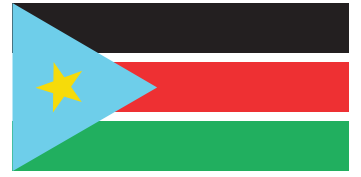
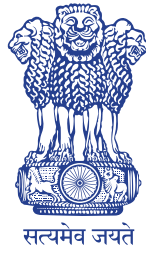


Embassy of India Newsletter

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



No. 01/2024



JAN - MAR 2024

CELEBRATIONS OF 75TH REPUBLIC DAY



AMBASSADOR'S PAGE

Vishnu Kumar Sharma
Ambassador of India to
South Sudan

**FOREWORD**

I am delighted to present the first quarterly Newsletter of 2024, encompassing the events and achievements of the Embassy of India in Juba from January to March. These months have been filled with vibrant celebrations and enriching interactions that have further strengthened the bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and South Sudan.

As we reflect on the past months, we are reminded of the rich tapestry of Indian culture that has marked our journey as a Republic. From celebration of the 75 Republic Day of India to the solemn Pran Pratistha of Lord Ram in Ayodhya and the vibrant hues of Holi, each celebration has served as a testament to the enduring and exuberant spirit of India. The Embassy has also been actively engaged in promoting various facets of Indian culture and heritage, with events such as Vishwa Hindi Diwas, "Chalo India", "Dekho Apna Desh", etc., which fostered a deeper appreciation for our cultural roots.

In line with our commitment to fostering bilateral cooperation, the Embassy has taken several initiatives aimed at promoting tourism, education, and healthcare collaboration between India and South Sudan. Two "Study in India" events and Two medical camps were organized by Indian hospitals in collaboration with local hospitals in Juba. These efforts underscore our commitment to advancing education and health-care cooperation with South Sudan.

Furthermore, we have had the privilege of engaging with the esteemed alumni and nominees of the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, facilitating knowledge sharing and networking opportunities that are vital for our collective growth and development.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Indian Association in South Sudan for their invaluable contributions in promoting Indian culture and fostering a sense of community among our nationals. Their dedication and enthusiasm have been instrumental in making our cultural events a resounding success. Also, commendable are the efforts of our Indian peacekeepers in UNMISS, whose humanitarian initiatives continue to make a positive impact on the lives of communities across South Sudan. Their commitment to serving humanity reflects the core values that bind our two countries together.

As we look ahead, I am confident that the coming months will witness even greater achievements and milestones in South Sudan's journey towards peace and development. India supports the peace building efforts of South Sudan and will be willing to collaborate in its democratic transition.

I am grateful to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication, and I look forward to continuing our collective efforts towards a brighter future.

(Vishnu Kumar Sharma)
Ambassador

75TH REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Embassy of India in Juba celebrated the 75th Republic Day with reverence and festivity on January 26, 2024.

The day commenced with Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma hoisting the National Flag and sharing excerpts from the President of India's address. In his speech, Ambassador Sharma expressed gratitude to the Indian community for their active engagement in community welfare and cultural endeavors. He urged them to bolster their collaboration with the Embassy, promising unwavering support. He lauded the Indian contingent in UNMISS for their contributions to capacity building and philanthropy in South Sudan, and commended Indian police personnel in UNPOL for their dedication. Noteworthy individuals, Mr. Arun and Mr. Mahesh Chauhan, were honored for their outstanding contributions to community welfare in South Sudan. Attendees also had the opportunity to delve into India's history, learning about unsung heroes of the independence struggle, while patriotic melodies filled the air.

Later in the evening, the Embassy hosted a formal reception to celebrate its National Day for government dignitaries of South Sudan, members of diplomatic community and international bodies in Juba, other prominent personalities in different sectors and Indian community. Hon'ble Losuba Ludoru Wongo, Minister of Federal Affairs, represented the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, joined by Hon. Onyoti Adigo Nyikec, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of South Sudan, Hon. Sarah Nene Redento, Deputy Governor of Central Equatoria State, and several other Government dignitaries attended the function. Ambassador Sharma applauded India's peace-building efforts in South Sudan, acknowledging the contributions of Indian contingents in UNMISS and UNISFA. He affirmed India's commitment to supporting South Sudan's peace process. Minister Wongo hailed the robust friendship between India and South Sudan, expressing gratitude for India's assistance in capacity building and scholarships. The evening was adorned with vibrant Indian cultural performances, including Bhangra dance and Yoga demonstrations. Attendees savoured Indian delicacies and explored stalls showcasing Indian products and tourism highlights.

