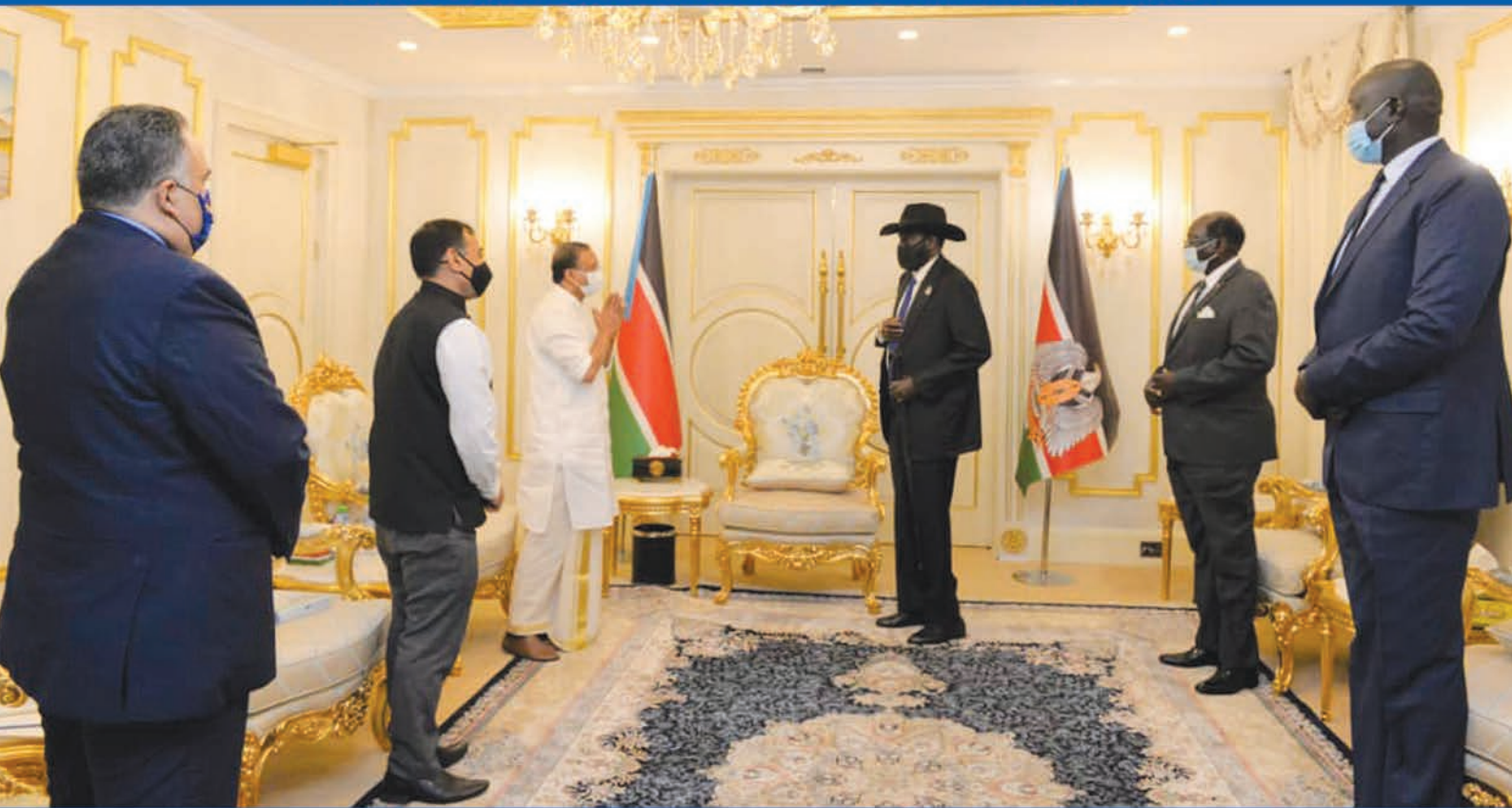


Embassy of India Newsletter

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



LANDMARK VISIT OF SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDIA



AMBASSADOR'S PAGE

Vishnu Kumar Sharma
Ambassador of India to
South Sudan

**FOREWORD**

I am happy to present the fourth quarterly edition of the "Embassy of India Newsletter", providing a round-up of activities, during the period from October to December, 2021.

