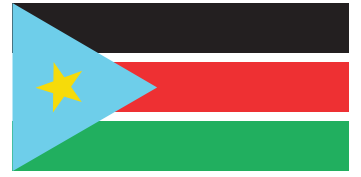
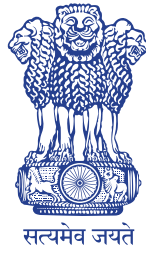


# Embassy of India Newsletter

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



No. 02/2024



APR - JUN 2024

## IDY 2024 – YOGA FOR SELF & SOCIETY



## AMBASSADOR'S PAGE

**Vishnu Kumar Sharma**  
**Ambassador of India to**  
**South Sudan**

**FOREWORD**

As we reflect on the events and developments of the past quarter, it gives me great pleasure to present the April to June 2024 edition of our quarterly newsletter. This period has been marked by significant developments both in India and here in South Sudan, underscoring our commitment to fostering bilateral relations.

India, the world's largest democracy, recently conducted elections reaffirming its steadfast commitment to democratic principles. The electoral process serves as a testament to the resilience and strength of our democratic institutions. As we celebrate this milestone, we are reminded of the importance of upholding the democratic values that bind our diverse nation together.

Yoga, renowned worldwide for its holistic benefits, promotes physical and mental well-being. The Embassy of India in Juba, alongside Indian peacekeepers serving in the UN Mission, organized events to promote this ancient Indian tradition to mark the celebration of the 10th International Day of Yoga-2024, under the theme "Yoga for Self and Society." It was heartening to witness the enthusiastic participation and appreciation from our South Sudanese friends.

A team of experts from NPC International Private Ltd. (NIPL) from India, visited Juba to introduce the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), an advanced online payment system that has revolutionized financial transactions in India. This visit symbolized India's dedication to enhancing digital infrastructure in South Sudan. For promotion of India as a higher education hub, the Embassy joined Indian universities in organizing "Study-In-India" events in the Embassy premises. Indian hospitals were also assisted in holding medical camps in collaboration with Juba Medical Complex to deepen health sector cooperation.

South Sudan, of late, has been facing considerable challenges due to disruptions in oil income, impacting the whole economy. In light of these challenges, the Indian community members need to exercise vigilance and regular assessment of business and living conditions in South Sudan. The ongoing Nairobi Talks offer hope for sustainable peace by integrating non-signatory opposition groups into the mainstream political landscape. It is also crucial that all stakeholders within the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity work together to reach consensus on holding elections, thereby empowering the South Sudanese people to exercise their democratic rights.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the Embassy of India to those who have made invaluable contributions to our shared mission of goodwill and solidarity. Our Indian peacekeepers in South Sudan exemplify dedication and compassion, supporting local communities through initiatives such as donations to orphanages, schools, and organizing veterinary camps. Similarly, the Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Collaborators has been instrumental in advancing gender equality, enhancing community health, and promoting educational access for underprivileged populations in South Sudan. These efforts underscore India's enduring commitment to nurturing prosperity and well-being in our host country.

Together, let us continue to strengthen the bonds between India and South Sudan, fostering a future of peace, prosperity and shared opportunities.

Thank you!

**(Vishnu Kumar Sharma)**  
**Ambassador**



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA-2024 CELEBRATIONS

In June 2024, the Embassy of India in South Sudan organized a series of events to commemorate the 10th International Day of Yoga (IDY), showcasing the profound impact of yoga on holistic well-being and societal harmony. The festivities commenced with a vibrant curtain-raiser held on 9th June at the Cricket ground, Bilpham Road, Juba, where Ambassador VK Sharma ceremoniously awarded trophies to the winners of the Juba Premier League cricket tournament 2023. During this event, all attendees were cordially invited to partake in the main celebrations scheduled for 22nd June at the Embassy.



To set the stage for the main event, preparatory yoga sessions were conducted on 19th June, drawing enthusiastic participation from embassy officials and Indian community members. On 21st June, the Embassy joined with Indian peacekeepers stationed at UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for a special yoga protocol session themed "Yoga for Self and Society." Led by yoga instructors from the Indian Force Signal Unit and supported by UNMISS's Welfare Unit, the session symbolized unity and well-being amidst diverse challenges.





## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA-2024 CELEBRATIONS

The pinnacle of the celebrations occurred on 22nd June at the Embassy, where a diverse gathering including members of the Indian community, UN peacekeepers, expatriates, and locals participated wholeheartedly. Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma and Hon. James Tatu, Director General of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Central Equatoria State, delivered inspiring speeches emphasizing yoga's transformative power in promoting inner peace and communal harmony. They underscored yoga's role not only in enhancing individual well-being but also in fostering a peaceful and unified society in South Sudan.



