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PARTICIPANTS AT INDIAN EMBASSY - IDY 2022



JAIPUR FOOT CAMP, JUBA



FOREWORD

Vishnu Kumar Sharma
Ambassador of India to
South Sudan



India-South Sudan relations witnessed new heights of engagement during the second quarter of 2022. The decisions taken during the visit by Hon'ble V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs in October, 2022 to Juba, with a view to intensifying the bilateral cooperation, came to fruition through close collaboration between the two sides.

The Embassy continued its efforts to build the capacity of the new nation and to enhance bilateral trade. With this end in view, the Government of India sponsored training of 31 South Sudanese diplomats through a Special Course organized at New Delhi from 17 to 27 May 2022. The training offered an opportunity to provide a foundation for the professional career of these young diplomats, while deepening their understanding of Indian culture, polity, people and perspective of its foreign policy.

An Artificial Limbs Fitment (Jaipur Foot) Camp was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs of South Sudan. A 7-member team from Shree Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur (India), conducted the Camp from 30 May to 9 July, 2022 at the Juba Military Referral Hospital. Over 500 amputees benefitted from the camp. A total of 350 artificial limbs, 100 elbow crutches and 50 walking sticks were provided free of cost, bringing smiles to beneficiaries, who could now start an independent and active life afresh.

In June 2022, India commissioned a development assistance project to provide four handpumps (boreholes) at IDPs' Camp in Mangalla, in the spirit of South-South Cooperation. The handpumps mitigated the suffering of a large number of residents, who had to fetch water from far off earlier.

A number of Yoga events were organized by the Embassy and UNMISS in different towns around the International Day of Yoga, 2022. An enthusiastic participation by the Indian community as well as people of other nationalities demonstrated the growing popularity of Yoga across the world. The main event at the Embassy (19 June 2022) was graced by the Central Equatoria Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare as the Chief Guest.

Other Indian entities also continued their contribution to the economic growth of South Sudan through capacity building efforts, infrastructure development and charitable work. The Indbatt-1, UNMISS, which held a veterinary camp to control animal disease outbreak and treatment in Upper Nile State, got a much deserved appreciation from local authorities. Indian Horizontal Military Engineering Company of UNMISS in Malakal restored two roads in Upper Nile State, a great feat considering the technical aspects, skills and hard work involved.

The Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Collaborators (**SDMIC**) from India continued to selflessly and tirelessly serve the local population. To boost agriculture production, SDMIC distributed quality seeds & saplings to hundreds of farmers in Upper Nile State and Juba county, besides imparting job oriented vocational training to youths.

I hope that the Newsletter serves its purpose of providing a round-up of activities of the Embassy of India and other Indian entities for the quarter.

Vishnu Kumar Sharma
Ambassador

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS FITMENT CAMP AT JUBA MILITARY HOSPITAL

The Embassy of India in Juba organized a six-week Artificial Limbs (Jaipur Foot) Fitment Camp, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs of South Sudan, at the Juba Military Referral Hospital (JMRH) from 30 May to 9 July, 2022. Ambassador Satish Chand Mehta led the eight-member team from Shree Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur (India) to conduct the Camp. A welcome dinner was hosted for the BMVSS and other collaborators in the Camp at Panorama Plaza Hotel, which was graced by the Hon'ble Defence Minister of South Sudan.

On 2 June 2022, the Camp was formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Angelina Teny, the Minister of Defence and Veterans' Affairs of South Sudan, alongside Hon'ble Deng Dau Deng Malek, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan and Central Equatoria State Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Hon'ble Bullen Amos Soro. Appreciating the collective efforts of the Indian Embassy, the BMVSS team and the JMRH staff in organizing the camp, the Minister of Defence in her speech at the Camp opening ceremony expressed gratitude to the Government of India on behalf of the Government of South Sudan for the generous support to achieve this noble objective. The Deputy Foreign Minister, described the camp as fulfilment of his cherished dream and thanked the government of India for organizing the camp. The Social Welfare Minister also thanked the Government of India for the much-needed assistance and hoped more such camps could be organized with the help of the Government of India and BMVSS.