The major highlight of this quarter was the official visit of Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs of India, Shri V. Muraleedharan to Juba, from 20-22 October, 2021. Under the theme of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav"- commemorating 75 years of India's independence, the visit, first from Indian side for bilateral talks, was a historic occasion. The visit has given a fillip to bilateral relations for deeper and broader engagement. It also provided the Indian community a rare opportunity to interact with an Indian dignitary in South Sudan after several years. In essence, the visit signified the priority the Government of India assigns to its relations with African countries and its penchant for welfare of Indian diaspora.

Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) is the flagship development partnership programme of the Government of India. India allocates 240 seats every year to South Sudan for training in different disciplines for capacity building. The Embassy celebrated ITEC Day to reconnect with ITEC alumni (numbering over 900) and promote networking among them.

To mark the 75th year of India's independence, several events and functions were organized by the Embassy and Indian community to celebrate "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". Gandhi Jayanti, International Day of Non-Violence, Navratri festival, National Unity Day, Indian Constitution Day and "Mahaparinirvan" Day were organized in physical format. Indian diaspora was encouraged to participate online in "Dekho Apna Desh" and Constitution Quizzes.

The Embassy and Indian community felicitated Lt. General S.S. Tinaikar, SM, VSM, who successfully completed his assignment as Force Commander of one of the largest and complex Peace Keeping Force under UNMISS. It was a great achievement of an Indian at international level deserving acknowledgement and celebration under the theme of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".

I presented my credentials as Ambassador of India to H.E. the President of the Republic of South Sudan on 19 October 2021. A number of formal and informal meetings with the South Sudanese Ministries and Authorities have taken place since then. Ideas and proposals for development partnership have been initiated firming up the cooperation dimensions between the two countries.

Conveying my well wishes for happiness, prosperity and success in fight against Covid-19 pandemic in 2022,

(Vishnu Kumar Sharma)

VISIT OF HON'BLE SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS OF INDIA TO JUBA (SOUTH SUDAN) FROM 20-22 OCTOBER, 2021

Hon'ble Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, was on official visit in Juba (South Sudan) from 20-22 October, 2021, with his delegation, comprising Shri Sunil Kumar, Director, and Shri A. Chandru, Deputy Secretary, in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. Being the first ministerial visit from India to South Sudan for bilateral talks, it was a landmark development in the bilateral relations. The delegation was received and seen-off by Hon'ble Deng Dau Deng Malek, the Deputy Foreign Minister of South Sudan.



MEETING WITH HON. FOREIGN MINISTER

The Indian Minister had meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of South Sudan, Hon'ble Mr. Mayiik Ayii Deng. The two ministers reviewed all aspects of the existing bilateral relations and discussed new avenues of cooperation in the fields of agriculture, livestock, education, healthcare and Information Technology. Both sides were appreciative of each other's support and cooperation in the United Nations. India agreed to South Sudanese request for training of young diplomats of South Sudan. Considering vulnerability of South Sudan to frequent natural disasters, India invited South Sudan to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). Shri Muraleedharan also extended to the Foreign Minister an invitation to visit India. Hon'ble Foreign Minister hosted a banquet in the honour of the Indian dignitary on 20 October 2021.



MEETING WITH HON. MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

Hon'ble Shri V. Muraleedharan, who also holds charge as Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, also had a meeting with Hon'ble Ms. Mary Nawai Martin, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan. Both Ministers shared information about parliamentary systems of their respective countries. India expressed its readiness to share its own experiences in developing parliamentary rules, procedures and practices with South Sudan and offered various capacity building training courses for new members of parliament and officials of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs & election commission. The South Sudanese Minister appreciated the offer. Shri Muraleedharan extended invitation to Rt. Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of South Sudan to visit India to observe proceedings in both houses of Parliament.