The day served as a testament to the enduring bond between India and South Sudan, marked by camaraderie and cultural exchange.



CELEBRATIONS OF VISHWA HINDI DIWAS (WORLD HINDI DAY)

The annual celebrations on "Vishwa Hindi Diwas" (World Hindi Day) were held at the Embassy on 10 January 2024.

Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma extended warm congratulations to the Indian diaspora, acknowledging their commendable efforts and benevolent initiatives in South Sudan. He also highlighted the significance of "Pravasi Bharitya Diwas" (Indian Diaspora Day), celebrated annually on January 9th. Encouraging active engagement with the Hindi language, he commended participants for their continued enthusiasm in Hindi learning.

The event featured a variety of activities, including an essay writing competition, poetry recitations, introductory Hindi lessons for beginners, and engaging quizzes to test Hindi knowledge.

Attendees comprised members of the Indian contingent from UNMISS, Indian community members and South Sudanese nationals, all enthusiastically participating in the event.

As we extend our congratulations to the winners, we express our gratitude to all attendees for their vibrant presence, contributing to the resounding success of the event.



CLEANLINESS DRIVE

In line with the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and with the aim of promoting exemplary cleanliness and personal hygiene, the Government of India regularly organizes Swachhata Pakhwadas (Special Cleanliness Drives) nationwide. One such drive was organized by the Embassy from January 16th to January 31st, 2024.

Embracing this ethos, Embassy officials pledged their commitment to cleanliness and hygiene on the morning of January 17. Later that evening, they spearheaded a cleanliness drive around the Embassy premises.



PRAN PRATISTHA (CONSECRATION) OF LORD RAMLALLA IN AYODHYA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed the Pran Pratistha (consecration) of much revered Hindu God Ram Lalla in Ayodhya's Ram Mandir. The ceremony was attended by thousands of dignitaries, celebrities and guests from all over the world.

On this pious occasion, the Embassy also screened live ceremony of the event. Indian Embassy officials, led by Ambassador along with some guests witnessed the ceremony.

Prime Minister Modi performed the consecration (Pran Pratistha) of the highly revered Hindu deity Ram Lalla at Ayodhya's Ram Mandir. The ceremony was graced by thousands of dignitaries, celebrities, and guests from across the globe.

The Indian community in South Sudan organized a separate event to celebrate the Pran Pratistha ceremony at the Hindu temple premises in Juba, in which devotees participated in large numbers.



STUDY IN INDIA EVENT : PROMOTION OF INDIAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Recognizing education as the bedrock of progress and development, especially in a new nation like South Sudan, and observing the increasing interest among South Sudanese students in pursuing higher education opportunities in India, the Embassy has been actively promoting India as a destination for higher education through its "Study In India" initiatives for several years.

A "Study in India" event, in collaboration with CT University from India, was organized by the Embassy on Saturday, February 17, 2024. Ambassador Sharma briefed aspiring students on the advantages of studying in India and addressed their concerns regarding visas, scholarships, etc. Mr. Naresh Kumar Sharma, representing CT University, provided detailed presentations on studying in India and clarified students' queries regarding admission procedures, available courses, fees, and facilities at CT University. The university also offered up to a 50% discount on tuition fees for South Sudanese students.



STUDY IN INDIA EVENT : PROMOTION OF INDIAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

In collaboration with Parul University, Vadodara, India, a "Study in India" event was held at Panorama Plaza Hotel in Juba on January 27, 2024. Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma highlighted the accessibility of high-quality and affordable education in India for South Sudanese students in his address. He interacted with prospective students, addressing their queries and shedding light on the ICCR scholarship process. Mr. Ankit Kumar Brahmbhatt from Parul University delivered a presentation on studying in India, while the local partner, "Gaani Study Abroad, Juba," played a crucial role in organizing the event.

**DONATION OF LIBRARY TO SDMIC BY OVL**

On January 31, 2024, ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL), an Indian public sector oil company, donated a library to the St. Joseph Vocational Training School, operated by the "Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Collaborators" (SDMIC) in Juba. OVL, a key partner in both the Greater Pioneer Operating Company (GPOC) and Sudd Petroleum Operating Company (SPOC), presented the library in a ceremony held at the school.