Over 500 amputees visited the Camp and attended by the BMVSS team. In total, 350 artificial limbs were prepared and fitted, free of cost. Around 100 amputees were given elbow crutches and walking sticks. Prominent media in South Sudan published interviews and articles with a highly positive feedback from the beneficiaries.



TRAINING OF SOUTH SUDANESE DIPLOMATS IN INDIA

Hon'ble V.Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs of India, had visited Juba in October 2021. During his bilateral meetings with Hon'ble Mayiik Ayii Deng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan, the South Sudanese side had expressed a desire for training of their young diplomats in India. The Indian Minister had agreed to organize a capacity building course at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) at New Delhi.

A Special Course for diplomats from South Sudan was organized from 17 to 27 May 2022 at SSIFS. This was the third time such a training was organised for South Sudanese Diplomats in India, with the first and second training programme being held in 2008 and 2017, respectively.

In an especially customized training programme comprising both lectures and field visits, topics and issues of relevance to South Sudan were incorporated by SSIFS. While 29 diplomats travelled from Juba, 2 diplomats from the Embassy of South Sudan in New Delhi joined them for the training.

Towards the end of the course the participating diplomats made two country presentations on South Sudan; on "Political and Economic Set Up" and "Country's Social and Cultural Profile". The feed-back provided by the diplomats after their training to the training institute was positive and encouraging. The training will foster their understanding of India and its policies in different areas.

The Embassy organized a meeting with the diplomats before their departure to brief them about the training course, travel, stay, weather conditions etc. in India. Following their visit, a debriefing meeting was also held in the Embassy to get the feedback from the diplomats. An overwhelming majority of them found the entire course extremely useful and were thankful for the great experience they had in India.



BOREHOLES (HANDPUMPS) PROJECT AT MANGALLA IDPS CAMP

The visit of Hon'ble V Muraleedharan Minister of State of External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs of India to South Sudan in October 2021 gave a fillip to our bilateral relations. India's commitment to assist South Sudan under the spirit of South-South cooperation was reiterated during the meetings. Following the visit, the Embassy received a request for assistance for boreholes at the Internally Displaced Persons' (IDPs) Camp at Mangalla. The project included digging of four boreholes (handpumps) to mitigate suffering of the residents of the Camp, who had to fetch potable water from far off.

An MoU was signed between the Embassy of India, Juba and the Mangalla IDPs Camp Authority (MICA) on 19.4.2022. After completion of the project, a ceremony for formal handing over of the project by Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma to the Mangalla IDPs Camp Chairman Mr. Dau Akoi was held on 25 June 2022 at the site. Hon'ble Deng Dau Deng Malek, the Deputy Foreign Minister, two members of National Legislative Assembly, Under Secretary of Defence Ministry, all MICA officials and hundreds of camp residents were present at the ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Foreign Minister thanked the Government of India for the project and conveyed the appreciation on behalf of the leadership of the country for India's continuous support. He also praised India's efforts in assisting South Sudan in capacity building and for humanitarian needs. Describing the relations with India as very close and friendly, he expressed the hope for further deepening of cooperation. The Chairman of Mangalla IDPs Camp expressed gratitude and thanked the Government of India for this thoughtful assistance to alleviate the suffering of the camp residents in getting drinking water.

The residents were jubilant with the facility of handpumps near their houses and were full of gratitude to the Government of India for the generous help. The project was executed by AR Drilling & Trading and the handpumps installed are of Indian brand (AOV Indian Mark-II).



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA - 2022

The 8th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was organized under the theme "Yoga for Humanity" at the Embassy premises on 19th June, 2022, in which over 100 yoga enthusiasts, including Indian nationals, foreign diplomats, representatives from various international agencies and South Sudanese nationals took part. Hon'ble Bullen Amos Soro, the Central Equatoria State Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare was the Chief Guest. In his address on the occasion, Hon'ble Amos described Yoga as a precious gift of India to humanity and opined that options of all types of physical activities should be available to people. Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma sought cooperation of all to propagate yoga as a way of balanced and harmonious life.

In keeping with the celebrations of 75th year of Independence, and as part of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", the Embassy also separately organized pre-cursor events on 12 and 18 June to the main IDY event. A presentation on Yoga and Pranayama was also made during the precursor event in the Embassy on June 18.