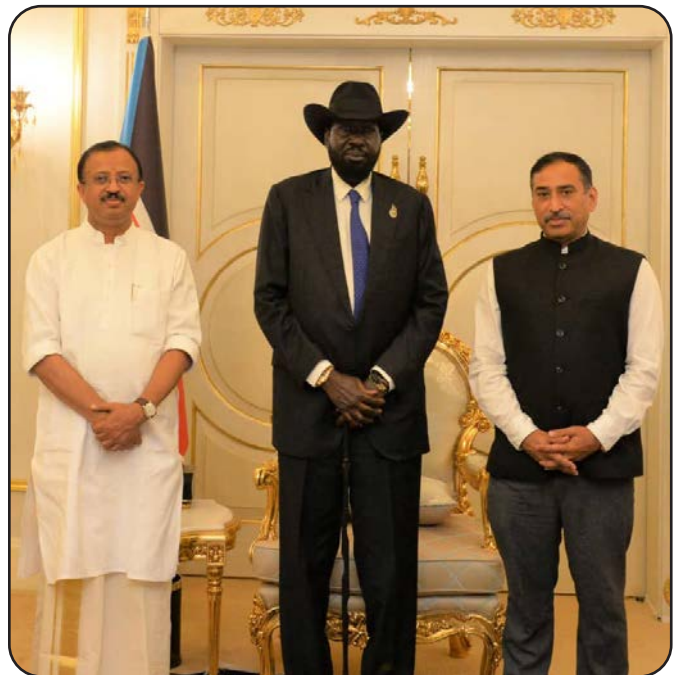
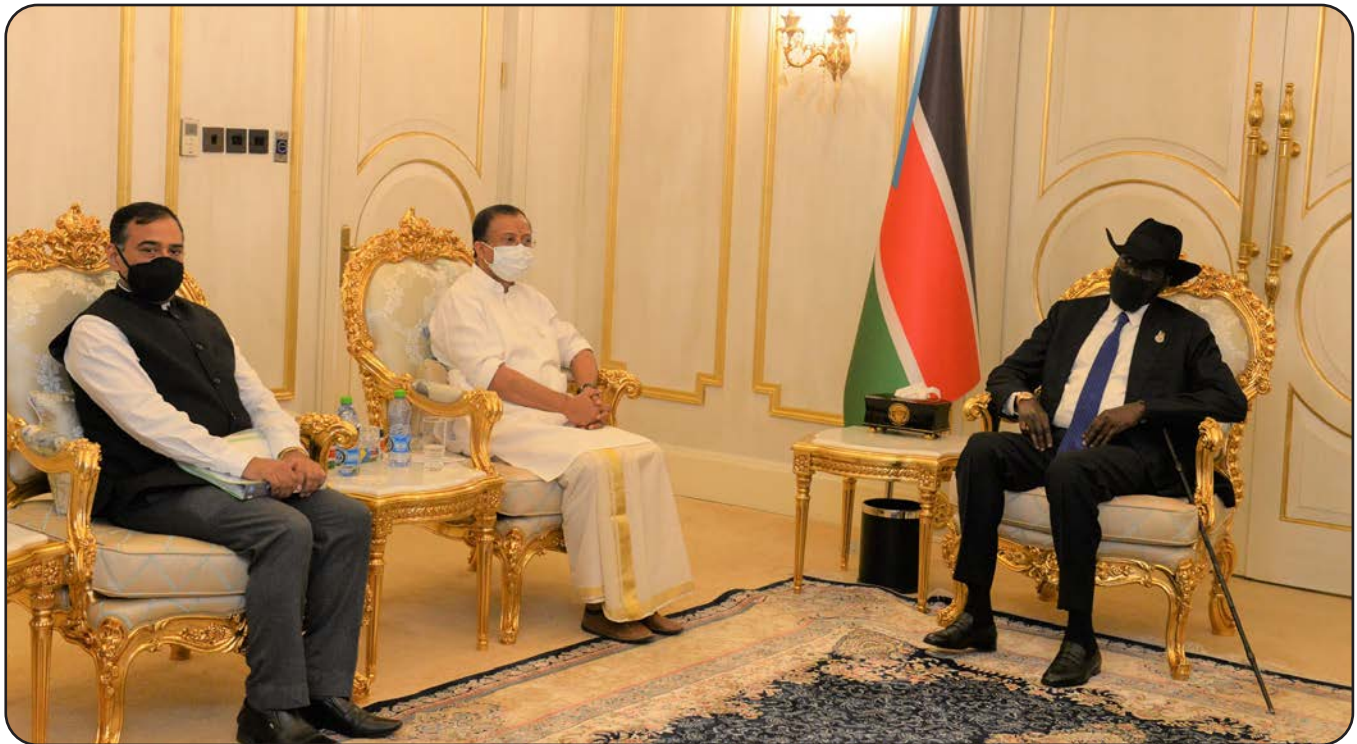
CALL ON H.E. THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Shri Muraleedharan called on H.E. Dr Riek Machar Teny Dhurgon, the First Vice President of South Sudan. During the talks the Indian Minister emphasized the untapped potential for growth of bilateral trade and Indian investment between the two countries and drew attention of H.E. Riek Machar to the constraints being faced by the Indian entrepreneurs in South Sudan to realize the full potential. H.E. Riek Machar assured the Indian side that South Sudan understood the importance and role of foreign investments in development of South Sudan. He underscored that there was a free and friendly atmosphere for investors and they were welcome in South Sudan.