Throughout the events, the Embassy's initiatives highlighted yoga's universal appeal and its capacity to nurture physical, mental, and spiritual resilience, aligning with South Sudan's aspirations for peace and stability. The celebrations resonated deeply, marking a significant milestone in promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding between India and South Sudan through the timeless wisdom of yoga. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) grant was utilized to organize the IDY events. The local collaborators from Indian community included UPCL, Panorama Plaza and JIT supermarket. A team of Indian yoga instructors from UNMISS led the yoga protocol session.





## FLORAL TRIBUTE TO DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR

The Embassy officials paid heartfelt tribute to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, a distinguished Social Reformer and the chief architect of India's Constitution, on his birth anniversary. The event, organized at the Chancery premises on 14 April 2024, served as a poignant moment to honour his invaluable contributions to social justice, equality, and the empowerment of marginalized communities in India. Dr. Ambedkar's legacy, marked by his relentless advocacy for human rights and constitutional principles, continues to inspire generations globally, resonating deeply.



## PROMOTING DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH SUDAN

Aligning with the Government of India initiative of "Technology Transfer", a two-member team of experts from NPC International Private Ltd. (NIPL) from India, comprising Mr. Harishankar Yadav, Deputy In-Charge Product Design and Mr. Nehal Mukeshkumar Shah, In-Charge Business Development, Africa, visited Juba from 8-10 May 2024 with a pioneering mission: to introduce the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), an advanced online payment system that has significantly transformed and streamlined financial transactions across India. This visit marked a crucial step in India's commitment to fostering digital infrastructure development in nations of the Global South, including South Sudan.

The Embassy coordinated the engagements of the team with key stakeholders in South Sudan. These included high-level meetings in the Bank of South Sudan, where they deliberated on the potential benefits of integrating UPI into South Sudan's financial landscape. The discussions also extended to the Ministry of Finance, where the team presented insights into how Indian digital technologies could bolster South Sudan's efforts towards economic modernization and financial inclusion. The delegation's agenda encompassed comprehensive presentations and constructive dialogues aimed at showcasing UPI's capabilities in enhancing transparency, efficiency, and accessibility in financial transactions. The visit of NIPL experts sought to lay the groundwork for future collaborations that could pave the way for broader economic empowerment and digital transformation in South Sudan.





## STUDY IN INDIA EVENT : PROMOTION OF INDIAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

To promote Indian higher education in South Sudan, the Embassy of India partnered with Marwadi University, Chandigarh University, Noida International University, Parul University and CT University to host a series of "Study in India" events in Juba throughout May and June 2024. Ambassador V.K. Sharma emphasized India's educational excellence, affordability, and diverse opportunities for South Sudanese students. He also addressed queries about admissions, scholarships, and living conditions. Presentations by university representatives highlighted the quality of education, available courses, and holistic learning approaches. The initiative successfully informed and inspired South Sudanese students about pursuing higher education in India.



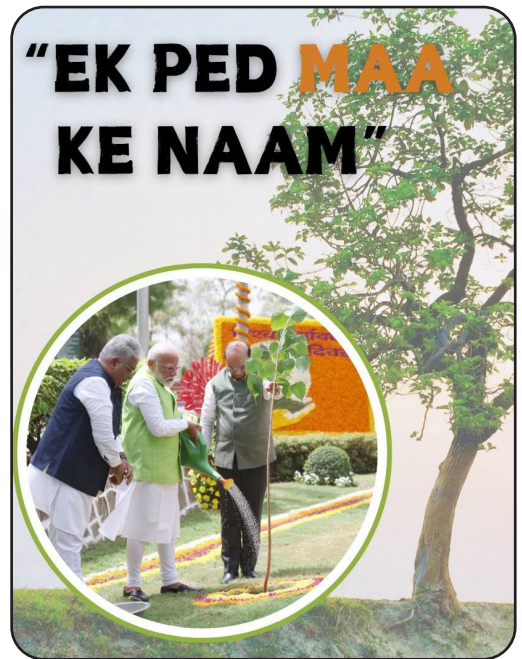
During the events, promotional materials, video clips and banners showcased trade, technology transfer, tourism, Ayurveda, and yoga.



## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

In alignment with the theme of World Environment Day 2024, which focuses on land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience, the Embassy of India in Juba took proactive steps to contribute to environmental conservation efforts. On this auspicious occasion, a symbolic sapling was ceremoniously planted within the embassy's compound. This gesture not only underscores India's commitment to global environmental concerns but also echoes the vision set forth by India's Prime Minister, through his initiative such as the "Ek Ped, Maa Ke Naam"—encouraging individuals to plant a tree in honour of their mothers.