The Indian contingent at UN MISSION also organised a Yoga session on 21st June 2022, i.e., on International Day of Yoga, at Juba. Members from UN agencies of different nationalities enthusiastically participated in the celebrations. Indian contingent at UN MISSION at Bor separately organised a Yoga event on the occasion, in which South Sudanese nationals also participated in large numbers.



MEDAL DAY PARADE CEREMONY OF INDBATT-1 IN UN MISSION

To recognize the dedication and sacrifice during their deployment in foreign land, 849 troops of the 1st rotation of 19 RAJPUT (BIKANER) Infantry Battalion Group (INDBATT-1) in South Sudan were awarded with United Nations Medals on completion of their mandatory tour of duty on 26 April, 2022. The medals were also awarded to the troops of Indian HMEC and Indian Level II Field Hospital located at Malakal.

UNMISS Acting Force Commander, Major General Md Main Ullah Chowdhury was the Chief Guest for the event. The Ambassador of India to South Sudan, Mr. Vishnu Kumar Sharma was the Guest of Honour. The ceremony was attended by large number of military and civilian dignitaries which included Brigadier Dhananjay Joshi, Commander Sector South, Brigadier General Ao Yi, Commander, Sector North, Mr. Christian Mikala, Acting Head of Field Office, Malakal, Ms Hafsa Aljak Nyawaila, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Upper Nile State(UNS), Major General John Aben Deng, Acting GOC, 2nd Division (SSPDF) and Brigadier General Dang Machot, Acting Police Commissioner, SSPNS (Police), UNS. Several Defence personnel from various countries deployed for a peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, civil dignitaries and local officials from Malakal attended the ceremony.

Ambassador Sharma addressed the Indian Contingent and praised the Indian Contingent for undertaking all tasks in the spectrum of peacekeeping operations while building capacity of the local population and doing charitable work.

Colonel Vijay Rawat, Commander of INDBATT-1, apprised the audience that besides discharging their mandated role of protecting civilians, the Indian contingent in Upper Nile region has gone the extra mile in providing much-needed veterinary services, awareness campaigns, revival of bridge at Kodok, life-saving medical assistance and other outreach activities.

The ceremony included traditional dance performances of Bhangra and Dhol-Tasha, depicting the rich Indian culture and commemorating 75 Years of India's independence under the theme "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".



"PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA"

Fifth edition of "Pariksha pe Charcha" (Discussions over Examination) was a unique interactive session with students, teachers and parents, initiated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi. The event was live streamed on YouTube.

"Pariksha pe Charcha" video was screened at the Embassy on 1 April 2022. While friends of India watched the Hon'ble Prime Minister interact with students, Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma addressed them and translated in English the highlights of the interaction between the students and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.



JUBA PREMIER LEAGUE

In the spirit of "Fit India" theme, the Embassy associated with the cricket players of Juba that included members from Indian Association in South Sudan and other cricket lovers in the town for holding a cricket tournament, the 9th edition of Juba Premiere League, 2022. The tournament was coordinated by Mr. Arun, the Cultural Secretary of Indian Association and his associates. A total of eight (08) teams, with more than 150 players, competed for the title. As a precursor to International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2022, the Embassy of India, Juba, and JPL players held a small session of yoga alongside the Semi-Final matches on 12th June, 2022. In the keenly contested final match held on 26 June 2022, the Juba Warriors (A) won the title defeating the runner up, Kerala Strikers.



INTERNATIONAL WORLD BICYCLE DAY

A bicycle meets not only our transportation needs with zero emission but also fosters health and wellness. With this aim, the Embassy in collaboration with Star Pharmaceuticals organised a bicycle rally on 3 June, 2022, to mark the World Bicycle Day. The Embassy conveys its appreciation to the members of Indian community and friends of India in South Sudan, who participated in the rally to promote use of bicycles and acknowledges with thanks the collaboration extended by Star Pharmaceuticals, which provided the bicycles to some of the participants.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

"The Earth has enough resources for our need but not for our greed" is a famous quote by Mahatma Gandhi. Promoting an environmentally sustainable way of life, the Embassy celebrated World Environment Day on June 5, 2022 by creating compost pits within the Embassy premises with a twin objective of utilizing the dead leaves and waste as manure and to eliminate the need of burning of dry leaves. The officials of the Embassy also planted a few saplings within the premises and pledged to economize on the consumption of fossil fuel.



TOURISM, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (3T) PROMOTION

An interactive seminar was organized on 10 June by the Embassy for promotion of bilateral trade, tourism and transfer of technology between India and South Sudan. Promotional videos on tourism, ayurveda and quality yet affordable medical treatment facilities in India were screened at the event. Some South Sudanese diplomats, who had been to India for training and were present at the event, indicated that they were greatly impressed by what India had to offer and held the view that there was a vast scope for collaboration between India and South Sudan. The Ambassador in his speech brought out the areas where potential for bilateral trade and technology transfer existed, and in his interaction with the participants answered their queries, mostly pertaining to trade and investment related issues. The seminar was attended by South Sudan government functionaries, local businessmen and Embassy officials. Using the opportunity as pre-cursor to IDY event, Yoga and Pranayama session was also included at the end of the event.



IMPORTANT CALLS BY AMBASSADOR



With Minister of Higher Education, Science & Technology



With Dy. Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation

INTERACTION WITH INDIAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Chairman of the new executive committee of Indian Association in South Sudan, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Patel with a few newly elected Indian Association members and prominent Indian businessmen based in Juba, called on the Ambassador of India, Mr. Vishnu Kumar Sharma on June 14. During the interaction, the challenges faced by Indians in running their businesses and in making investments were discussed and suggestions were made to bring them to the notice of the concerned local authorities for resolution. Promotion and propagation of Indian culture in South Sudan to be organized by the Embassy in collaboration with the Indian community during Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was also outlined. Organisation of IDY 2022, effective outreach for Yoga and consular issues of the Indian community were also taken up during the meeting. The Indian Association assured of mobilising participation by the Indian community in South Sudan in all cultural activities of the Embassy.



TRIBUTES & ANNIVERSARIES

Commemorating the 75 years of independence of India, the Embassy organized anniversaries of great Indian icons and freedom fighters under the theme "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".

Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar

To celebrate the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the architect of Indian Constitution, an event was organized in the Embassy of India, Juba, on 14 April, 2022. Floral tribute was paid by the Ambassador and officials of the Embassy, alongwith general public, to the great leader, remembering his immense contribution to social justice in India.

Tagore Jayanti

On the occasion of 161st Birth Anniversary of Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranth Tagore, the Embassy organized a Floral Tribute in the honour of the icon of Indian culture on 9 May 2022.

Ambassador Sharma shared important aspects of the life and ideals of Gurudev with the gathering. A recitation of some great pieces of poetry of Gurudev in English as well as Bangla language, was held. A presentation on Tagore's greatest works was screened to the audience.

Buddha Poornima

Like some other great religions, Buddhism originated in India and spread throughout the world. On 16 May 2022, the occasion of his Birth Anniversary, which is celebrated in India as Buddha Poornima, officials of Embassy of India, Juba, paid floral tributes to Gautam Buddha at the Embassy and prayed for universal peace and harmony. A small meditation session with "Om" chanting was also organised during the occasion.

"Jhansi Ki Rani" Lakshmibai

Ambassador of India led Embassy officials in paying floral tributes to Rani Lakshmibai on the occasion of her death anniversary on 18 June. Rani Lakshmibai is regarded as one of the bravest women of India, and widely recognised to be among the first and foremost freedom fighters of the country. She laid down her life fearlessly defending her kingdom from the Britishers on 18 June 1858.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

On his birth anniversary on 9 May, the Embassy organized a floral tribute ceremony in honour of Gopal Krishna Gokhale, one of the tallest Indian political leaders, freedom fighter and a social reformer during the Indian independence movement. The Ambassador shared his thoughts on the contribution of the great leader in the freedom struggle of India.



INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS UN MISSION

105 Indian Horizontal Military Engineering Company (HMEC) deployed at UNMISS as part of United Nations peacekeeping force, worked relentlessly to restore 75 KM road stretch Malakal-Baliet-Adong. The road-stretch was in a dilapidated condition due to which the area became inaccessible, which affected the lives of locals. The restoration of the road has reduced the travel time from 4 hrs to 1hr.