CALL ON H.E. THE PRESIDENT

Shri Muraleedharan called on H.E. Mr. Salva Kiir Mayardit, the President of the Republic of South Sudan. India expressed its support for the ongoing peace process envisaged in the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) and expressed hope that all constituents will contribute for expeditious implementation of the R-ARCSS to pave the way for a peaceful, stable and prosperous South Sudan. H.E. the President welcomed the Indian Minister and his delegation and thanked them for their visit to South Sudan. In consideration of a long pending demand of Indian community living in South Sudan, H.E. the President announced his approval for allocation of land for a cremation ground and a Hindu temple in Juba.



The visit of Shri Muraleedharan provided an impetus to bilateral relations by deepening engagement and is expected to open new areas of cooperation between India and South Sudan.

INTERACTION WITH INDIAN COMMUNITY AND ESTABLISHMENTS

Indian Community event at the Embassy: The Indian community wholeheartedly welcomed Shri Muraleedharan in Juba. The event also included a lively interaction between the dignitary and the Indian community members. In his address, Shri Muraleedharan commended the Indian community for their fortitude in continuing their entrepreneurship in challenging circumstances and contributing to the economy of South Sudan. He applauded the community also for its philanthropic activities to help the local population. The community was jubilant to receive an Indian Minister and will cherish the memories of his visit.



INDIAN ARMY HOSPITAL VISIT

Indian Army Hospital Visit: Shri V. Muraleedharan took a tour of Indian Field Hospital Level II run by Indian Army doctors deployed with UNMISS in Juba. National Senior Brigadier Dhananjay Joshi received the Minister in the UN premises. Shri Muraleedharan congratulated the Indian contingent for their stellar contribution towards peacekeeping operations in South Sudan as part of UN Mission, keeping alive the glorious tradition of Indian army. He also appreciated the Indian contingent for humanitarian assistance and capacity building efforts in the country.



TOUR TO DMI PREMISES

Shri Muraleedharan visited the Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate Collaboration (SDMIC) premise in Juba on 21 October 2021. The Minister and his delegation were touched by the hospitality of DMI sisters and officials. Sr. Viji, Mission Director, briefed the Minister about SDMIC's key programmes to assist the local population and the organization's contribution to the South Sudan Peace Building process, food security and capacity building. The Hon. Minister appreciated SDMIC for working tirelessly and selflessly for the welfare of underprivileged in South Sudan. The brief interaction with DMI sisters and officials was memorable.



INTERACTION WITH INDIAN ENTREPRENEURS

The Indian Association in South Sudan organized an interaction of Shri V. Muraleedharan with the Indian entrepreneurs at Hotel Panorama Plaza, Juba. Shri Ravindra Prakash, the President of Indian Association briefed the Minister about the business prospects for Indian trade and investment in South Sudan. During the interaction, factors hampering growth of Indian business in South Sudan and suggestions to overcome them were brought to the notice of the Minister by the participating Indian entrepreneurs. The Minister assured the participants that the problems being faced by the Indian businesses would be brought to the notice of South Sudanese leadership.



VISIT TO BAPS HINDU TEMPLE

Shri Muraleedharan paid a visit to BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha Hindu Temple in Juba. He did "Jalabhishek Puja" at the temple with other community members. Mr. Navnit Patel and Sanjay Patel, prominent Indian businessmen, welcomed him at the temple and gave a tour of the premises. The Minister was pleased to see that the Indian community was nurturing its roots and continuing to follow Indian traditions.



