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CELEBRATIONS OF 71ST REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA



AMBASSADOR'S PAGE

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राजदूत

S D Moorthy
Ambassador of India to
South Sudan



FOREWORD

Indian Embassy is pleased to present the first edition of its News Letter for the new year 2020. As usual, the activities and events organised by the Embassy from January to March 2020 are covered in this issue.

This edition has been brought out when the new Unity Government (TGoNU) is formed and the Vice Presidents and the Cabinet have been sworn in to usher South Sudan into a new era. This Mission is highly optimistic of return of peace and stability in the country since new unity government is formed by including all signatories of the Revitalized Peace Agreement.

The Mission has celebrated 71st Republic Day of India with great enthusiasm. The function was attended by Indian citizens residing in the country along with the Indian Peace Keeping mission officers under UNMISS. The Embassy organised a blood donation camp in coordination with the Indian Association of South Sudan to mark the occasion. More than 150 Indians donated blood at the transfusion centre in Juba. This humanitarian gesture was appreciated by the local government dignitaries.

As a goodwill measure, Government of India has donated a consignment of life saving drugs to the people of South Sudan. The consignment was received by the Chairman of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission on arrival at the Juba airport and later on the medicines were handed over to Ministry of Health. The Chairman of RRC thanked Government of India for this timely help and the medicines would benefit the flood affected people in some regions in the country.

For the second time, the Mission has sponsored a South Sudan cultural group (Orupap), recommended by the Ministry of Culture, to participate in the Surajkund International Mela near Delhi. There were more than 40 international cultural groups took part in the popular festival. The colourful and vibrant performance of the South Sudan artists was highly acclaimed by the Indian and international audience.

The Indian Army officers under UNMISS had rendered commendable support and assistance to the local community residing at their place of deployment. The Ind-batt at Malakal organised a training programme for the local youth on animal husbandry and how to treat mild ailments affecting their cattle resources. The training programme benefited the local population and helpful to generate income for the trainees. The Ind-batt is running a Veterinary Clinic in Malakal which has recently been renovated with UNMISS support.

The Mission has celebrated Vishwa Hindi Diwas and Pravasi Bharathiya Diwas in the Chancery. The events were attended by Indian community members. A set of commemorative stamps on the occasion of 550 birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji was released by the Embassy.

The news of novel Corona pandemic has shaken the world and the deadly virus affected the international community all over. Every government is trying to contain the infection by enforcing all prescribed medical protocols. The Government of India has also taken tough measures to combat the virus spreading by declaring complete lock out for a month to maintain social distancing. I am hopeful the world community would fight the threat jointly to safeguard its citizens. May the Almighty bless strength and courage to everyone to overcome this crisis.

(S D Moorthy)

CELEBRATIONS OF 71ST REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

India celebrated its 71st Republic Day on January 26, 2020. This year's Republic Day was unique for India in many different ways as compared to the previous years. India showcased its strength, diversity and pride in the RD parade. Starting from the military might that was displayed through indigenously developed artillery gun system 'Dhanush' or with first woman parade adjutant for the Republic Day with Captain Tania Shergill leading the parade. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was the chief guest for this year's RD celebrations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to the fallen soldiers on January 26, 2020 at the newly built National War Memorial instead of Amar Jawan Jyoti beneath the India Gate arch. For the first time, newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat attended the Republic Day parade and welcomed PM Modi for the Wreath Laying Ceremony.



71ST REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS IN JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN ON 26 JANUARY 2020