Indian HMEC also rehabilitated another major supply route from Malakal town to Malakal Airport. The team battled harsh conditions and worked in the sweltering heat to reconstruct the road stretch. This has reduced the commute time between Malakal Airport to Malakal Town to just 15 min and also made operations easier for the UN peacekeepers. This road connectivity will enhance mobility in the region contributing to economic growth. The locals have expressed special gratitude to Indian HMEC for providing them roads and thus ensuring sustenance of their livelihood.

Organizing veterinary camps has remained a regular feature in humanitarian services being extended in surrounding areas to local people by INDBATT-1 at Malakal. These camps have earned enormous goodwill for Indian peacekeepers. An appreciation letter received from the Office of County Commissioner, Fashoda, Upper Nile State, for holding one such veterinary camp for controlling animal disease outbreak and treatment in Kodok is yet another feather in the cap of INDBATT-1.



DMI INDIA ACTIVITIES During the Quarter

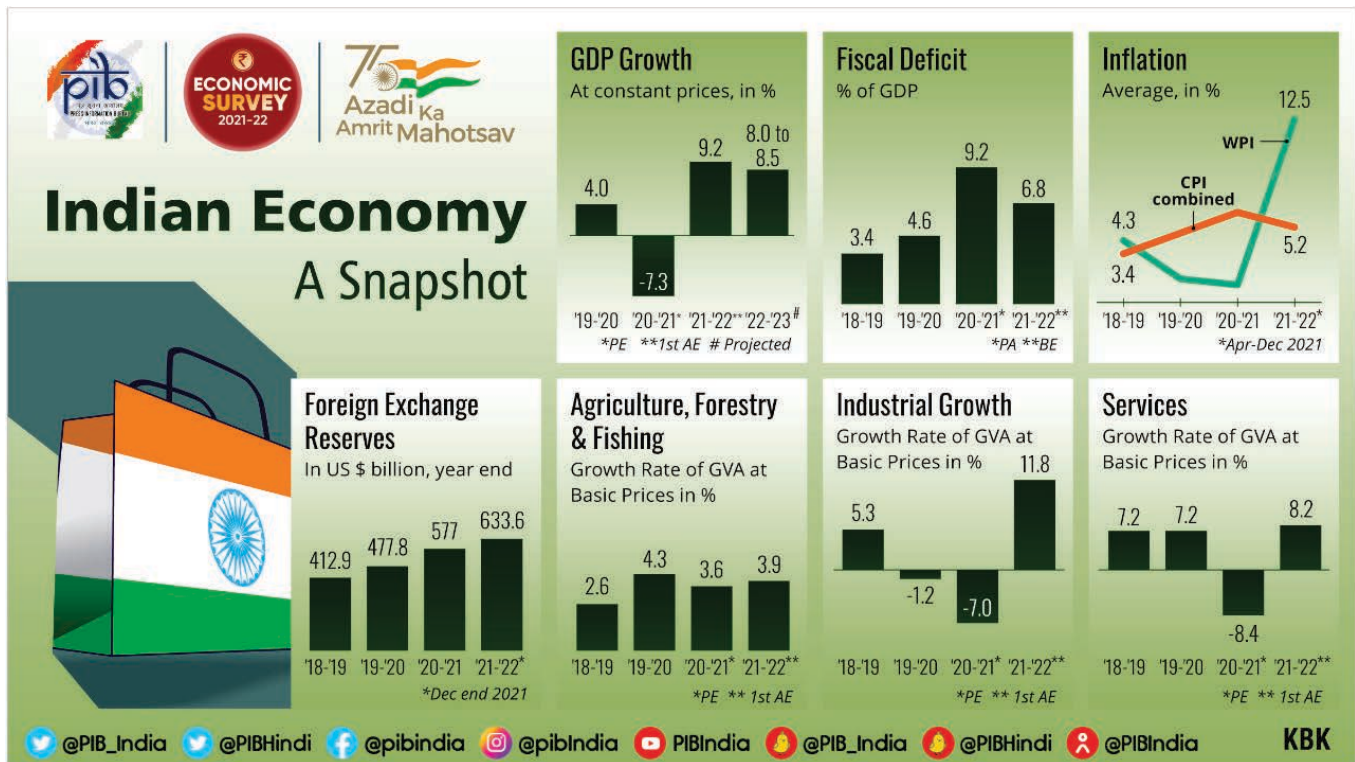
The Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Collaborators (SDMIC) has been selflessly serving the local population in South Sudan for years now. The DMI sisters have so far promoted 151 farmer's associations to increase the area of cultivation and production. They distributed quality seeds and saplings to 539 farmers in the war-torn state of Upper Nile–Fashoda Country and to 381 farmers in Juba county. They also imparted vocational training to 60 youths in electrician and masonry, now earning decent income.

