

Embassy of India Newsletter

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CELEBRATION OF 74TH REPUBLIC DAY



AMBASSADOR'S PAGE

Vishnu Kumar Sharma
Ambassador of India to
South Sudan

**FOREWORD**

The Embassy celebrated 74th Republic Day of India with patriotic fervour in its premises on 26 January. The Indian community in South Sudan, Indian peacekeepers from UN Mission and friends of India participated with great enthusiasm.

Conferment of "Pravasi Bhartiya Samman", the highest honour bestowed upon overseas Indians, on 10 January, 2023, by the President of India to Mr. Sanjaykumar Shivabhai Patel, Managing Director of JIT Mart in Juba, acknowledging and honouring his service for the welfare of the community was a moment of pride for the Indian community. Mr. Patel is the first Indian from diaspora in South Sudan to achieve this distinction. This Embassy and the Indian community in South Sudan compliment him on his inspiring accomplishment!

Hon. Chol Thon J. Balok, the then Deputy Defence Minister led a delegation to "Aero-India 2023" event in Bengaluru in February 2023, demonstrating South Sudan's continued interest in Indian defence products. India hosted "Voice of Global South" virtual summit on January 2023 under the theme "Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose", a unique initiative for inclusion of perspective of the Global South in the decision making process of G-20. Hon'ble Dr. Dhieu Mathok Diing, Minister of Investment of the Republic of South Sudan participated in the online session. India and South Sudan relations witnessed cooperation in the area of Culture as well. Honourable Atem Garang, a Member of Transitional National Legislative Assembly, visited India under the Distinguished Visitors Programme of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. A 15-member South Sudanese dance troupe participated in the International Crafts Mela in Suraj Kund (Faridabad).

A special business networking session was organized by the Embassy in February to discuss the problems being faced by expatriate businessmen in South Sudan. The idea was to devise a mechanism for their resolution by the concerned government authorities with the aim of promoting trade and investment in the country. Interaction with Indian businessmen, Talk on Ayurveda, Special Yoga Session for women on Women's day, Presentation on tourism etc., were some other promotional activities held in the Embassy.

Keeping the momentum of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and remembering India's freedom struggle leaders, floral tributes were paid to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi and Shahid Bhagat Singh. Both the Embassy officials and Indian community members joined in honouring the sacrifices made by these great leaders. Indian festivals of Pongal/Lohri/Makar Sankranti and Holi were organized by the Embassy in collaboration with Indian community in Juba. These events aimed at promoting cultural ties with the diaspora provided an excellent opportunity for Indians in Juba to celebrate their traditional festivals with fellow countrymen.

The Indian peace keepers in the UN Mission continue to win hearts by their philanthropic and charitable activities for local population. The Indian sisters in the Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate & Collaborators (SDMIC) too with their selfless service and capacity building efforts have been contributing to the peace process in the country.

The internal conflict in Sudan has posed additional challenges for the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement. Let us hope that the stakeholders will rise to the occasion and stick to the roadmap to bring sustainable peace and prosperity in South Sudan.

(Vishnu Kumar Sharma)
Ambassador

"SWACHCHH BHARAT MISSION" - CLEAN INDIA CAMPAIGN: SPECIAL DRIVE 01-15 JANUARY 2023

To inculcate among the citizens the habit of personal cleanliness and hygiene, Government of India organizes special campaigns under the theme of "Swachchh Bharat Mission" - Clean India Campaign - from time to time. One such special cleanliness drive was organized from 1 January to 15 January, 2023 across India. Indian Embassy officials led by Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma took a pledge of cleanliness. The Ambassador also briefed those present on the Swachchhta (Cleanliness) drive of the Government of India on 04 January 2023 and the need for all to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene both in work place and at personal level.

Continuing its efforts towards personal cleanliness and hygiene, the Embassy also spread a message on use of sanitizer and mask amid still persisting Covid 19 pandemic.



VISHWA HINDI DIWAS AND PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIWAS CELEBRATION ON 10 JANUARY 2023

Embassy of India, Juba organised "Vishwa Hindi Diwas" (World Hindi Day) and "Pravasi Bharitya Diwas" (Indian Diaspora Day) celebrations on 10 January 2023.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma congratulated the Indian diaspora on the occasion and appreciated their contribution in the growth of economy and humanitarian activities in South Sudan.

This year has been even more special for Indian diaspora in South Sudan as Mr. Sanjaykumar Shivabhai Patel, Managing Director of JIT Supermarket chain in Juba, was conferred prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman (Indian Diaspora Award) by Hon'ble President of India for his charitable activities and humanitarian work spread over years in South Sudan.