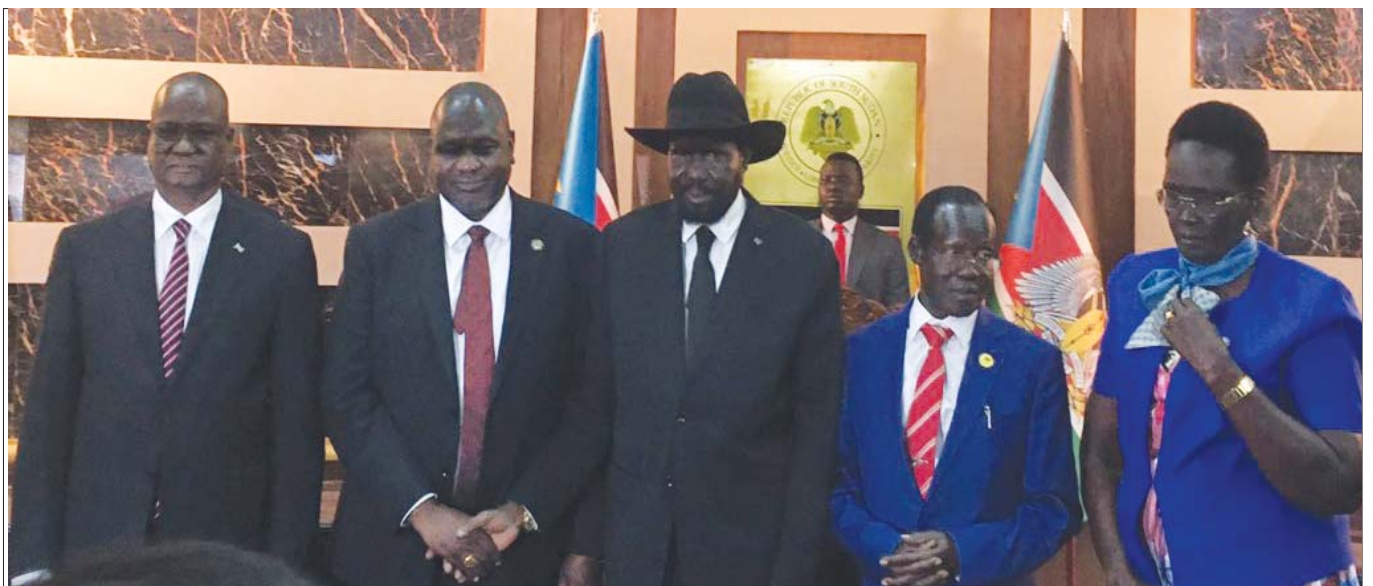
Mission organized the flag hoisting ceremony on 26th January, 2020 to commemorate the 71st Republic Day of India in the Chancery in Juba.

Ambassador Shri S D Moorthy unfurled the National Flag and read out the President's address to the nation in English and in Hindi. The event was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the presence of about 400 persons - comprising of local Indian community based in Juba, senior officers and members of the Indian Military Peacekeeping contingent, the Indian Police contingent and Indian Level-2 Hospital attached to the UNMISS - the United Nations Mission for South Sudan and Indian nationals working in UN agencies and NGOs.

To mark the national occasion, the mission in collaboration with the Indian Association of South Sudan (IASS), organised a Blood Donation Camp in Juba. Ambassador, accompanied by India-based officials, as well as office bearers of the IASS and other prominent members of the Indian Community donated blood at the blood bank of the South Sudan National Blood Transfusion Centre under the Ministry of Health.



CHAIRMAN OF SPLM-IO, DR RIEK MACHAR SWORN IN AS FVP ALONG WITH 4 NEW VICE PRESIDENTS



CELEBRATION OF PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIVAS IN JUBA (SOUTH SUDAN) - 09TH JANUARY 2020

The Mission celebrated the annual Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, on 09th January 2020 at the Chancery premises. The celebration was attended by about 100 members of the local Indian Community based in Juba, including the main office bearers of the Indian Association of South Sudan (IASS) and the Indian peace keeping officials attached with UNMISS in South Sudan.

Hon'ble EAM Shri S Jaishankar's interactive session with Indian Diaspora from 8 selected missions was screened live for the audience from 1500 Hrs till the end of the Session.

The event was started with Ambassador S D Moorthy's remarks, briefing the Indian Community on the services rendered by the Indian Embassy and asking for suggestions from the Indian Diaspora with a brief reminder of the positive role played by the NRI community in the nation building. While acknowledging the hard work of the Indian community in South Sudan, Ambassador appreciated the courage of Indian entrepreneurs who have made a vital contribution to South Sudan's effort to develop its infrastructure and facilities since 2005-06, in the face of various challenges posed by the grave situation in the country over the years. Ambassador urged the Indian business community and other members of the Indian Diaspora working for UN agencies and NGOs, to keep up their good work and shun from any illegal or unethical activities since they are also representatives of India here and any wrong doings by them would tarnish the image of our motherland.

