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VISIT OF SOUTH SUDANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO INDIA



YOGA FOR VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM - IDY 2023



AMBASSADOR'S PAGE

Vishnu Kumar Sharma
Ambassador of India to
South Sudan

**FOREWORD**

It gives me great pleasure to address the readers of the quarterly newsletter of the Embassy of India in Juba, which would cover Embassy's activities and events for the period April-June 2023.

The last quarter has been particularly challenging due to the internal conflict in Sudan, which has resulted in a massive influx of refugees and returnees into South Sudan. This crisis has caused significant humanitarian challenges, putting further strain on already overstretched resources of South Sudan. In the face of these trying circumstances, the Embassy pro-actively extended timely assistance and support to Indian returnees from Sudan. We sincerely appreciate the cooperation received from South Sudan Government, IOM, OCHA and the Indian community in South Sudan in facilitating repatriation of Indian nationals through this country.

On bilateral front, one of the most notable events during this period was the visit of a 12-member high level South Sudanese Parliamentary delegation, led by the Rt. Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba, the Speaker of RTNLA, and including Rt. Hon. Mary Ayen Majok, the 1st Deputy Speaker of the Council of States and Hon. Mary Nawai Martin, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. The delegation had meetings with the President, Vice President and Speaker in India. The visit not only provided an opportunity to enhance parliamentary relations but also to discuss various areas of cooperation and to identify new avenues for collaboration.

Another highlight of the quarter was the celebration of the International Day of Yoga-2023, an initiative introduced by India in 2014 and now recognized globally. The Embassy of India in Juba organized an event on 17th June to promote the benefits of yoga and its significance in maintaining physical and mental well-being. It was heartening to witness the enthusiasm and positive response from the participants, reflecting the growing popularity of yoga as a holistic practice. In addition to our efforts, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) also organized a separate event on 21st June to celebrate the International Day of Yoga.

The Indian peacekeepers stationed in South Sudan have continued to exemplify the values of compassion and service. They undertook various charity initiatives, extending a helping hand to those in need. Their humanitarian service has indeed enhanced the image of India in South Sudan. Simultaneously, the Indian religious congregation, the Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Collaborators (SDMIC) has sustained its dedication to vocational training for South Sudanese individuals. By promoting harmony and carrying out humanitarian activities, the SDMIC is making valuable contributions towards peace-building efforts in South Sudan.

Lastly, I extend my warm wishes to the Indian diaspora in South Sudan for their unwavering enthusiasm and commitment to strengthening the ties between India and South Sudan. It is their support and active participation that continue to inspire us to further deepen and broaden our relationship for the greater good.

I look forward to the continued growth of India and South Sudan's relations and the realization of our shared aspirations for peace, prosperity, and mutual cooperation.

Thank you.

(Vishnu Kumar Sharma)
Ambassador

VISIT OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO INDIA LED BY RT. HON. SPEAKER OF THE RTNLA

Rt. Honourable Jemma Nunu Kumba, the Speaker of the Reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly of the Republic of South Sudan led a 12-member Parliamentary delegation to New Delhi, India, on the joint official invitation of the Vice President of India and the Speaker of Lok Sabha (the Lower House of the Parliament of India) from 3-7 April 2023. The delegation included Hon. Mary Majok Kiir, First Deputy Speaker of the Council of States of South Sudan, Rt. Hon. Mary Nawai Martin, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Members of Parliament and other high-ranking officials from the Parliament and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs of South Sudan.

While in India, the delegation called on the President and the Vice President of India and had wide ranging discussions during the bilateral parliamentary dialogue with the Speaker of Lok Sabha. The delegation also interacted with the Head of Institute of Parliamentary Studies and explored avenues for capacity building of members of South Sudanese Parliament and officials of the Parliament & election commission. During the visit, they studied core aspects of functioning of Indian democracy and parliamentary system. The War Memorial, Parliament Library, Prime Minister Museum, Taj Mahal and some other monuments of historical importance in India were also visited by the delegates. An interview of Rt. Hon. Speaker was also broadcast on India's Sansad (Parliament) TV Channel.