During the event, the Ambassador formally handed over the library, furnished with essential amenities such as furniture, books, computers, and a photocopier, to SDMIC. The ceremony was graced by a senior OVL delegation from India, including Mr. Sanjeev Tokhi, Mr. Omkar Nath Gyani, Mr. Nirmal Kumar, and the OVL Country Director for South Sudan, Mr. Hemant Kumar Udiwal.

In his address, the Ambassador commended OVL for this admirable act of corporate social responsibility, underscoring the company's commitment to promoting knowledge and education. The Country Director praised SDMIC's decade-long dedication to improving the livelihoods of marginalized communities in South Sudan and fostering peace. He expressed optimism that the newly donated library would serve as a valuable resource for both students and educators alike.



BLOOD DONATION CAMP ORGANIZED BY IASS

India marks "National Voluntary Blood Donation Day" on October 1 every year, and the Indian diaspora, inspired by this ethos, organizes blood donation camps in various countries to uphold this noble cause.

The Indian association in South Sudan, in collaboration with the Embassy of India in Juba, held a blood donation drive from 3-4 February, 2024. More than 100 altruistic individuals, including members of the Indian community, Indian peacekeepers, and select Embassy officials, participated in the camp by donating blood.

Ambassador V.K. Sharma commended the Indian Association for their annual organization of the camp and applauded Indian nationals for their willingness to donate blood, recognizing its potential to save and improve lives. He also expressed gratitude to the Director and staff of the Blood Donation Centre for their invaluable support.



MEETING WITH INDIAN TOUR OPERATORS

In an effort to boost tourism, particularly medical and educational tourism, from South Sudan to India, the Embassy of India has been actively collaborating with Indian tour operators in South Sudan. Recently, the Ambassador convened a meeting with these operators to explore avenues for promoting tourism to India. During the discussion, the Ambassador and the operators delved into strategies to highlight India's diverse attractions and world-class medical facilities to the South Sudanese population. By leveraging the expertise of Indian tour operators in South Sudan, the Embassy aims to facilitate seamless travel experiences and promote India as a preferred destination for South Sudanese travellers.

Moreover, the meeting served as a platform for Indian establishments in South Sudan to raise concerns and challenges they face. Participants brought various issues to the Ambassador's attention, ranging from regulatory hurdles to logistical challenges. The Ambassador assured them of the Embassy's support in addressing their concerns through diplomatic channels.



BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CORNER

On January 3, 2024, Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma had a meeting with Honourable Dr. James Pitia Morgan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of South Sudan. The meeting provided an opportunity to engage in substantive discussions on a range of bilateral matters of mutual interest.

During the meeting, Honourable Minister Pitia underscored India's renowned expertise in conducting large-scale electoral processes and expressed a keen interest in seeking India's assistance for the upcoming elections scheduled in South Sudan in December 2024. He conveyed his appreciation to the Government of India for its unwavering support in capacity-building initiatives within South Sudan.

Furthermore, Honourable Minister Pitia delved into the modalities governing the allocation of ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) scholarships for South Sudanese students pursuing higher education in India. The discussion served as an opportunity to review and refine the processes to ensure optimal utilization of these educational opportunities for the benefit of South Sudanese youth.

The meeting between Ambassador Sharma and Honourable Minister Pitia reaffirmed the strong and enduring partnership between India and South Sudan, marked by collaboration, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to fostering bilateral cooperation across various sectors.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS IN HEALTHCARE: INDIAN HOSPITALS EXTEND HEALING TOUCH TO SOUTH SUDAN

In a concerted effort to extend medical assistance to the people of South Sudan, two leading Indian hospitals, Bangalore Hospitals and Fortis Hospital, joined hands with local healthcare institutions to organize free medical camps in Juba, showcasing India's commitment to bolstering healthcare cooperation in the region.



BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CORNER**Bangalore Hospitals & Gudele Hospital Medical Camp:**

From March 3-5, 2024, a team of dedicated doctors from Bangalore Hospitals, India, collaborated with Gudele Hospital in Juba to offer free medical services to the local population. This collaborative initiative aimed to share Indian medical expertise and provide much-needed healthcare access to under-served populations in South Sudan. Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma, along with dignitaries including the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Health of South Sudan, the CEO of Gudele Hospital, and the Camp Coordinator, attended the opening ceremony of the medical camp, reaffirming the Embassy's commitment to fostering healthcare cooperation between India and South Sudan.

Highlighting the importance of such initiatives, Ambassador Sharma stressed the need for enduring partnerships between hospitals of India and South Sudan for developing cooperation in the healthcare sector. He also emphasized the Embassy's continued support in encouraging Indian hospitals to organize similar free medical camps in collaboration with local healthcare institutions across South Sudan.

Fortis Hospital Medical Camp at Juba Teaching Hospital:

Aarav Medicare in association with Fortis Hospital organized a CME on topics covering advancement in treatment and latest technologies of surgeries for Neurology, Spine, Orthopaedics, and Haematoma-oncology with sickle cell, on 10 March 2024 at the Imperial Hotel in Juba. Fortis Hospitals chain is a leading healthcare provider in India. Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma and Dr. Baba Samson, Advisor from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of South Sudan, actively participated in the event, underscoring the importance of collaboration in advancing healthcare standards.

Addressing queries from South Sudanese doctors, Indian medical experts shared insights and knowledge, facilitating an enriching exchange of ideas. Aarav Medicare in association with Fortis Healthcare also conducted a free OPD camp at Juba Teaching Hospital, where highly specialized doctors from Fortis Hospital were available to provide medical consultation.

The Embassy shall continue to encourage Indian hospitals to organize similar free medical camps in collaboration with local healthcare institutions across South Sudan, which provide much-needed medical care to the local community.



BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CORNER**Celebration of International Women Day, 08 March 2024**

The Embassy of India in Juba actively participated in the celebration of International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8, 2024, organized by the "African Indigenous Women Empowerment (AIWE)", a local private NGO. This inclusive celebration, held at Darling Wisdom Academy in Juba, brought together the collective efforts of the AIWE, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission of South Sudan, the Embassy of India, several other Foreign Missions, aid agencies, and local businesses.



The event provided a platform for prominent speakers to highlight the indispensable role of women in fostering peace and prosperity within South Sudan. Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma, in his address, emphasized the significance of education and financial independence for women, underscoring the pivotal role of individual choices in complementing the structured efforts undertaken by governments and civil societies worldwide for women's empowerment. He also articulated India's ongoing endeavors towards fostering gender equality and women's emancipation, tracing the nation's journey since its independence.

The joint celebration served as a testament to the collective commitment towards advancing women's rights and empowerment, fostering collaboration and solidarity among diverse stakeholders. By actively participating in such initiatives, the Embassy of India reaffirms its unwavering dedication to promoting gender equality, both domestically and internationally, while highlighting India's recent strides in empowering women across various spheres of society.



Fostering Connections: Embassy Engages with ITEC alumni and nominees

The Embassy of India in Juba recently organized a series of interactions, bringing together alumni and nominees of the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC), the flagship capacity building training programme of the Government of India. These gatherings served as platforms for knowledge sharing, networking, and strengthening bilateral relations between India and South Sudan.

1. Interaction with ITEC Nominees - February 23, 2024:

A group of ITEC nominees, selected for diverse capacity-building courses across India, convened at the Embassy on February 23, 2024. The ITEC training nominees were greeted with warmth by the ITEC Team of the Embassy. The Ambassador congratulated the nominees on their selection and during his interaction with the group, shared valuable insights into life in India, acquainting them with its vibrant culture, cuisine, and attractions, thus preparing them for their upcoming visit to India for the training.



2. ITEC Alumni Get-Together - February 29, 2024:

The Embassy played host to a heart-warming reunion of ITEC alumni on February 29, 2024. Ambassador Sharma, in his address, underscored the pivotal role of alumni in strengthening bilateral relations and trade ties between India and South Sudan. Alumni shared their enriching experiences of ITEC programmes in India, highlighting the transformational impact the training had on their careers. The event featured engaging discussions on recent developments in India, the burgeoning potential in tourism and medical tourism, and even provided a glimpse into basic Hindi language skills of the alumni.



3. ITEC Alumni Reunion - March 15, 2024:

Continuing its commitment to fostering collaboration and mutual learning, the Embassy organized another ITEC alumni reunion on March 15, 2024. Ambassador Sharma reiterated the significance of alumni in advancing bilateral cooperation between the two nations. The event showcased presentations on various facets of Indian expertise, including health and wellness, medical tourism, pharmaceutical advancements, Ayurveda, and yoga. Alumni seized the opportunity to reconnect, exchange insights, and celebrate the enduring friendship between India and South Sudan.



These events exemplify the Embassy's unwavering dedication to nurturing its relationship with the ITEC community. By facilitating such interactions, the Embassy aims to deepen mutual understanding, foster collaboration, and pave the way for sustained growth and prosperity in both India and South Sudan.

The interaction continued into the evenings with guests relishing delicious Indian cuisine, while enjoying the beats of Bollywood music and dance.



BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CORNER

LIVE STREAMING OF CHALO INDIA-GLOBAL DIASPORA CAMPAIGN

The Embassy of India in Juba live-streamed the "Chalo India-Global Diaspora Campaign," inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi on 7 March 2024. This landmark event saw the unveiling of a multitude of tourism and development projects, marking a significant milestone in India's global outreach.

The Embassy officials in Juba witnessed this historic moment via live-stream. The Indian community members were also encouraged to watch the unveiling of transformative projects on line. The live-streamed event showcased the remarkable strides being made by India on the global stage and provided an opportunity for Indian diaspora to share the collective pride of India's achievements.



CELEBRATION OF HOLI AT JIT PREMISES -31 MARCH 2024

The Indian Association in South Sudan organized a vibrant celebration of Holi, the popular Indian festival of colours, joy, and brotherhood, on March 31, 2024. The festivities were held at the JIT Mart premises in Juba, where members of the Indian community came together to revel in the spirit of unity and togetherness. Indian peacekeepers also organized Holi festival at the log-base in Juba providing an exhilarating experience to peacekeepers of different nationalities.



CELEBRATION OF HOLI AT JIT PREMISES -31 MARCH 2024

Attendees were immersed in a kaleidoscope of colors as they joyfully partook in the traditional rituals and exuberant revelries that characterize Holi. Music, dance, fun and laughter filled the air as friends and families gleefully doused each other with brightly coloured powders, symbolizing the arrival of spring.

The Embassy extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Indian Association and Indian Peacekeepers for their invaluable efforts in promoting Indian culture and heritage in South Sudan. Their dedication and enthusiasm in organizing such cultural events play a pivotal role in fostering a sense of community and belonging among Indian nationals residing in the country.



INDBATT-I'S HUMANITARIAN IMPACT: A DUAL ENDEAVOUR

As part of UNMISS, the efforts and initiatives by INDBATT-I stood out for their dual impact on community health and prosperity. Weekly Veterinary Camps traversed remote areas, offering vital services to sustain livelihoods and garner support for the UN. Another notable event occurred on the night of 08 Jan 2024 where in an emergency aerial medical evacuation from COB Renk underscored the Unit's adaptability and efficiency. Despite challenges of the darkness and deficiency of resources, the team swiftly aided a woman malaria patient, showcasing their commitment to saving lives. Particularly noteworthy was the ingenious use of headlights from vehicles to illuminate the helipad, ensuring a safe landing and take-off. These efforts not only bolstered UNMISS's positive presence but also highlighted INDBATT-I's dedication for the community by engaging in humanitarian acts across the spectrum.



DMI SISTERS SUPPORT NEEDY COMMUNITIES LEADING TO THEIR DEVELOPMENT

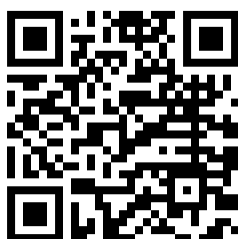
DMI sister's continued engagement with the local community and reaching out to needy communities in three states in South Sudan - Central Equatoria, Warrap and Upper Nile enable them to find solutions to their problems through facilitation and humanitarian assistance.

During the first quarter of 2024 (Jan to March), the DMI team facilitated training for 50 smallholder farmers group leaders from Central Equatoria on collective marketing and value addition of their produce. The training helped them to sell their agricultural products such as vegetables and crops to small traders in Juba and earn higher profit.