The commemorative stamps for 550th Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji were released by Ambassador along with few Sikh community members who highly appreciated the noble gesture of GoI in honouring all faiths in India.



CELEBRATION OF VISHWA HINDI DIWAS 2020

Mission celebrated Vishwa Hindi Diwas on 10th January 2020 in the Chancery. Head of Chancery read the PM Modi's message for the audience. On this occasion, the Embassy organized a competition in Hindi Writing, Oratory skill and Poem recitation which was attended by Indian Community members, friends of India and the Indian Battalion attached with UNMISS in large numbers. Ambassador S D Moorthy underlined the importance of Hindi as national language and binding force.



INDIA DONATED LIFE-SAVING MEDICINES TO SOUTH SUDAN

The Government of India donated three consignments of life saving drugs to the people of South Sudan. The medicines were received by the Chairman of RRC, Dr. Manase Lomole Waya and other Government officials along with the Indian Ambassador, S D Moorthy at the Juba Airport.

Most of the medicines are for treating Malaria and other common diseases in South Sudan. Being a friend of India this donation of medicines would help the needy people of South Sudan which could strengthen the bilateral relationship further.



SOUTH SUDAN CULTURAL GROUP PERFORMED AT SURAJKUND MELA

The South Sudan Cultural Group (ORUPAAP) sponsored by Indian Embassy in Juba participated in the Surajkund International Folk Dance Festival near New Delhi. The 15 member traditional dancing group reached India on 02nd February and took part in the event till 16th Feb 2020.

The Indians audience, officials and foreign cultural groups participated in the event highly appreciated the performance of the South Sudan dancers. The colorful costumes of the dancers and the beats of South Sudan drums enthralled the Indian and international audience. Last year, a 15 member cultural group from South Sudan had participated in the same event which was sponsored by the India Embassy in Juba. Embassy of India is taking active measures to encourage cultural exchange programmes and people to people contacts with the aim to strengthen further the bilateral relations between India and South Sudan.



INDIAN COMPANY DONATED BICYCLES AND T-SHIRTS TO POC CHILDREN

Indian Company, Star Contracting donated bicycles and T-shirts to the Youth Club located at PoC Camp in Malakal. When Ambassador Moorthy visited Malakal, a request was made by the youth of the club in this regard. Lt. Col. Srinivas with UNMISS in Malakal has been rendering support to the youth residing in the PoC Camp by teaching them cycling, yoga and computer courses. To encourage and support his endeavour, Star Contracting donated these items to empower the youth in the camp.

MS ADIANG JOHN JUSTIN AGUEK ATTENDED YOGA TRAINING COURSE

Ms Adiang had undergone a Yoga training course at Bengaluru under the ITEC programme of MEA, New Delhi. She has become the first Yoga Teacher in the country. Ms Adiang is a diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GoSS.