CELEBRATION OF ITEC-DAY, 2021

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) is a flagship development partnership programme of Government of India. Over 900 nominees from South Sudan have availed ITEC scholarship programme since 2013. ITEC Day 2021 was celebrated by the Embassy in Juba on October 1, 2021 to connect with ITEC alumni of South Sudan and provide them a platform for networking. Representatives of line Ministry of Education and Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation along with over 100 ITEC alumni attended the event. The Ambassador also launched an Indian Alumni Portal for South Sudanese nationals, who have studied or done training in India to promote interaction among them and disseminate information about education facilities available in India. A power point presentation followed by demonstration of yoga poses by Indian Peace Keepers in South Sudan was also part of the event in keeping with spirit of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration.



GANDHI JAYANTI- INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE

The Indian Embassy organized an event on the occasion of birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October 2021. Ambassador Sharma and all the Embassy officials paid floral tribute to the father of nation. Favourite "bhajans" (hymns) of Gandhiji were played.

Mahatma Gandhi has said "the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated". Following this spirit of non-violence, the Indian Battalion of UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) based at Malakal organized a camp to mark the International Day of Non-Violence by ex-tending free veterinary clinical services by treating/deworming 237 sick cattle. The gesture of service to local population generated goodwill for India and Indians.



PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

Mr. Vishnu Kumar Sharma presented his credentials as the new Ambassador of India on 19 October 2021 to H.E. Mr. Salva Kiir Mayardit, the President of the Republic of South Sudan. During the tete-a-tete following the ceremony, the President expressed happiness with the existing relations between the two countries and thanked India for capacity building assistance. Ambassador Sharma thanked the President for receiving him and conveyed India's willingness to continue strengthening the already cordial and friendly relations between the two countries and to explore new areas of cooperation.



NATIONAL UNITY DAY

National Unity Day was celebrated by the Mission to commemorate birth anniversary of Sardar Patel on 31 October 2021. Ambassador Sharma administered the "National Integration Pledge" to all India-based officials. A short video on life and values of Sardar Patel was screened. Ambassador paid tribute to Sardar Patel and in his speech at the event underscored the contribution of Sardar Patel in national integration of India.



NAVRATRI- INDIAN FESTIVAL

Indian Community Celebrated Navratri Festival at Juba under the theme "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav"- Celebrating Indian Culture. A video message from Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State (External Affairs) greeting Indian Community in South Sudan on the occasion of Navratri was screened at the inauguration of the festival on 9 October 2021 at Hindu Temple, which included Navratri Puja, Garba & Dandia dance and community feast.



INDIAN CONSTITUTION DAY

The Mission organized an Academic Forum and Panel Discussion on Constitutional Values in collaboration with the University of Juba. Ambassador Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Dean of Law Faculty, law experts and around 150 law students participated in the event at the University of Juba. The law experts at the event admired the wisdom of Indian constitution makers and described the Indian Constitution as an inspiration to countries in Africa.

Ambassador in his speech gave detailed account of the salient features of the Indian Constitution and the constitutional provisions regarding the official language ("Rajbhasha") in India. He emphasized the importance of determining an official language for a newly independent country while framing a new Constitution.

At the end of the event, a question-answer session was held. The panel of law experts, answered questions from the audience, mainly law students of the university. Some of the speakers seemed to have a deep knowledge of Indian constitution.

Mission separately organized "Dekho Apna Desh" quiz online. Mission officials also participated in Preamble Reading and Constitution Day Quiz. Ambassador Sharma also administered the "Samvidhan Diwas" pledge to the Embassy Officials.



MAHAPARINIRWAN DIWAS

The Embassy officials paid floral tribute to Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar on the "Mahaparinirvan Diwas" marked on 6 December 2021. In an Academic Discussion organised in the Chancery, Ambassador highlighted some lesser-known facts about Dr. Ambedkar. The Head of Chancery Shri Sushil Kumar Rajoria, spoke on various aspects of life and values of Dr. Ambedkar. A short documentary and power point presentation on Dr. Ambedkar were also screened on the occasion for the gathering.