On 29th February and 22nd March, DMI sisters organized a graduation ceremony, and 171 youths who were trained in beauty arts, agriculture extension workers, four-wheeler driving and basic computer received their course completion certificates. The course completion certificate was signed by DMI-Country Director and counter-signed by the South Sudan Ministry of Labour. The trained youths are confident to find jobs for the acquired skills and earn income to meet their household needs.

DMI sisters organized four days of short-term skill training from 14th to 19th March -2024 on embroidery, beads making and bakery for IDP women at the Juba IDP camp -3. 60 women participated in the training and acquired skills. The acquired skill contributes to helping them to earn additional income.

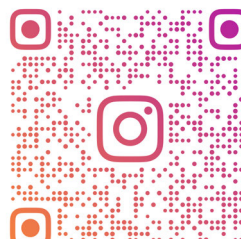
To meet the basic needs of needy households in Upper Nile state who are located in Kodok and Fashoda, DMI sisters provided family food rations to 300 host families and non-food items to 100 households of Sudan war returnees. The humanitarian assistance helped them to cope and meet their survival needs.

**SCAN TO VISIT THIS EMBASSY'S SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS**

@IndiaInSouthSudan



@eojuba



@IndiaInSouthSudan



@IndiaInSouthSudan

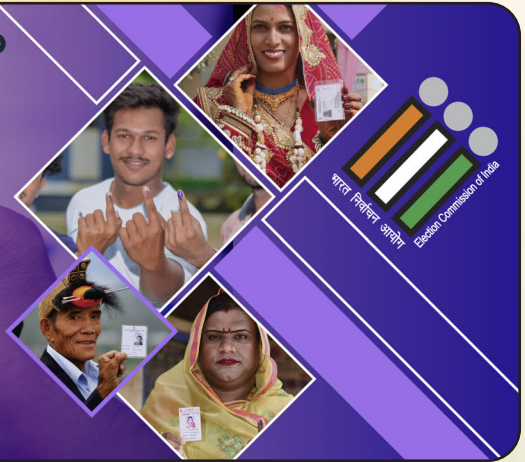


National Level Campaign for Parliamentary Elections 2024

Nothing like Voting, I Vote for Sure

FB.com/ECI @ecisveep youtube.com/eci @ecisveep Election Commission of India

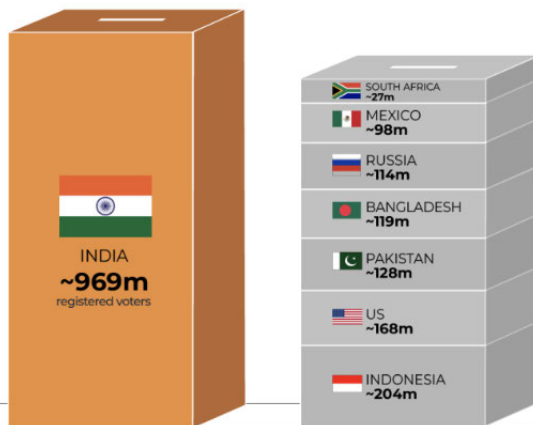
SWEEP



INDIAN ELECTIONS 2024

How big are India's elections?

With 969 million registered voters, India has the largest electorate in the world. Here is how it compares with other large countries voting this year:



India's MIRV punch

India has joined select group of nations that have Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology

Agni-5 missile
uses a three-stage
solid fuelled engine
5,000km
range

USING MULTIPLE WARHEADS

- MIRVs can cause more destruction than missiles that carry single warhead.
- It will allow Agni-V to deliver multiple nuclear warheads against different targets across hundreds of kilometres

India completed its nuclear trial in 2018 when nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Arihant, completed its first deterrence patrol

India's nuclear doctrine, promulgated in 2003, commits to a 'no first use' posture, with weapons to be used only in retaliation against a nuclear attack

Proud of our DRDO scientists for Mission Divyasthra, the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology."
—NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister





RAM MANDIR PRAN PRATISHTHA (CONSECRATION CEREMONY) AT AYODHYA



पर्यटन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
TOURISM



Incredible India



my
GOV
मेरी सरकार

Dekho Apna Desh

People's Choice 2024

Participate in the polls and vote for your favourite destination in India - <https://innovateindia.mygov.in/dekho-apna-desh/>

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