

Embassy of India Newsletter

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75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Sabka **Saath**
Sabka **Vikas**
Sabka **Vishwas**
Sabka **Prayas**

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



AMBASSADOR'S PAGE

Vishnu Kumar Sharma
Ambassador of India to
South Sudan

**FOREWORD**

It gives me great pleasures to present the third quarterly edition of the "Embassy of India Newsletter" providing a round-up of activities during the period from July to September, 2021.

The Embassy officials and Indian community, along with the Indian peace keepers in South Sudan, celebrated the 75th Independence Day of India on 15 August 2021. The 75-week period i.e. From 12 March 2021 to 15 August 2023, is being observed as "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" (AKAM) by the Government of India to commemorate 75 years of India's independence. The Festival is dedicated to the people of India, who have been instrumental in progress of the country since independence and have the potential to realize the vision of Prime Minister H.E. Narendra Modi of heralding India 2.0, fuelled by the spirit of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India.

The Indian peace keepers in South Sudan continue to hold their glorious tradition of outstanding service amidst daunting challenges. Apart from their mandated duties, they have been contributing towards building capacity in South Sudan in an effective manner. Indian Battalion at Malakal provided veterinary assistance at Mulbok Buma and in Renk Payam. The Battalion also carried out 'Basic Computer Training' for 65 students at Bandar Primary School in Malakal and distributed stationery items to the students of Seventh Day Adventists Primary and Nursery School at Kodok in Fashoda County.

United Nation Medals were awarded to 836 Indian peace keeping troops of 13 Punjab (JIND) Infantry Battalion Group (INDBATT-1) based at Malakal in South Sudan on 22 September 2021 to honour them for their meritorious contribution to the peacekeeping operations in one of the most dynamic terrain of Upper Nile State. It was a privilege for me to join the UNMISS Force Commander, Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar, SM, VSM, to award these medals to our peace keepers. The visit to Malakal also provided an opportunity to meet the Hon'ble Acting Governor of Upper Nile State and interact with young students at Bandar Primary School.

The Society of "Daughters of Mary Immaculate" and Collaborators (SDMIC) has successfully conducted several projects in areas of humanitarian work in South Sudan. SDMIC graduated 100 youths, who completed vocational courses in different streams. The skill acquired, with government approved certificates, would open employment opportunities for these youths. The Indian origin of this religious congregation (DMI) and devotion of Indian sisters, tirelessly serving humanity, make we Indians proud.

A very cordial and friendly meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of South Sudan Hon'ble Deng Dau Deng Malek on 25 August 2021, was the first official contact with the host side for me as the new Ambassador. The meeting set the tone for an engaging work relationship.

I had my first interaction with the Indian community in Juba. The enterprising spirit and fortitude of Indians is commendable. The community has not only shown an indomitable will to succeed against all odds but has also contributed to the welfare of local population in the difficult times of Covid-19 pandemic. For me, it is a great opportunity to be able to serve the community in such challenging times.

India supports South Sudan in its ongoing efforts to implement the Revitalized Peace Agreement. It will continue to contribute towards peace and development of South Sudan in the spirit of South-South Cooperation.

Hope you would find this edition informative.

(Vishnu Kumar Sharma)

CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

A function was organized at the Indian Embassy premises to celebrate the 75th Independence Day of India on 15 August 2021. Indian community members, Indian peace keepers from UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), representatives of Indian religious congregations and friends of India attended the ceremony.

Ambassador Sharma hoisted the national flag and read excerpts from the Message of Hon'ble President of India to the Nation. Addressing the gathering he appreciated the contribution of Indian community to the economy of South Sudan as also its welfare assistance to local population. Commending the work of Indian peace keepers, he expressed gratitude of the nation for their meritorious and outstanding services in extremely challenging environment. Ambassador also praised the stupendous humanitarian work of Indian missionaries in South Sudan.

Ambassador called upon the gathering to take part with full enthusiasm in various events that the Embassy was planning to organize in next two years, as part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" to commemorate the glorious journey of India since independence.



BILATERAL ENGAGEMENT

Ambassador Sharma was received by the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of South Sudan, Hon'ble Deng Dau Deng Malek, on 25 August 2021. This was the first official meeting of Ambassador Sharma with a South Sudanese dignitary after his appointment to South Sudan.