To reduce dropouts and provide opportunities for children to pursue education, DMI sisters run schools in IDP camps and host villages. DMI has provided learning materials - notes books, pens, drawing books, pencils and school bags for 1299 children in Juba and reached out to 150 in Gogrial.

To promote gender equality and prevent gender based violence, DMI sisters have promoted and trained Monitoring and Protection Committees (MPC) in IDP camps and host villages. With the support of MPC members 26 GBV survivors were identified and provided psychosocial and immediate medical support.



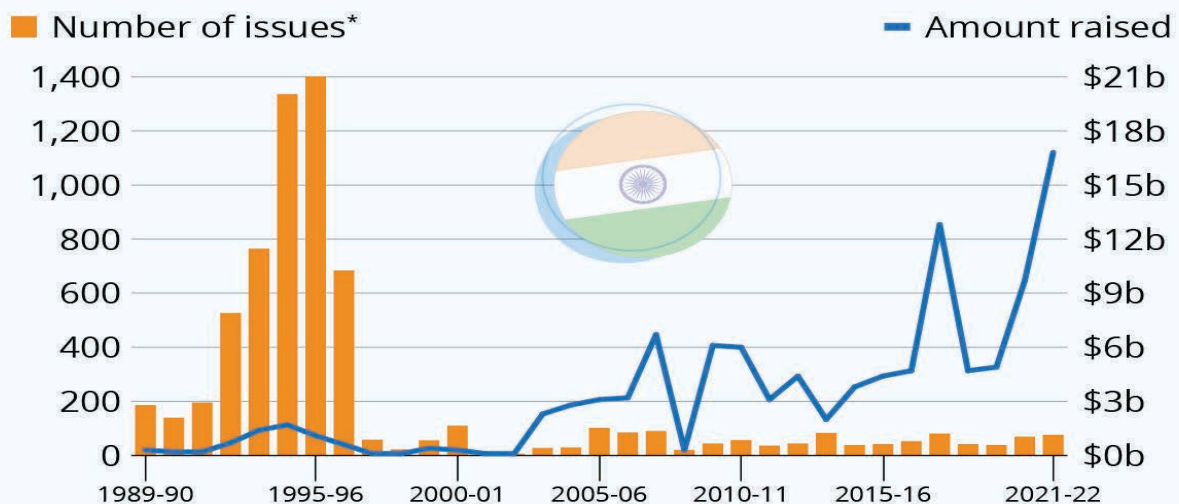
INDIA'S GROWTH STORY - SOME KEY INDICATORS



BOOMING STOCK MARKET

The Indian Stock Market Is Booming

Number of stock market issues in India and money raised through them



Converted from Indian rupees on May 10, 2022

* IPOs, FPOs and OFS (SE)

Source: Prime Database

“Har Ghar Tiranga” Campaign

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12th March 2021 to celebrate and commemorate 75 glorious years of Independence of India. Since its launch, the initiative has successfully showcased the richness and diversity of Indian culture across the globe. AKAM is one of the largest Indian cultural programs ever organized in terms of its scale, reach and participation.

With a view to invoking the feeling of patriotism, Hon'ble Prime Minister recently launched the “Har Ghar Tiranga” campaign. The initiative is enthusing Indians not only in India, but also living in foreign lands to bring the tricolour home and hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's independence.



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TIRANGA

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<https://harghartiranga.com/>

Join the **Movement**