Hon. Faustino Atem Gualdit, a respected Member of Parliament from the Council of States in South Sudan, joined hands with Ambassador of India and other officials at the embassy, underscoring the significance of collective action in addressing environmental challenges. Together, they symbolized the unity and shared responsibility needed to combat desertification and promote ecological resilience in South Sudan and beyond.



## INTERACTIONS WITH INDIAN COMMUNITY

On May 29, 2024, the Embassy team met with prominent Indian businessmen to discuss the business environment in South Sudan and get feedback to address key challenges with relevant authorities. The Ambassador separately met representatives of Indian travel agencies in Juba and had a discussion on avenues of promotion of tourism to India as well as Issues being faced by them in the country.

Subsequently, on June 14, 2024, Ambassador V.K. Sharma engaged with the Indian community at a gathering held at the Hindu Temple. These interactions allowed community members to voice their concerns about the local situation and share consular issues. Ambassador Sharma reaffirmed his advocacy for the Indian community's needs with local authorities, emphasizing the Embassy's commitment to providing support and facilitating solutions.





## GIFTING OF BOOKS AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Ambassador V.K. Sharma paid a visit to the library of the Institute of Diplomatic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, South Sudan. During his visit, he presented a collection of books to the Director General of the Institute, establishing an "India Corner" within the library. This initiative aims to establish bilateral cooperation between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi and the Institute of Diplomatic Studies of South Sudan through exchange of academic resources.



## INAUGURATION OF INDIA TRIBAL CORNER

Ambassador V. K. Sharma inaugurated the newly revamped Indian Tribal Corner, underscoring the significance of cultural diversity and heritage in India.

The Indian Tribal Corner showcases India's tribal and indigenous artefacts offering a window into the customary craftsmanship of India's tribal communities. Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Sharma highlighted the importance of preserving and celebrating these diverse cultural legacies, which embody the essence of India's cultural mosaic. Tribal corners in Indian Missions abroad align with efforts of the Government of India to promote tribal and indigenous craftsmanship fostering livelihood opportunities, while echoing the spirit of "unity in diversity".





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

### Yashoda Hospitals Medical Camp:

From 5th to 7th May 2024, Yashoda Hospitals, India, in collaboration with the Juba Medical Complex, successfully conducted a medical camp that served the under-served South Sudanese population. Led by a distinguished Indian doctor, the team provided crucial diagnoses and surgeries, addressing critical healthcare needs in the region. This initiative not only reflects India's commitment to extending quality healthcare services but also underscores its dedication to bridging the gap in medical care in South Sudan. The Embassy of India proudly supports such endeavours, facilitating access to essential treatments for those most in need.



### OPD camp by Sanar Hospital:

A complimentary Outpatient Department (OPD) services and consultations camp, led by Indian specialist surgeon from Shalby Sanar International Hospital, was organized at Juba Medical Complex. This initiative exemplified India's steadfast support for healthcare in South Sudan, catering to individuals seeking medical guidance, particularly for bone and spine-related issues. Through such collaborative efforts, we aim to enhance healthcare accessibility and contribute to the well-being of the South Sudanese community.



## OPENING OF RENDEZVOUS RESTAURANT IN JUBA

Rendezvous Restaurant and Bar in Juba opened on 31 May 2024 adding to Juba's culinary landscape and expanding the options of restaurants serving Indian food in Juba.

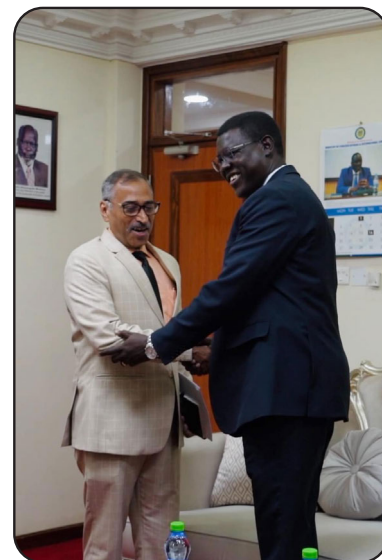




## BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CORNER



The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan, Hon. Amb. Monday Semaya Kumba, received Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma, to discuss strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries. Amb. Semaya expressed appreciation for



the Government of India's provision of scholarships to South Sudanese students. He also assured of his support in expediting pending matters, including the signing of memorandums.



Ambassador Sharma met Mr Steven K Wundu, Auditor General of South Sudan to seek cooperation and explore new areas of capacity building for the officials of the National Audit Chamber of South Sudan.