During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction with existing bilateral relations and decided to work to expand the cooperation further. Ambassador Sharma conveyed the best wishes from Indian side to the people of South Sudan. He also offered Indian humanitarian assistance to South Sudan that may be required during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hon. Deng Dau Deng, appreciated India's support to South Sudan at the UN and thanked India for its help in capacity building. Hon. Minister expressed the desire to take up the development assistance projects which had remained pending due to security situation and Covid-19 pandemic. He praised the Indian community for their entrepreneurial skills and professionalism and thanked Indian businessmen and establishments for contributing to the economy of the country as also creating employment opportunities for the local population.



INTERACTION WITH INDIAN ENTREPRENEURS AND COMMUNITY

An Interaction between Embassy officials and Indian entrepreneurs was organized at the Embassy on 31 August 2021. Representatives of different Indian establishments and Indian professionals participated in the interaction.

During the interaction, wide range of issues related to bilateral trade and investment between India and South Sudan were discussed. The participants were well aware of local political and economic conditions. They pointed out impediments in the growth of bilateral trade and also made suggestions to address these impediments. The perception of security situation and clarity about regulations were cited as some of the main impediments.

Some Indian businessmen narrated their enterprising journey since their time of arrival, when South Sudan was still a part of Sudan. Having seen the country evolving, most seemed well aware of both business potential and risks involved. Despite the restricting environment and security issues, the Indian community sounded rather positive about growth prospects in the near future. Views and suggestions expressed during the meeting were noted by the Embassy for appropriate redressal.

The Indian community in South Sudan, despite not being very large (around 800), is vibrant, unified and active. Over the years, through their philanthropic acts, the community has endeared itself to local population.



RAJBHASHA HINDI DIWAS

Hindi Diwas was celebrated in the Embassy on 14 September 2021. Indian community members, Indian peace keepers from UN Mission in South Sudan and Embassy officials attended the function. On this occasion Hindi Essay, Poetry and Oratory skill competitions were organized and participants were given prizes and certificates. Ambassador Sharma read the Hindi Diwas message of Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and spoke about constitutional provisions related to Raj Bhasha. He also shared the efforts made by the Government of India to promote and propagate Hindi in official work after independence.



“हिंदी दिवस के अवसर पर मैं सभी देशवासियों से आग्रह करता हूँ कि मूल कार्यों में अपनी मातृभाषा के साथ राजभाषा हिंदी का उत्तरोत्तर प्रयोग करने का संकल्प लें। मातृभाषा व राजभाषा के समन्वय में ही भारत की प्रगति समाहित है। आप सभी को ‘हिंदी दिवस’ की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।”

— Amit Shah (@AmitShah) [September 14, 2021](#)

VISIT TO MALAKAL

Ambassador visited Malakal Town on 22 September 2021 and met the Acting Governor of Upper Nile State, Hon'ble James Tor Monybuny. They discussed the possibilities of cooperation in different areas. At INDBATT-1 Veterinary Hospital, the Ambassador was briefed by Lt Col Philip Varghese, Veterinary Detachment Commander of INDBATT-1 on veterinary activities. He also interacted and motivated the students of Bandar Primary School, Malakal and donated some stationery items. JIT Indian Supermarket, Juba, also provided gift items for distribution at the school.



MEDAL DAY PARADE CEREMONY OF INDBATT-I AT MALAKAL

United Nation Medals were awarded to 836 troops of 13 Punjab (JIND) Infantry Battalion Group (INDBATT-1) based at Malakal in South Sudan on 22 September 2021. These medals were awarded to Indian Army Officers' and troops for their meritorious contribution to the peacekeeping operations in one of the most dynamic terrain of Upper Nile State to uphold the UN mandate. The medal parade was reviewed by Lt Gen Shailesh Tinaikar, Force Commander, UNMISS. In his address, the Force Commander congratulated INDBATT-I for its outstanding work in a challenging environment in South Sudan. The Upper Nile Acting Governor Hon'ble Mr. James Tor Monybury graced the ceremony representing the State. Commander Sector South Brigadier Dhananjay Joshi and Col Neeraj Tiwari, Contingent Commander INDBATT-1 were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering Ambassador of India Mr. Vishnu Kumar Sharma applauded the Indian battalion for undertaking daunting tasks to maintain peace while ensuring a conducive work environment for UN agencies and local population. He also commended the battalion for its contribution towards building the veterinary capabilities of South Sudan and training of local youth for managing these hospitals and capacity building in other areas.

Vibrant cultural dance performances and sports activities were also organized during Medal Parade Ceremony by Indian Battalion at Malakal under the theme of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.