Ambassador also emphasized the need for active usage of Hindi language in every Indian's daily life, and praised the participants and audience for continuing to take keen interest in promotion of Hindi language.

Essay competition and poetry recitation were part of the programme during the day. Participants included members of Indian contingent from UNMISS, who alongside other Indian community members, recited poetry and shared their perspective on popularizing Hindi language.

Some selected pieces of poetry by renowned Indian poets such as Ramdhari Singh Dinkar were also screened during the event.



SESSION ON AYURVEDA – 13 JANUARY 2023

This Embassy conducted a session on Ayurveda, a holistic ancient Indian medical science, as well as on promotion of tourism in India. The programme included short presentations and screening of videos depicting various places of touristic interest in India, and on myriad benefits of Ayurveda. Those present included South Sudanese government officials nominated to attend various training programmes in India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). Ambassador of India, Mr. V K Sharma, shared his thoughts with the participants and also addressed their concerns.



VISIT OF HON'BLE MR. ATEM GARANG DENG DEKUEK, MEMBER OF TNLA, TO INDIA

Hon'ble Mr. Atem Garang Deng Dekuek, Member of the Transitional Legislative Assembly, Republic of South Sudan visited India during 07-16 January 2023 under the Distinguished Visitors Programme of Indian Council for Cultural Relations. We are proud to share his impressions of the visit.

"On the recommendation of the Embassy of India in Juba, I was invited by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to visit India from 7 to 16 January 2023 as an eminent personality of South Sudan, under their Distinguished Visitors Programme. The programme presented a great opportunity providing a glimpse, information and first hand experience of diverse cultures, history, economy, governance, geography and people of India. In India, I visited historical sites, ancient monuments, mediaeval artefacts, democratically governed institutions and socially united community that is proud of its heritage, history and culture. The interactions at India's premier institutes and organizations were thoroughly enriching and educative. I returned to South Sudan with the impression that India is truly an "Incredible Nation. I am grateful to the Embassy of India and the ICCR for the opportunity and honour bestowed upon me". -Hon. Atem Garang Deng Dekuek, Member of TNLA of South Sudan



"CULTURAL FEST – COMMEMORATION OF 75 YEARS OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE"

The Embassy and the Indian Association in South Sudan (IASS) organized a cultural evening on 14 January to celebrate the festivals of Pongal, Makar Sankranti & Lohri. Indian community members and friends of India participated in the celebrations in large numbers.

The Indian community also felicitated Lt. Gen. Mohan Subramanian, Force Commander of UNMISS who graced the festivity as the Guest of Honour for the event.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma summed up the 75 years of glorious journey of independent India, and shared his thoughts on how the festivals of India unite the large and diverse nation such as India. Lt. Gen. Mohan greeted the Indian community and addressed the gathering on the occasion. Indian community members also shared their personal insights about the uniqueness of the festivals and how these are celebrated across the length and breadth of the country.

The festivities included singing and dancing on the beats of Bhangra and a bonfire to mark the festival of Lohri. Other traditional Indian dances were also performed by the Indian contingent from UNMISS.

The year 2023 being UN "International year of Millet"; millet dishes were also part of the delectable menu which added to the flavour of festivities.



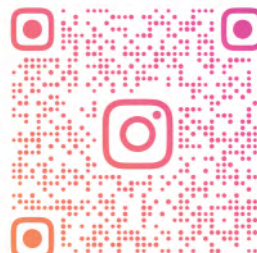
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INDIA'S G-20 INITIATIVE: GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT

India has taken over the rotating presidency of G-20 from 1.12.2022 for one year. In a new and unique initiative, India hosted special virtual summits on 12 and 13 January 2023. This "Voice of Global South Summit" under the theme "Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose" envisaged bringing together countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform. Around 120 countries participated in this Summit in different groups.

South Sudan was included for the virtual session hosted by Mr. Piyush Goyal, the Minister of Commerce and Industry of India, on 13 January 2023 with some other African countries (Zimbabwe, D.R. Congo, Benin, Central African Republic, Gabon, Cote d' Ivore and Burundi). The group also included Malaysia, Myanmar, Haiti, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bolivia and Timor-Leste.

Hon'ble Dr. Dhieu Mathok Diing, Minister of Investment of the Republic of South Sudan participated in the online session held in the Embassy of India premises. The Minister shared his views on matters related to trade and investment and effectively conveyed the expectation of South Sudan from the G-20 for removal of arms embargo and sanctions. He emphasized that South Sudan was facing several challenges and is in need of constructive support from G-20 for the growth of trade and investment, which are crucial for a new nation.

Hon. Dhieu also thanked the government of India for this unique opportunity provided to the Global South to convey the concerns and expectations from G-20 and expressed the hope that the initiative will have positive impact on inclusive growth in the world.



UNPOL MEDAL AWARD CEREMONY



74TH REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS ON 26 JANUARY 2023

This Embassy celebrated the 74th Republic Day of India on 26 January, 2023. Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma unfurled the National Flag and read out excerpts from the President of India's address to the nation.

While thanking the Indian community for their support and participation in community welfare and cultural activities, Ambassador asked them to be even more proactive in their support and continued cooperation with the Embassy in all its activities, while assuring them of all possible assistance from the Embassy in their hour of need. He also applauded Indian contingent in UNMISS for rendering support in capacity building and in their philanthropic activities in South Sudan, and Indian police personnel in UNPOL for their dedicated service in challenging circumstances. Conveying his sincere appreciation and gratitude to Indians working in religious congregations, Ambassador described their selfless service to humanity in South Sudan as noble and helpful towards the cause of peace and development in the youngest nation of the world.

During the celebrations, Mr. Sanjaykumar Patel, winner of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2023, was also felicitated for his exceptional work and community welfare activities in South Sudan over the years. Mr. Patel expressed his gratitude for the honour and thanked the Embassy of India and Indian community for the spirit of teamwork and togetherness. The participants also got an opportunity to refresh their history even as evocative snippets of India's unsung heroes of its great struggle for independence from colonial rule as well as that on the significance of India's Republic Day were being screened, while the patriotic songs played in the background.



PARTICIPATION OF CULTURAL TROUPE FROM SOUTH SUDAN IN SURAJKUND INTERNATIONAL CRAFTS MELA

A 15-member South Sudanese cultural dance troupe performed at the 36th edition of the Surajkund International Crafts Mela held at Surajkund, Faridabad, Haryana (India) from 03-19 February 2023 under a visit fully sponsored by the Government of India. The Festival was a joint initiative of Ministries of Tourism, Textile, External Affairs, ICCR and Haryana State Tourism with a view to celebrating, arts, crafts, culture and cuisine.

Prior to their travel, this Embassy also organised a briefing session where Ambassador, Vishnu Kumar Sharma, shared with the participants his views on prospects of enhancement of cooperation in the cultural field between India and South Sudan.



ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY OF DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE & COLLABORATORS (SDMIC)

SDMIC conducted several activities in different parts of South Sudan contributing to peace and prosperity. Measures for growth in agriculture production benefited around 7000 farmers. Training in sustainable agriculture practices and tree plantation at large scale were also organized. Among the health sector activities, medical camps and distribution of nutritious food packets were note worthy. SDMIC constructed eleven permanent houses for vulnerable IDP women at Kapuri with the help of Deswos Donor. Women's day events were organized on the theme 'Digital Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality' in Juba and Warrap State.



AERO INDIA 2023



South Sudanese delegation led by Hon. Chol Thon J. Balok, the then Deputy Minister of Defence and Veterans' Affairs, participated in the 14th Edition of Aero India, the largest Air show in Asia with 98 countries and 809 companies from across the world. The Aero India 2023 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at Yelahanka, Bengaluru (Karnataka).

The five-day event, on the theme 'The runway to a billion opportunities', showcased India's growth in aerospace and defence capabilities, and displayed indigenous equipment/technologies to facilitate forging of partnerships with foreign companies, in line with 'Make in India, Make for the World' vision for a secure and prosperous future.

MEETINGS WITH PROMINENT BUSINESS COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The office bearers of Indian Association in South Sudan led by Mr. Sanjay Patel, Chairperson of IASS, along with some prominent business community members based in Juba called on Ambassador of India, Mr. V.K. Sharma on 14 February 2023 to discuss various diaspora & trade related issues and promotion of Indian culture in South Sudan. Such interactions are regular feature as part of strong ties with Indian community.



GET TOGETHER WITH ITEC ALUMNI IN SOUTH SUDAN – 17 FEBRUARY 2023

This Embassy organized a get together of alumni of Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) on 17 February, 2023 at the Embassy.

Addressing the participants, Ambassador V K Sharma appealed to the alumni to foster even closer bilateral relations between the two countries by acting as a bridge. A few participants shared their experiences in India with the audience and gave valuable feedback about the various programmes they attended in India and how these benefited them in their career.

