK PED MAA KR NAAM" CAMPAIGN

Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma and the Embassy team proudly participated in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, a green initiative inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The campaign promotes tree planting and a commitment to a cleaner, greener world.



CELEBRATIONS OF ONAM

The Spicy Herbs Indian Restaurant in Juba, joined by the Malayalee community in South Sudan, hosted a traditional feast on the occasion of Onam festival. Members of the Indian expatriate community and others gathered to celebrate and enjoy traditional Kerala dishes. The Ambassador also took part in the festivities.



INDIAN RESTAURANT "TANNOOR" OPENS IN JUBA

There is an exciting addition in the Indian culinary landscape of Juba with the opening of "Tannur," a new Indian restaurant in the heart of the city. Offering a rich array of traditional dishes, Tannur promises to bring the vibrant flavours of India to Juba. Tannur is a multi-cuisine restaurant catering to the Indian diaspora as well as the local people & other expatriates.



GANESH MAHOTSAV

Devotees of Lord Ganesha in South Sudan celebrated Ganesh Puja in Juba with great fervor. The celebrations culminated on 15 September 2024 with the Visarjan ceremony. The Ambassador joined the devotees in worship at Ganesh Printers and Reliefline premises and also participated in the final Ganesh Visarjan, during which the deity was immersed in the Nile River to the chants of "Ganesh Ji Maharaj Ki Jai" and "Ganapathi Bappa Morya."



HARMONY HEALTH HUB - HEALTHCARE CONSULTING COMPANY IN JUBA

Harmony Health Hub (HHH), an Indian company, was officially registered in Juba on 26 September 2024. This healthcare consulting company aims to revolutionize healthcare access in the region by focusing on medical value tourism, telemedicine, and training for healthcare professionals such as nurses and paramedics, in addition to hospital management. HHH offers online consultations to help patients make informed decisions about treatment abroad, working in partnership with reputed hospitals in India to offer cost-effective options. Along with patient care, HHH is dedicated to strengthening the local healthcare infrastructure through training programs and best practice protocols to achieve world-class clinical outcomes.



BILATERAL COOPERATION



MEETING WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE & PLANNING

On 5 July 2024, Hon. Eng. Awow Daniel Chuang, South Sudan's Minister of Finance and Planning, met with Indian Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma to explore avenues for economic cooperation. The Minister lauded the work of the Indian Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in oil exploration and encouraged India to expand cooperation in other sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and technology. The Ambassador reaffirmed India's commitment to support South Sudan through technology transfer and training.



MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR TRADE & INDUSTRY

Ambassador Sharma met with Hon. Joseph Moum Majak, South Sudan's Minister for Trade and Industry, and extended an invitation for South Sudan to participate in the 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave in August 2024. They discussed ways to strengthen trade relations, overcome existing challenges, and explore mutual benefits through the recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia.



MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Ambassador discussed with Hon. Monday Semaya Kumba, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, to explore enhanced cooperation between South Sudan and India. Their conversation touched on issues such as scholarships for South Sudanese students and addressing the challenges they face. Hon. Kumba expressed his desire to strengthen ties further and encouraged Indian investors to consider developmental opportunities in South Sudan.



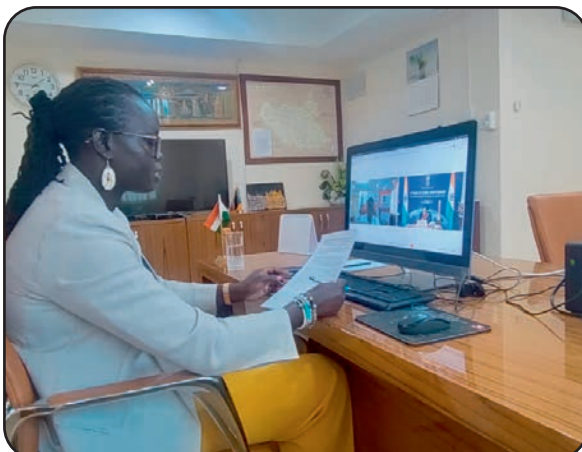
MEETING WITH CENTRAL EQUATORIA GOVERNOR

To follow up on the compensation case of an Indian national, pending for over 10 years, the Ambassador had a meeting with the Central Equatoria State Governor Augutino Jadalla Wani on 16 September. Another case of pending payment to Guru Nanak Institutions, Hyderabad, where the State had sponsored 42 South Sudanese students to study, was also taken up during the meeting.



MEETING WITH THE HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Ambassador Sharma welcomed Hon. Prof. Julia Aker Duany, Head of South Sudan's Civil Service Commission, for discussions focused on improving the country's civil services. The meeting explored capacity-building initiatives and public administration development aimed at increasing the effectiveness of South Sudan's civil service.



3rd VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT – VOGSS 3.0

Hon. Deborah Akech Kuocnin Manyiel, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, represented South Sudan at the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 August 2024, held online under the theme "Youth Engagement for a Better Future." During her address, Hon. Deborah thanked the Government of India for its support in capacity building and requested further assistance in areas such as sports infrastructure, digitization, and youth training programs tailored to South Sudan's needs.



Meeting with DG - Ministry of Culture, Museum & National Heritage

Ambassador Sharma had a productive meeting with the Director General of the Ministry of Culture, Museum, and National Heritage of South Sudan. They discussed opportunities to strengthen cultural cooperation between the two nations, focusing on preserving South Sudan's national heritage and fostering mutual understanding through cultural exchange and capacity-building initiatives.

SIGNING OF MoU FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST SEISMIC STATION

The Embassy of India in Juba and South Sudan's Ministry of Mining have signed a landmark MoU to establish the country's first Seismic Station Observatory. This significant event, attended by Hon. Martin Gama Abucha, South Sudan's Minister for Mining, signifies a new phase in the development partnership between the two nations. The Minister expressed gratitude to the Government of India for its financial support and acknowledged the valuable technical collaboration provided by the Geological Societies of both India and South Sudan in bringing this project to fruition.

As part of the Government of India's Quick Impact Projects initiative, this seismic station will play a key role in enhancing South Sudan's preparedness for natural disasters like earthquakes, while also contributing to the global seismic data network. Furthermore, the project is expected to open up new avenues for economic development, particularly in the mining and resource sectors.

India is proud to support this initiative, contributing to the resilience and prosperity of the people of South Sudan.



INDBATT-1: CIMIC ACTIVITIES

Since assuming operational responsibility in Sector North of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in August 2024, the 3rd Battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles (INDBATT-I) has been deeply engaged with local communities to promote their well-being. Their initiatives have bolstered the mission's visibility, contributing to the region's overall safety and security. The battalion has carried out numerous humanitarian efforts, including nine veterinary camps that treated over 1,577 animals, a medical camp assisting 270 individuals, and providing emergency aid following a civilian aircraft incident. Other impactful activities include raising awareness on the importance of girls' education and supporting the community by distributing sports equipment and first aid kits, positively influencing the locals' perception of Indian peacekeepers.

The Female Engagement Team (FET) played a key role in addressing gender equality, women's rights, and healthcare, working in collaboration with local authorities and UNMISS. The FET's involvement in a veterinary camp at the Malakal Protection of Civilians (POC) site further empowered women and improved animal care. INDBATT-I's swift response during emergencies, such as the crash landing of a World Food Programme aircraft, and its community initiatives, including the tree plantation drive "Ek Ped, Maa Ke Naam," have been highly appreciated by both UNMISS and the local population.