INDIAN PEACE KEEPERS EXTENDING HELPING HAND TO LOCAL POPULATION

Indian Battalion at Malakal, South Sudan, distributed stationery items to the students of Seventh Day Adventists Primary School at Kodok, Fashoda County. The gesture was highly appreciated by the staff of the school. Children were jubilant to get the items.



AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV – “VOLLEYBALL MATCH FOR PEACE”

The 13 Punjab (JIND) Inf Bn Gp (INDBATT-1) based at Malakal in UNMISS commemorated International Day of Peace with Volleyball Match for Peace between Indian Troops and Local Community reflecting theme as “Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world.”. The match ended two to one in favor of the Malakal Youth. Certificate and prizes were awarded to Malakal Community Volleyball team by Force Cdr, UNMISS Lt Gen S.S. Tinaikar, SM, VSM. Indian National Senior and Cdr Sect South Brig D.Joshi, VSM distributed sports shoes. Hon Ambassador Mr V.K Sharma distributed essential items to the local administration for the Malakal Community.



BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING TO STUDENTS AT BANDAR PRIMARY SCHOOL, MALAKAL

INDBATT-I conducted 'Basic Computer Training' to 65 students at Bandar Primary School in Malakal from 31 Aug 2021 to 03 Sep 2021.

The knowledge of computer in today's world is vital for each and every student. Learning the basic operations is a must to avail the opportunities available to the budding young minds in one of the youngest country. Colonel Neeraj Tiwari, Commander of Indian Battalion (INDBATT-1) opened the training course for the local students on 31 August 2021, with the idea of capacity building in this important area.

Fundamentals of computers, how to connect various components of computers, switching on, shutting down, opening a MS word file, typing, word formatting, inserting a table, saving a document, Opening a MS PowerPoint Presentation file, etc. were some of the key aspects of the training" said Lt Col Philip Varghese, Instructor from INDBATT-1. The students were very keen, attentive and quick in learning the basics the Indian peacekeeper added.

The closing ceremony was attended by Mr Charles Okwir, representing Field office, UNMISS, Malakal, Mr Philip Kuo Thon Ayuel, Headmaster of Bandar Primary School, Officers from INDBATT-1 apart from teachers and students of Bandar Primary School, Malakal. Certificate of completion of training were distributed to all the students who attended. A handbook on basics of computer training prepared by INDBATT-1 was also released and handed over to the Headmaster.



VETERINARY TREATMENT ASSISTANCE

Indian Battalion at Malakal provided veterinary assistance at Mulbok Buma on 7 September 2021 and at Renk Payam on 8 September 2021. In Mulbok, the veterinary team went door to door and provided treatment to sick goats and sheep besides awareness on best management practices to prevent diseases. In Renk Payam, besides treating sick cows, the Team also demonstrated tick control measures and ran awareness programme on animal health. A total of 1719 animals were treated. Owners of the livestock expressed gratitude to the Indian Peacekeepers for their assistance.



CAPACITY BUILDING VOCATIONAL COURSES BY SDMIC

The Society of "Daughters of Mary Immaculate" and Collaborators (SDMIC) organized the certification ceremony on September 2021, for the students who successfully completed technical courses in Beauty therapy, Masonry, Plumbing, Electrical Installation and Driving. Hon. James Hoth Mai, the Minister of Labour was a Guest of Honour. Other guests included the Mr. Ambassador of India Vishnu Kumar Sharma, officials from various ministries, INGOs, UN Agencies and Church representatives. During the event 100 youths were awarded government approved TVET certificates. These certificates will help the recipients find jobs in their different vocations.

DMI-Indian Religious Congregation serving humanity in South Sudan

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Among many other activities SDMIC, also carries out integrated programme for resilience building. Target beneficiaries are encouraged to embrace the habit of savings as a means of overcoming the economic challenges that they face. SDMIC also conducted meetings to discuss conflict issues and peaceful solutions as part of their contribution to peace building.

One of the main contributions of SDMIC is in the field of food security. In its tireless efforts, the congregation is building capacity in farming by successfully teaching local people new and sustainable methods and techniques for cultivating vegetables increasing availability of food and income.



CAPACITY BUILDING COURSES CONDUCTED ONLINE UNDER ITEC PROGRAMME

The Government of India had been offering face-to-face short-term training programmes to the Government Officials around the world in India for many years, but due to the emerging of Covid-19, the programme could not continue. As such, an online programme was introduced to facilitate the training.

Indian Embassy in South Sudan has facilitated number of online courses to the Officials of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in various fields of specialization. The courses are ongoing online until when further instructions will be given on face-to-face programmes.



HIGHLIGHTS OF ADDRESS TO NATION BY PRIME MINISTER MODI



In his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 75th Independence Day of India, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi touched upon a wide range of topics including the Covid-19 pandemic, vaccines, Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), welfare of small farmers, infrastructural development and India's Olympics performance. He laid the roadmap for the country for the next 25 years, saying "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayaas" (everyone's support, everyone's development, everyone's trust and everyone's efforts) was very important for the achievement of the nation's goals.

Following announcements were the highlights of his address:

- (i) **National Hydrogen Mission:** The National Hydrogen Mission was announced to make India the global production hub for clean hydrogen fuel production and export. The mission aims to make India self-reliant in clean energy and create new jobs.
- (ii) **Fortifying rice by 2024:** The PM announced that all rice distributed through government schemes will be fortified with nutrients to fight malnutrition.
- (iii) **Gati Shakti Yojana :** The PM announced a Rs 100-lakh crore national infrastructure plan called the Gati Shakti Yojana. The mission aims to give an integrated and holistic pathway to the Indian economy to enable the local entrepreneurs globally competitive.
- (iv) **75 Vande Bharat trains in 75 weeks:** The PM announced that 75 'Vande Bharat' trains will connect different parts of the country in 75 weeks. Vande Bharat is an indigenous semi-high speed train.
- (v) **Sainik (military) Schools to admit girls:** The PM also announced that girl cadets will now be able to join all-boys Sainik Schools from the academic session 2021-22.

"We will have to work together to manufacture world-class products, using cutting-edge innovation and new age technology," PM Modi said. The Prime Minister also highlighted that the world was witness to India's reforms and "a new chapter of governance". "Political will is required to bring in big changes, big reforms. Today, the world can see that there is no dearth of political will in India. Good and smart governance is needed to bring reforms," he said.

CELEBRATING SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE THEMES OF AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV (<https://amritmahotsav.nic.in/>)



Global Outreach: “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” will be shared and promoted around the world, also with India’s diverse diaspora across many continents. As we begin these celebrations, we invite people to participate digitally in the events that unfold through the year. These events will highlight India’s culture and heritage on a global stage and bring awareness globally to the unique legacy of India. Events overseas will depict India’s impressive growth story in all spheres.

Showcasing India’s Development: Over the last 75 years, India has grown significantly across all sectors. The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav will showcase India’s accomplishments since 1947, instilling a sense of pride. India’s development has been remarkable and holds great promise for the future. From space and technology, to health and education, India’s growth story has been impressive and innovative across all sectors.

Vishwa Guru Bharat: ‘A guru is someone who has the power to see greatness even in the lowest man and has the power to raise it’

Since the beginning of civilization India has been the Guru for the whole world. When the whole world was groping in darkness India was teaching about the identity of man with the Supreme. People from all around the world converged to India to gain from its priceless wisdom. Indeed, the country that showed the whole world its academic brilliance through Sushrutha, Kanad, and Aryabhatta deserves to gain the same pedestal of being “Vishwa Guru” again.

Now, that the world has openly adopted ‘Namaste’ as a way of greeting, Indian values have a treasure trove of beliefs that can change the entire world for betterment. From Ayurveda to Indian science, there’s more to India that the world needs to know, learn, and adopt. Bharat can become Vishwa Guru also because of its message of great love and great compassion for all. We believe in ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’, the world is one family. And now, is time that the entire world also imbibes the spirit.

Self-Reliant India: The idea of self-reliant nation in every aspect is being achieved by the pioneering vision of our Hon’ble Prime Minister. During the pandemic, India has demonstrated that it can cope up with dire situation. Aatmanirbharta also gives a financial cushion to several businesses and encourage entrepreneurs to produce maximum goods and services within the country. Within this year, India has not only started the world’s largest self-made vaccination drive, it is in fact exporting it to different nations as well. The whole concept of self-reliance will reduce unemployment at many levels. India is a big and the fast-growing market for a majority of the product categories and with the mantra of ‘vocal for local’, the promulgation of local brands, manufacturing and supply chain will provide a big boost to India’s economy.

सबका साथ
सबका विकास
सबका विश्वास
सबका प्रयास



PROGRESSIVE INDIA