Director General of International Cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, thanked the Embassy on behalf of the South Sudan Government for facilitating visas to Sudanese nationals fleeing Sudan due to the ongoing conflict.

## MEETING WITH HON. MABIOR GARANG



A delegation from "National Conversation South Sudan," under the leadership of Honorable Mabiior Garang (son of Late Dr. John Garang De Mabior, the Leader of freedom struggle of South Sudan) engaged in a profound and enlightening discussion with Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma on the pressing contemporary challenges confronting South Sudan. The meeting served as a platform for exchanging diverse perspectives on critical facets of nation-building, encompassing political, economic, and social dimensions. This meeting underscored the shared commitment to advancing the South Sudan's stability, prosperity, and the well-being of its people through collaborative efforts in capacity building.





## MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM INTERNATIONAL PARDON FOUNDATION



A team of representatives from the International Pardon Foundation (IPF) met the Ambassador to discuss the ongoing peace process and the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement in South Sudan on 31.5.2024. IPF Founder and CEO Dr. David Luk provided Ambassador Sharma an overview of the signing of the Revitalized Peace Agreement in 2018 and highlighted IPF's role in facilitating the peace process. They also shared insights on the ongoing negotiations in Nairobi between the Transitional Government of National Unity and the Non-Signatory South Sudan Opposition Group.

## MEETING WITH KING OF AZANDE KINGDOM

This Embassy was honoured to welcome His Majesty Atoroba Peni Rikito Gbudue, the King of Azande Kingdom in South Sudan. During this esteemed visit, His Majesty and his team engaged in insightful discussions about the historical and contemporary contexts of the Azande Kingdom. Opportunities for investment by Indian investors in various sectors including agriculture, education, health and livestock in the Kingdom were mentioned during the meeting by His Majesty. The Ambassador also had the privilege to brief His Majesty about the capacity building programmes of the Government of India aimed at training South Sudanese government officials.



## MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY - MINISTRY OF MINING

Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma met Hon. Cosmas Pitia Kujjo, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Mining in South Sudan, to discuss the progress on the proposal of construction of a seismic station in South Sudan. The project aims at enhancing geological survey capabilities in the country, pivotal for South Sudan's mining sector.

During their meeting, Ambassador Sharma also highlighted concerns raised by Indian investors regarding challenges they face while operating within South Sudan's mining industry. These challenges encompassed issues such as regulatory frameworks, operational logistics, infrastructure constraints and commercial disputes between partners. The importance of addressing these issues to foster a conducive environment for foreign investment and facilitate mutually beneficial partnerships between India and South Sudan in the mining sector was underscored.





**INDBATT : CIMIC ACTIVITES****VETERINARY ASSISTANCE**

Indian Peacekeepers deployed as part of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have engaged in extensive Civil Military Co-operation (CIMIC) activities, bridging interactions between military units, civilian communities, and humanitarian organizations. Covering a large geographic expanse of South Sudan, Indian Army contingents have executed various initiatives independently. Notable activities conducted between April and June 2024 include a Veterinary Clinic in Bor Town, operated in collaboration with the Directorate Animal Resources, Fisheries, and Tourism of Jonglei State, providing care to over 500 animals. Additionally, INDBATT conducted four veterinary camps in Malakal, treating 627 animals.

**YOGA ACTIVITIES**



**INDBATT : CIMIC ACTIVITES****YOGA ACTIVITIES**

Further enhancing community engagement, INDBATT organized a Yoga Session attended by a diverse local population, including school children, and celebrated International Yoga Day with participation from UNMISS personnel, NGOs, and locals. Medical teams stationed at forward posts offered essential first aid to locals for minor injuries and ailments, while Indian Field Hospitals in Malakal and Bor treated referred patients from the community, UNMISS, and NGOs.



The Indian Army's continuous efforts also extend to ongoing support through donations to orphanages, schools, and libraries, reinforcing their commitment to aiding and fostering local development in South Sudan.



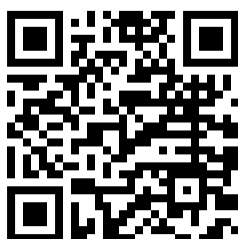


## DMI SISTERS' ENGAGEMENT IN UPLIFTING THE NEEDY SOUTH SUDANESE

In the second quarter of 2024, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI), an Indian missionary organization, significantly assisted the South Sudanese community through a variety of impactful initiatives. In Central Equatoria, they provided training in sustainable agriculture and business management to 582 members, delivered a cargo tri-cycle to a farmer federation, and trained leaders on its use. In Juba IDP Camp - 3, DMI led an awareness campaign on gender-based violence with 460 women and 53 youths, staged 12 cultural programs, and organized cleanup initiatives. They also conducted two-day business training for 140 women in Gogrial and Juba. In Upper Nile's Fashoda county, DMI supported 720 families with food, distributed agricultural supplies to 1,800 households, offered counselling and dignity kits to 76 survivors of gender-based violence, and educated 725 people on prevention and safe drinking water. In addition, DMI supported 1,340 children from Juba IDP Camp - 3 and Gogrial with educational materials and school fees.