The visit has opened up new areas of cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries, leading to a deeper engagement between the officials of the two national legislatures and expanding the scope of capacity building programme.



IMPORTANT BILATERAL MEETINGS OF AMBASSADOR

Meeting with Minister of Parliamentary Affairs – Ambassador had a fruitful meeting with Hon. Mary Nawai Martin, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs of South Sudan, to discuss follow up action on the visit of South Sudan Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker Rt. Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba to India in April 2023. Both sides charted out a customized parliamentary procedure training course for the officials of Parliament and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs of South Sudan.



Call on the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of CES – Ambassador Sharma met Hon. Rita Dominic, Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports in Central Equatoria State Government to discuss the bilateral cultural cooperation and seek nomination of a cultural troupe to participate in an event organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Hon. Rita Dominic also graced the occasion as Chief Guest for International Day of Yoga -2023 event organized by the Embassy on 17 June 2023.

Meeting with Hon. Gabriel Changson Chang, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology: Ambassador met with Hon. Gabriel Changson Chang, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology in his office to determine the modality for allocation of scholarships awarded by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to 30 South Sudanese students for the year 2023. They had a detailed discussion to ensure the best utilization of scholarship slots.



Meeting with Acting Foreign Minister of South Sudan: The Ambassador called on Hon. Deng Dau Deng Malek, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan in the latter's office. While reviewing the bilateral cooperation, Ambassador briefed the Hon. Minister on activities being carried out for various capacity building programmes (ITEC, Scholarships and e-VB) and Cultural cooperation between the two countries.

PROMOTION OF 3TS

At the initiative of the Embassy of India and the Swiss Cooperation in Juba, a symposium was organized at the South Sudan National Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (SSNCIA) premises on 10 May 2023. Ambassador Sharma, Swiss Cooperation Head Mr. Johan Gely, Mr. Losidik Lukak Legge, the Chairman, Mr. John Lual Akol, the first Deputy Chairman, Policy Coordinator and several other officials of SSNCIA and businessmen attended the symposium. In a frank and detailed discussion, the Ambassador put forth the impediments being faced by Indian businessmen in South Sudan, which were hampering the bilateral trade between India and South Sudan. Ambassador Sharma drew attention of the authorities to the long pending demand by the Indian importers on the need to develop an effective mechanism to address the problems being faced by them by streamlining the import procedures. He added that SSNCIA could be more proactive in taking up the Non-Tariff Barrier issues to promote trade and investment in South Sudan with the concerned government authorities for creating a conducive atmosphere for business in the country.



MR. K.J. SINGH, FIRST PERSON TO RECEIVE OCI CARD IN SOUTH SUDAN

Mr. K.J. Singh, a retired Indian Army Officer, serving at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (Juba), on 19 May, 2023 became the first Person of Indian Origin to receive an Overseas Indian Citizen (OCI) card in South Sudan.

Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma handed over the OCI Card to him at a small ceremony held at the Embassy and complemented him on earning this special distinction.

Thanking the Embassy for all the support and helping him in the process, Mr. Singh shared that he felt extremely happy and proud since his long cherished dream of acquiring Overseas Indian Citizenship had been fulfilled.



AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV & OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Ambedkar Jayanti Celebration

The Embassy organised an event to pay floral tribute (Pushpanjali) to Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the Father of Indian Constitution, on his birth anniversary on Friday 14 April 2023. The Embassy officials, some Indian community members and friends of India joined to pay tribute to the great leader.



Assistance to Indians coming to Juba from Sudan

The onset of Sudan conflict forced hundreds of Indian nationals/PIOs to cross over into South Sudan. Ensuring well-being of Indian nationals fleeing the conflict in Sudan is a priority for the Mission in the hour of their need. The Mission coordinated efforts with the Indian community, South Sudanese authorities, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other humanitarian agencies to arrange transportation from Sudan border to Juba, lodging and boarding to facilitate their transit to India/other countries. The Embassy promptly issued travel documents to those needed.