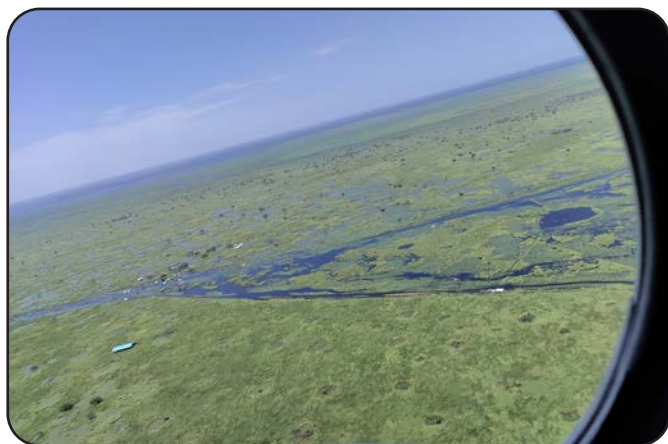


CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF INDIANS

Lt. General S.S. Tinaikar, SM, VSM, successfully completed his assignment as Force Commander of UN Mission in South Sudan. The Indian General commanded one of the largest and most complex UN Forces during the highly unsettling times in the country. Under his exemplary leadership, there was a notable improvement in the security situation and violent flare-ups were controlled promptly. He played a vital role as Force Commander in restoring and sustaining peace during the transition period of last two and half years in South Sudan. The General was felicitated on 18 December 2021 by the Embassy and the Indian community for making India proud by his exemplary contribution at International level. It was a privilege to felicitate him in the 75th year of India's independence as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav'- Celebrating Achievements of India abroad.



MAJOR BILATERAL INTERACTIONS



Ambassador Sharma did an aerial survey of flood affected areas around Ponyagaru on 10 November 2021 alongwith Hon. Peter Mayen Majongdit, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Hon. Deng Dau Deng, the Deputy Foreign Minister, H.E. the Ambassador of China to South Sudan and UN Humanitarian assistance coordinator to assess the amount of damage caused. It was followed by discussions with UN agencies and the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Management on logistics and procedures involved to consider Indian assistance for flood affected people.

Ambassador Sharma met Hon. James Hoth Mai, Minister of Labour to explore possibilities of cooperation between the two countries. Feasibility of commencing a project that remained pending due to security situation and Covid-19 pandemic was also discussed. Both sides agreed to re-evaluate the obligatory requirements on their parts for reconsidering the project. The possibility of involving other agencies for execution of the project was also explored.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hon'ble Mayiik Ayii received Ambassador Sharma on 2 December 2021 to discuss further the issues raised during the meetings of Hon'ble V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs of India with the South Sudanese leadership, in October 2021. Hon. Foreign Minister patiently listened to all the points raised by Ambassador Sharma and promised to help in arranging meetings with the concerned authorities of the Government of South Sudan to facilitate progress on agreed proposals. The meeting was very fruitful and constructive.

Hon'ble Emmanuel Adil Anthony, the Governor of Central Equatoria State (South Sudan) and Ambassador Sharma had the first official meeting on 8 December 2021. Cooperation in waste management and capacity building in several other areas were discussed. Both sides expressed willingness to expand the bilateral cooperation further. The Governor assured his support from Central Equatoria State Government on certain Indian community demands.

INDIA'S JOURNEY OF ADMINISTERING 1000 MILLION VACCINATIONS



The journey of administering 100 crore (i.e. 1000 million) 'Made in India' vaccines - Covaxin and Covishield - to the citizens of India started on 16th January 2021 under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Since the dawn of the pandemic, India has shown its commitment to protect its citizens by taking on this arduous and formidable task involving enormous resources, unstinted support of the States/UTs, untiring efforts of Health Care Workers, Front Line Workers and proactive participation of all stakeholders.

Administering 100 crore vaccine doses is an unprecedented accomplishment, and the world applauded India. At MyGov we applaud and celebrate the determination of the Indian citizen, towards overcoming this pandemic.

सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामया।

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद् दुःख भागभवेत्॥

May everyone be healthy and free from illness

PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES OF INDIAN COMMUNITY

The Indian community continued its charitable activities in South Sudan. On the occasion of Christmas, the community led by Mr. Arun Kumar, M/s Bluestar Engineering Co. Ltd, distributed food items at Gudule orphanage (Juba), bringing smiles on the faces of beneficiary children.



PRIME MINISTER MODI INAUGURATES PHASE-I OF KASHI VISHWANATH CORRIDOR VARANASI

The Kashi Vishwanath temple premises, which were only around 3000 square feet, has now become About 5 lakh square feet. Now, 50,000 to 75,000 devotees can come to visit the temple and its premises. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13 December 2021 inaugurated the first phase of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Uttar Pradesh's ancient holy city Varanasi.



ANCIENT KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE