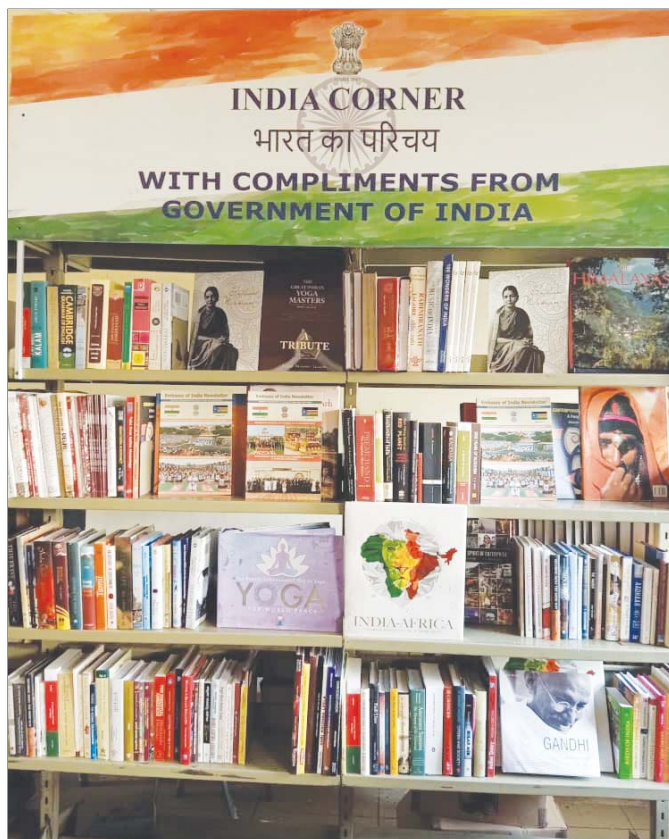
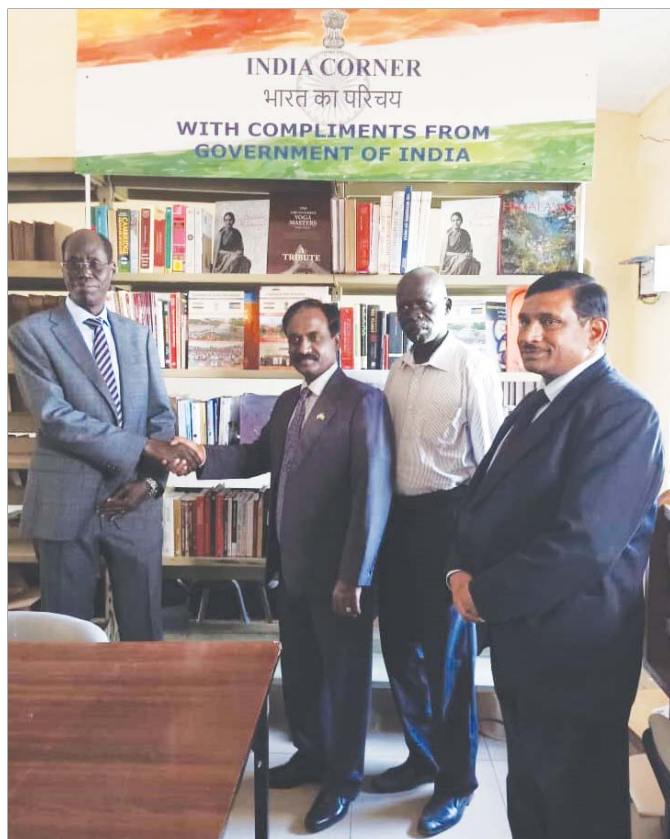
INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS IN SOUTH SUDAN TRAIN COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS

INDBATT-1 in Malakkal conducted a four-week long "Community Animal Health Workers Training for Youth" session at the Veterinary clinic run by Indian UN peace keepers. The volunteers from all the counties of Central Upper Nile State had benefited from the training. The programme conducted by Lt Col Gagandeep Singh will help the youth to care their precious cattle resources and would also generate employment opportunity. The Governor of the State appreciated the efforts taken by Lt Col. Singh.



INDIA CORNER AT JUBA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Ambassador, S D Moorthy along with Prof. John Akec, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Juba inaugurated the 'India Corner' at the University's general library. The Embassy donated books on different subjects which are considered highly useful to the students. The collection consisted of different subjects - Arts, Culture, Fine Arts, Economy and Science and Technology. On the request of the Vice-Chancellor, the Embassy agreed to donate more textbooks on the subjects like Law, medicine, S&T and Computers. Ambassador Moorthy urged the students of the University to make use of the India Corner to have a first-hand knowledge of India's progress and development which would be useful to gain more knowledge from the success story of India.



VISIT TO ST. CLARE HOUSE FOR CHILDREN ORPHANAGE

Amb Moorthy visited St. Clara Orphanage Home at Jabel in Juba and donated food items, mosquito nets and study materials for the benefit of the children in the center. The Orphanage supervisor Ms Betty Thomas thanked the Ambassador for visiting the Home and spending time with the inmates. She appreciated the goodwill gesture of the Indian Embassy and Indian company CVL in Juba for the support.



HOW INDIA IS TACKLING COVID-19

India, even with a large population of 1.3 billion has been able to contain the number of COVID-19 cases to around 17265 with the death toll being limited to 543 till April 20, 2020 (much less than the global incidence rate) with most of the cases having migration history or corona positive contact history. All this has been made possible by adopting preemptive preventive measures and awareness about all the steps taken by the Government of India under the most able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

India started surveillance and screening passengers at select international airports from 17th January 2020 much before COVID-19 was declared a worldwide threat and before first positive case of COVID-19 was detected in India on 30th January 2020. A Group of Ministers (GOM) led by the Prime Minister was constituted to plan, manage and review the situation regularly. It met several times to examine details of essential supplies, production of PPEs, N95 Masks, medicines etc. Several meetings were held by the Cabinet Secretary to facilitate inter-sectoral coordination. The States/UTs were provided with guidelines for surveillance, contact tracing, laboratory samples collection, prevention and control in healthcare facilities. All this was carried out before WHO declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 30th January 2020.

The following are drastic actions taken by the Government of India : -

1. Surveillance at the Points of Entry in the Country (airports, shipping, land borders)
2. Community Surveillance of all Passengers through Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP).
 - * Passengers are monitored in community through IDSP network on a daily basis which has ensured that not a single positive case has been able to mix with general population. An online portal has been developed for States for data entry and monitoring purpose.
3. **Laboratory Testing**
 - * Network of labs across the country has been set-up to facilitate early and timely sample testing. Till date, 179 government labs and 78 labs are made operational. Nodal officers have been appointed for each state for overall coordination.
4. **Hospital Preparedness**
 - * Preparation has been made in terms of isolation beds, critical care management and infection prevention.
5. **Capacity Building**
 - * Training of Doctors and Paramedical staff working at Airports/Ports, identified Hospitals and Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) in the similar context of Ebola virus disease outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo.
6. **Logistics Management**
 - * States were directed early on to ensure buffer stock of PPEs and N-95 masks for any further expansion of COVID-19 in India. A Government order was issued which declared Masks (2 ply, 3 ply surgical masks N95 masks) and hand sanitizers as essential commodities up to June 30, 2020.
7. **Risk Communication**
 - * One of the biggest steps in preventing community spread of infection is through communication. Even before 17th January 2020, Government of India had started disseminating information about basic preventive steps viz. washing hands, covering mouth while coughing and sneezing via its social media platforms and Television and Radio.

* Epidemic Act, 1897, Disaster management Act, 2005 and various other provisions under IPC and Criminal Procedure Code have been invoked to minimize risk of community spread.

8. **Janata Curfew**

* Amid the substantial global spread and shifting of the epicentre of the disease from China to Europe, Hon'ble Prime Minister, on 19th March gave a clarion call to the people of India to observe self-restraint and stay indoors between 7am to 9pm on 22nd March as a measure to check COVID spread which was a major success.

9. **Lock-down**

* In most of the affected countries, the number of COVID cases were doubling every two to three days. India was able to check the COVID growth to a large extent. Number of cases in India were doubling every fifth day. To further flatten the curve, Prime Minister on 24th March announced total Lock down for 21 days till 15th April which has now been further extended till 03rd May.

10. **humanitarian Approach to Migrant Labourer Crisis**

* After the announcement of lockdown, a lot of migrant labourers from different states started migrating towards their home states. The Government of India swung into action and around 5 lakh migrants were safely transported to their new homes.

Wash your hands

Wash your hands with soap and running water when **hands are visibly dirty**



If your **hands are not visibly dirty**, frequently clean them by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water



World Health Organization

Protect others from getting sick

Avoid close contact when you are experiencing cough and fever



Avoid spitting in public




If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing **seek medical care early** and share previous travel history with your health care provider



World Health Organization

To prevent COVID-19 it is safest to avoid physical contact when greeting. Safe greetings include a wave, a nod, or a bow.

How should I greet another person to avoid catching the new coronavirus?



World Health Organization **#Coronavirus #COVID19**

9 March 2020

LAXMINARAYANA TEMPLE (BIRLA MANDIR), NEW DELHI



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