The Embassy is grateful for the support it is receiving from various quarters in assisting scores of Indian evacuees arriving in South Sudan. The generosity of Indian companies in Juba in providing much needed financial and logistic support is much appreciated.



"MISSION LiFE" - LIFESTYLE FOR ENVIRONMENT

We all are aware that we are being directly or indirectly impacted due to the adverse effects of climate change and also realize the importance of conservation and preservation of the environment in our lives. With global warming becoming a huge concern presently with rising temperature, pollution, floods and droughts as a result of deforestation, increased plastic use, carbon emissions etc., there is an urgency in taking strong remedial measures, for instance planting more trees at a collective and individual level.

"Mission LiFE" is one such initiative introduced by the Prime Minister of India with a view to making it a global mass movement that will nudge individual and collective actions towards the protection and preservation of environment by following the three-pronged strategy:

- Promotion of environmental-friendly daily practices among people (demand)
- Enable industries and markets to respond to the shift in demand (supply)
- Influence government and industrial policy to support both sustainable consumption and production (policy).

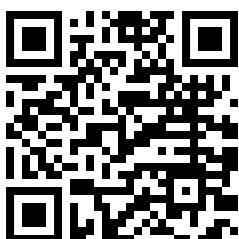
As part of "Mission LiFE" initiative, and in preparation for the World Environment Day (05 June 2023), this Embassy conducted a plantation drive and other activities, such as, no use of plastic, generation of about 100 kg of compost, creation of new compost pit etc. at the Embassy.

In this regard, the Embassy appeals to one and all to do their bit for the cause of the environment and for our own cause.

Since 3 October 2014, Hon'ble Prime Minister has been addressing the citizens of India through his "Mann Ki Baat" programme on various issues, engaging citizens on issues and ideas of national importance. The 100th episode of Mann ki Baat, marking a milestone, in the journey of this widely popular programme in India was broadcast on Sunday 30 April 2023. Indian nationals and people of Indian origin across the world gathered at Indian Missions/Posts to hear the broadcast telecast live. The Indian community members in South Sudan joined the Embassy and watched this special broadcast at the Embassy.



SCAN TO VISIT THIS EMBASSY'S SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS



 @IndiaInSouthSudan



 @eoijuba



 @IndiaInSouthSudan



 @IndiaInSouthSudan

ENVIRONMENT DAY

As part of World Environment Day, this Embassy did its own bit by carrying out various green activities on 5 June, 2023. These included, waste management, such as creation of compost pit, removal of plastic waste, pledge for no single use plastic, tree plantation within its premises, and at Juba Orphanage, where children were also briefly introduced to Yoga. Members of Indian community also joined this Embassy in these efforts.



MANN KI BAAT @100

Since 3 October 2014, Hon'ble Prime Minister has been addressing the citizens of India through his "Mann Ki Baat" programme on various issues, engaging citizens on issues and ideas of national importance. The 100th episode of Mann ki Baat, marking a milestone, in the journey of this widely popular programme in India was broadcast on Sunday 30 April 2023. Indian nationals and people of Indian origin across the world gathered at Indian Missions/Posts to hear the broadcast telecast live. The Indian community members in South Sudan joined the Embassy and watched this special broadcast at the Embassy.



JUBA PREMIERE LEAGUE CRICKET TOURNAMENT 2023

The 10th edition of annual Juba Premier League cricket tournament opened on 7 May 2023 at Juba. Nine teams comprising Indians and other nationals, mostly South Asians, participated in the tournament.

Addressing the gathering of the cricket enthusiasts at the opening ceremony, Ambassador Sharma appreciated the efforts of Mr. Arun, Cultural Secretary of the Indian Association in South Sudan and his organizing team for their efforts to promote cricket in Juba. He urged the players to play in the spirit of sportsmanship and wished them well for the tournament. He also encouraged them to take part in International Yoga Day at the Embassy.

Ambassador Sharma also handed over trophies to winners and participants of Juba Premier League 2022.



PROMOTION OF CULTURAL TIES WITH DIASPORA

The Government of India through Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs has been encouraging promotion of cultural ties with the Indian diaspora members. With this spirit in view, the Embassy is planning to organise a get together of diaspora during the Navratri festivities on 15 October, 2023. In this context, the Embassy will be happy to receive suggestions from the Indian community members in South Sudan for any collaborative efforts or generally. Members who wish to volunteer in the organisation of the festival, perform dances/sing songs/recite poetry, or simply attend the event may like to share their following details cul.juba@mea.gov.in positively by 31 August, 2023.

Name, Company/Establishment, Mobile No., Whatsapp no. and Email ID

Would also like to volunteer - Yes / No (if yes, kindly share sphere of interest)

Interested in performing - Yes / No (if yes, kindly share sphere of interest, singing, dancing, poetry or any other)

EMBASSY OF INDIA, JUBA (SOUTH SUDAN)

is organising a Cultural Programme to

Promote Cultural Ties with Indian Diaspora

On

Sunday, 15th October, 2023

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA 2023 CELEBRATIONS

Embassy of India, Juba celebrated the 9th International Day of Yoga on Saturday, 17 June 2023. The theme this year was **"Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"** that translates to **"World is one Family."** The occasion was graced by Hon'ble Rita Dominic Lado, Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports of the Republic of South Sudan. The yoga session briefly covered all major elements of yoga such as warm-up/loosening exercises, standard yoga protocol (poses in standing, sitting and lying down positions), Pranayama (Breathing exercises), demonstration of some very effective but difficult poses, Surya Namaskar, Laughter therapy and a Quiz on Yoga.

Yoga enthusiasts from all walks of life actively took part in the event and had something to learn and enjoyed the session, even as the Hon'ble Minister and the Ambassador both urged the participants to adopt Yoga as a way of life.

As a precursor of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2023, the Embassy of India, Juba, and JPL players held a session of yoga alongside the league matches on 04 June 2022, Sunday. Another precursor was held at the Embassy on Saturday, 10 June 2023, in which members of Indian community and friends of India participated with great enthusiasm. The Embassy officials practicing Yoga on 21 June 2023 as well to mark the International Day of Yoga.



INDBATT-1 : WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS

1. INDBATT-1 (8 ASSAM Infantry Battalion Group) excelled in confidence-building efforts & community security measures, in collaboration with various UN agencies and local government. The Battalion has provided veterinary assistance by conducting 08 veterinary camps and have treated more than 586 domestic animals belonging to the local community. Other Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) activities included raising awareness on gender equality and importance of girl's education. Assistance to local community in terms of providing sports items and first aid kits has made a tremendous impact on perception among locals about UNMISS.
2. International Yoga Day was marked by yoga protocols organized at Renk & Kodok towns by troops of INDBATT-1 on 21 Jun 2023.
3. Upholding the UN ethos and aiming at constructively engaging the youth at POC in healthy competitions, INDBATT-1 organized a friendly football match between UNMISS Military Components (INDBATT-1, RWANBATT-2 & BANFMU) and POC Youth Football Club on 18 Apr 2023 at POC Camp, Malakal. Large number of youths from the camp witnessed the thrilling match between both teams. Adidas footballs were donated by Force Chief of Staff, Maj Gen Marco Machado as a token of appreciation



INDBATT-II : CIMIC ACTIVITIES

1. Indbatt-II (8 Bihar Regiment) organized International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2023 at Bor, Pibor and Akobo. Brig Gen Dhruba Prakash Shah, Sector East Commander, Ms Geeta HoFO and 150 other personnels including international UN staff joined the Yoga protocol.



2. On the occasion of UN Peacekeepers day on 29 May, multiple events were organised at Bor, Juba, Akobo & Pibor in collaboration with other UN agencies. In Bor, the occasion was celebrated with wreath laying parade, march past and was followed by a cultural show. At Juba, a guard of honour was presented at UN House. At Pibor & Akobo, friendly football and Volleyball matches were played with local youths respectively to enhance the relationship amongst civil, military & local people.



3. World Environment day was celebrated at all locations of INDBATT-II, this year's theme was "Beat Plastic Pollution". Tree saplings were planted within Bor camp and at the same time people were motivated to curtail use of plastic bottles.



SOCIETY OF DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE AND COLLABORATORS (SDMIC) ACTIVITIES

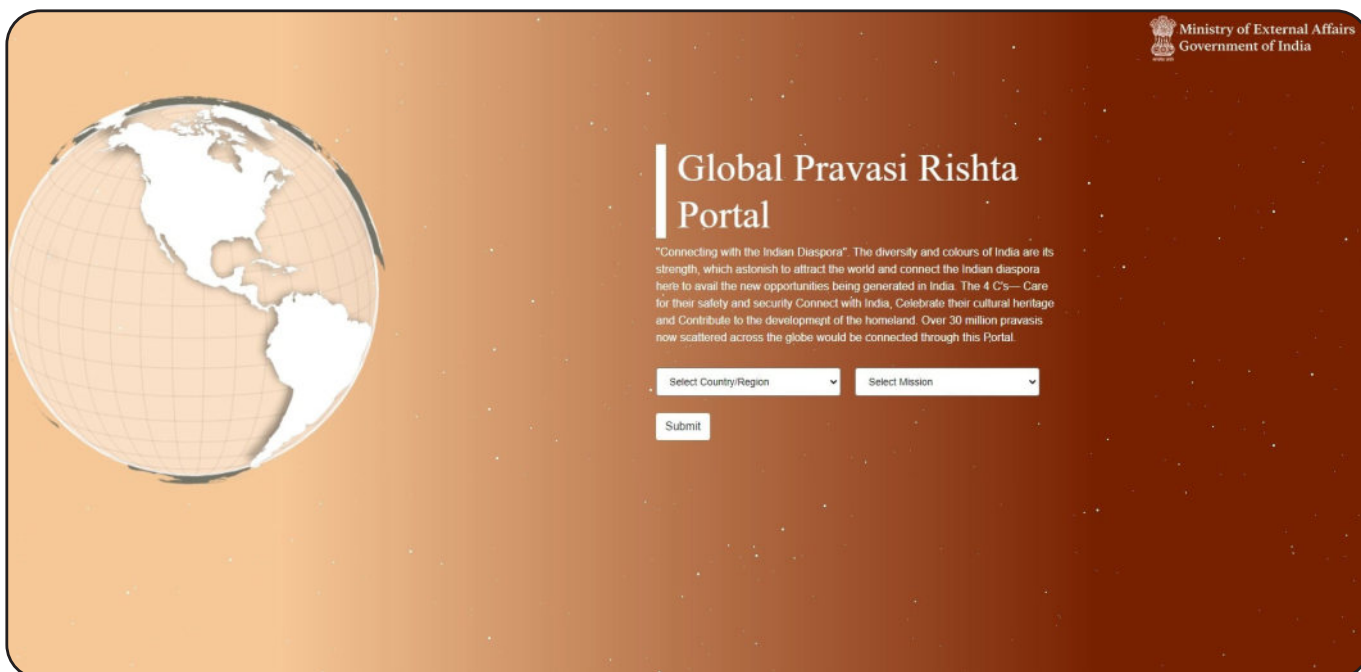
Indian religious congregation SDMIC in South Sudan undertook several charitable and social welfare activities during the quarter contributing to peace building in South Sudan, the following being the most impactful:

1. Three new toilets were constructed and another three renovated. Teaching and learning materials provided to 1255 pupils and 24 teachers. Menstrual hygiene Dignity kits were provided to 160 adolescent girls.
2. Three medical camps were organized at Kapuri, IDP Camp-3 and Mangateen on 13th, 16th and 23rd June that benefited 562 people. Nutritious food packets were provided to 175 malnourished children and 75 pregnant women in Mangateen and IDP Camp. Emergency relief food items were distributed among 638 beneficiaries in Kodok Payam
3. SDMIC organized a seminar for promotion of women entrepreneurship that was attended by 30 representatives from 3 Women's Business Groups and disbursed grants in cash of USD2000 to each of the three participating women's groups as means of enhancing their businesses.
4. 74 youth completed three months skill training on Computer, Hairdressing and Masonry in Malakal and Juba SDMIC training centers.
5. Seeds and tools were distributed to farmers across 48 Bomas in 10 Payams in Juba County, Central Equatoria State.
6. Three-day GBV advocacy training was conducted for the 15 leaders of the Joint Action Movement from 20-23 May, 2023, to effectively engage government officials and lawmakers for enforcement of existing laws to prevent GBV in their communities.



REGISTRATION OF INDIAN NATIONALS LIVING IN SOUTH SUDAN

The Embassy of India, Juba, invites the Indian nationals, POIs and OCIs in South Sudan to register on the "Global Pravasi Rishta Portal" at <https://pravasirishta.gov.in/>. The registration on the portal facilitates an effective communication channel between the Ministry of External Affairs/Indian Missions and the Indian Diaspora. This will also facilitate members of the Indian diaspora by connecting them to various new and existing government schemes benefiting them in various areas of interest.



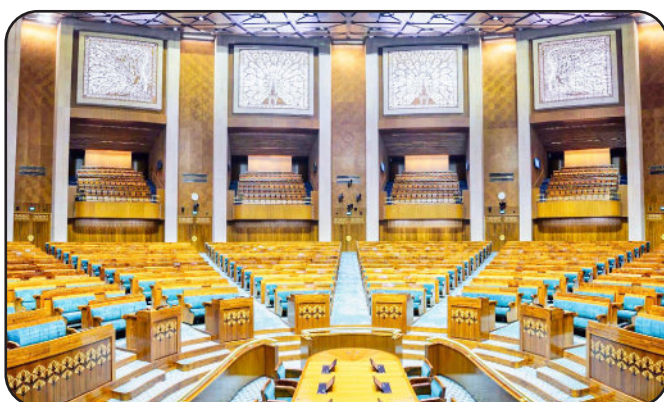
G20 LEADERS' SUMMIT, NEW DELHI SEPTEMBER 9 - 10, 2023

The 18th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit in New Delhi will be a culmination of all the G20 processes and meetings held throughout the year among ministers, senior officials, and civil societies. A G20 Leaders' Declaration will be adopted at the conclusion of the New Delhi Summit, stating Leaders' commitment towards the priorities discussed and agreed upon during the respective ministerial and working group meetings.



INDIA'S NEW TEMPLE OF DEMOCRACY: NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

- The triangular-shaped four-storey building has a built-up area of 64,500 square metres. The material used for the new building has been acquired from across the country. As a whole, the newly constructed building reflects various architectural influences from important heritage buildings of India.
- It has three main gates - Gyan Dwar, Shakti Dwar and Karma Dwar - and separate entrances for VIPs, MPs and visitors. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 28 May 2023, at New Delhi.
- It houses the lower House (Lok Sabha), the upper House (Rajya Sabha), the Central Lounge and offices of constitutional authorities. The new Lok Sabha Chamber is designed in the likeness of India's National Bird, the Peacock. The new Rajya Sabha Chamber, on the other hand, bears similarities to the National Flower, the Lotus. The Central Lounge courtyard resembles the national tree, the Banyan.
- The old Parliament building will continue to be used and the two buildings will complement each other. Full care will be taken to retain the old building's historical heritage.
- The new Parliament building has space for 888 members in the Lok Sabha and 384 members in the Rajya Sabha. The new building has six Committee rooms and 92 rooms for the use of the Council of Ministers. The new building will have a Constitution Hall for the purpose of showcasing India's democratic heritage.
- Each seat in the Parliament will be equipped with digital systems and touch screens.
- The building is designed to meet high-level of security standards.
- The new building will feature rainwater harvest.



BHARAT MANDAPAM INDIA'S MOST FUTURISTIC AND ADVANCED CONVENTION CENTER



CHANDRAYAN 3 - INDIA SOARS TO NEW HEIGHTS



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