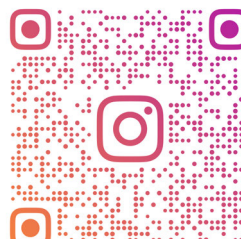
**SCAN TO VISIT THIS EMBASSY'S SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS**



[@IndiaInSouthSudan](#)



[@eojuba](#)



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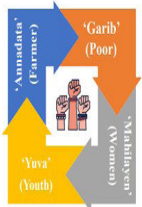


# UNION BUDGET 2024-2025 AT A GLANCE

## A Robust Roadmap for 'Viksit Bharat'

### Focus on 4 major castes

- Garib (Poor)
- Mahilayen (Women)
- Yuva (Youth)
- Annadata (Farmer)



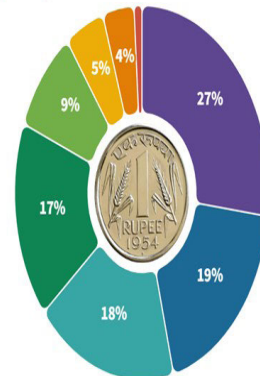
### Nine Budget Priorities



Conversion rate: 1 Indian Rupee equals 0.012 United States Dollar

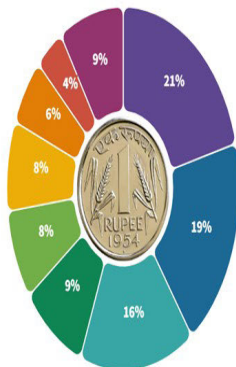
## Incomes

Borrowings & other liabilities Income Tax GST & other taxes Corporation Tax Non-tax receipts  
Union Excise Duties Customs Non-debt capital receipts



## Expenditures

States' share of taxes & duties Interest payments Central sector scheme  
Finance Commission & other transfers Defence Centrally sponsored schemes Subsidies  
Pensions Others



## Budget Estimates 2024-25

The total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at **INR 32.07 lakh crore** (~US\$ 383.4 billion) and **INR 48.21 lakh crore** (~US\$ 575.9 billion) respectively.

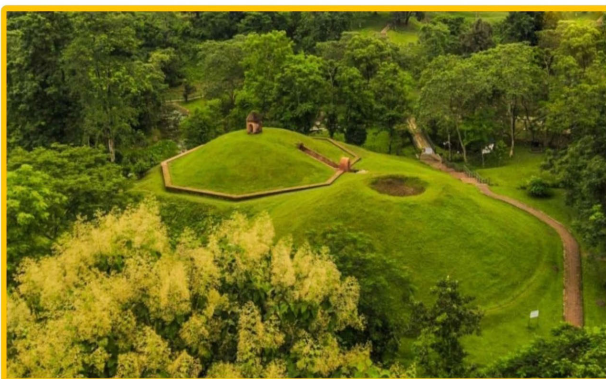
The net tax receipts are estimated at **INR 25.83 lakh crore** (~US\$ 308.6 billion) and the fiscal deficit is estimated at **4.9% of GDP**.

Gross and net market borrowings through dated securities during 2024-25 are estimated at **INR 14.01 lakh crore** (~US\$ 167.36 billion) and **INR 11.63 lakh crore** (~US\$ 138.9 billion) respectively.

The government will aim to reach a deficit below **4.5%** next year.



## Assam's 700 years old 'Moidams' gets status of UNESCO World Heritage Site

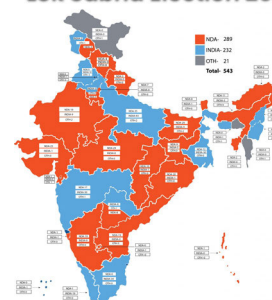


The Moidams in Assam, a 700-year-old mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty, was on Friday named as a UNESCO World Heritage site, becoming the first cultural site on the prestigious list from the country's northeastern region.

World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (15-24 October 2024)



## Lok Sabha Election 2024







## NDA ELECTS PM MODI ITS LEADER, PASSES RESOLUTION LAUDING HIM



India at Paris Olympics 2024