INDBATT-2: CIMIC ACTIVITIES

During the period from July to September 2024, Indian Battalion-II (INDBATT-II) in South Sudan actively engaged in various Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC) activities. In Bor Town, in collaboration with the Directorate of Animal Resources, Fisheries, and Tourism of Jonglei State, the INDBATT-II veterinary team provided care for over 1,700 animals, including cattle, goats, dogs, and poultry. A veterinary aid camp was also organized in Kavachoch village, GPAA, on the occasion of India's 78th Independence Day, benefiting 300 cattle and 450 goats through essential treatments such as deworming and preventive care. The INDBATT-II medical team, stationed at Bor, Pibor, and Akobo, treated 278 South Sudanese civilians during the quarter. On 15 September 2024, a friendly football match with the Akobo Youth football team strengthened bonds with the local community. Moreover, regular yoga sessions conducted at Bor, Pibor, and Akobo brought together civilians, military personnel, NGOs, and locals, including schoolchildren, introducing them to the benefits of yoga as part of a holistic well-being initiative.

**YOGA SESSION****VETERINARY CAMP KAVACHOCH, GPAA**

DMI SISTERS' ENGAGEMENT IN UPLIFTING THE VULNERABLE IN SOUTH SUDAN

In the third quarter of 2024, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) sisters, supported by a professional team, organized various programs across Central Equatoria, Upper Nile, and Warrap states. A total of 570 participants received training in areas such as gender-based violence, teaching methods, sustainable agriculture (GAP), bookkeeping, value addition, Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) methodology, and collective marketing.

DMI also provided vocational training to 108 young men and women in beauty care, tailoring, plumbing, electrical work, and soap making. To support agriculture, DMI distributed irrigation pumps to 13 farmer associations and beehive sets to 30 farmers, while also providing teaching materials to 20 teachers and toolkits to 30 VSLA groups.

The sisters are aiding 1,340 children from IDP camps in Juba and Gogrial with primary education. In Fashoda County, Upper Nile, 450 households benefitted from a cash-for-work program, which included building three dykes, clearing 15 kms of road, and repairing a borehole, ensuring safe drinking water for seven villages.

On September 21st, DMI celebrated International Peace Day with a community event attended by religious and local leaders, fostering a message of peace and coexistence.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches the '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**' campaign.

UPSCPREP.COM
Simplify your UPSC Journey

World Environment Day

5 JUNE, 2024

Let us celebrate the incredible beauty and diversity of our planet.



The Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana PBBY is a mandatory insurance scheme for all ECR Category Indian workers coming to South Sudan for employment. For online purchase of PBBY and other information related to foreign employment, please visit the link: <http://emigrate.gov.in/>



Modi govt's historical decision to promote classical languages

Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages conferred status of **Classical Languages**

- Inclusion of languages as Classical Language will create significant employment opportunities, particularly in academic and research fields
- Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia already conferred status of Classical Languages



Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz: 2024-25

(Know India Quiz: 2024-25)

The Government of India will be organizing the 5th Edition of Bharat Ko Janiye (i.e. Know India) – BKJ Quiz 2024-25 from 11 November to 10 December 2024. The BKJ Quiz that aims at motivating people to know and understand India, will be held online for two categories (I) People of Indian Origin and Foreigners and (ii) Non-resident Indians; aged between 14 to 50 years. Interested persons are requested to register online at their earliest convenience at <https://bkzquiz.com/> to participate in Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz 2024-25 and familiarize themselves with the procedures and rules, once registered, the participants may send an e-mail to cul.juba@mea.gov.in for further information and queries, dummy quiz will be launched on 4th November 2024 for the benefit of familiarization by the prospective participants.



Your
TICKET
to Explore

Incredible India



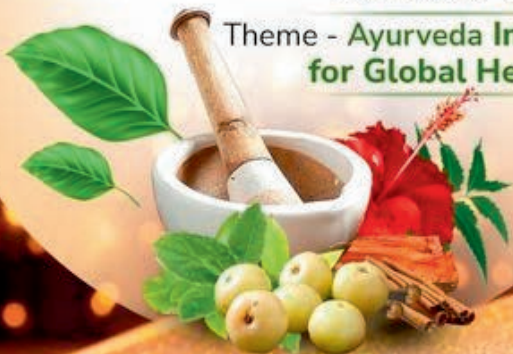
**COMING
SOON**

Stay tuned at www.bkjquiz.com

9th Ayurveda Day

29 October 2024

Theme - **Ayurveda Innovation
for Global Health**



Come together and be a part of this monumental event