Hon Victoria Anib Majur Under Secretary in the Ministry of Health, and Hon Abraham Majur Director General in the Ministry of Public Service and Human Resource Development were the Guests of Honor who also shared their thoughts and appreciated the assistance rendered by India, with over 1100 South Sudan officials having benefitted from the capacity building ITEC courses since 2013.

The event included presentations on health and wellness by a trained medical professional, sessions on yoga & Medical Tourism to India and Talk on Ayurveda. The interaction continued later with guests relishing delicious Indian cuisine and millet dishes to celebrate the United Nations International Year of Millet (IOM) 2023.



BUSINESS NETWORKING SESSION ON 23 FEBRUARY 2023

As part of its trade promotion activities, the Embassy of India in Juba organized a business networking session in Juba (South Sudan) on 23 February 2023. Some heads of diplomatic missions, representatives from South Sudan National Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (SSNCCA), business associations and business community members participated in the event.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma described the event as part of efforts of the international community to promote growth of business and investment in South Sudan. He outlined the impediments in trade and investment and put forth the difficulties being faced by the Indian businessmen in South Sudan. He sought cooperation of all stakeholders in identifying the core issues hampering the trade and investment in the country and in creating a mechanism for addressing the issues.

All participants, including other Ambassadors, shared their views on concerns of the expatriate businessmen and suggested creation of a forum to take up problems being faced by them to appropriate government authorities. The representative from SSNCCA was requested to note the issues raised in the session and bring them to the appropriate government authorities for redressal. The participants agreed to have more such sessions to resolve various issues to make the business ecosystem more investor friendly in South Sudan.



GLOBAL PRAVASI RISHTA PORTAL

The Embassy of India in Juba has been requesting the Indian community members to register at Pravasi Rishta Portal. There has been an increase in number of registrations, which is encouraging, yet understandably, there are still a large number of Indian nationals in South Sudan, who have not registered at the portal. To have complete and updated information readily available on the Indian nationals residing in South Sudan, the Embassy once again requests those who have not yet registered to expeditiously register, for their own benefit, on the Pravasi Rishta Portal. Registration Link - <https://pravasirishta.gov.in/userreg>

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

A "Yoga Session for Women" was organised by this Embassy on 03 March 2023 to mark the International Women's Day. ITEC Alumni and women from different walks of life participated in the Yoga Session and benefitted from it. The session was also streamed live on our Facebook page.



PROMOTION OF TOURISM

This Embassy conducted an informative session on places of interest for tourism in India on 10 February 2023. The programme included address by Ambassador of India, Mr. V K Sharma, Q&A session and short presentation on some well known touristic sites to visit in India. Those present included nominated participants who are to attend various training programmes in some of the best training institutes in India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. The event is part of several interactions with ITEC nominees/alumni organized regularly by the Embassy.



STATE ATTACHMENT OF THE AMBASSADOR

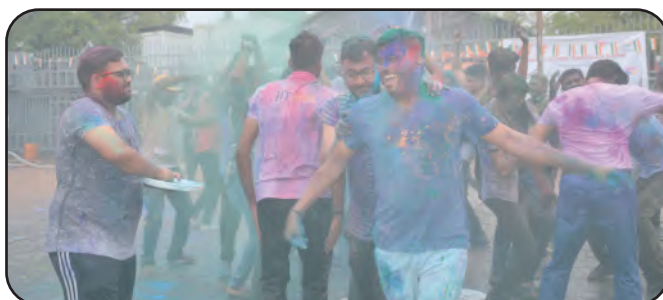
During his State attachment in Rajasthan State in India, Ambassador Sharma had the opportunity to meet the Hon'ble Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister, several high level officials of Government of Rajasthan. Promotion of the products made in the State as well as attracting investment in the State is the main aim of such attachments. Ambassador Sharma also visited an aspirational district Karauli to explore possibilities of replicating relevant life changing Government of India schemes in least developed countries abroad.



HOLI CELEBRATIONS ON 12 MARCH 2023

This Embassy joined Indian Association in South Sudan in the celebrations of the Festival of Colours, Holi on Sunday, 12 March 2023. Over 100 diaspora members and friends of India came together for the jubilant celebration, which is all about playing with colours and fun-filled get together. The evening involved various amusing and exciting activities, such as singing and dancing over popular Indian songs, cooking competition, Antakshari and Quiz on the festival.

The festival was also an opportunity to support the members of diaspora in their efforts to preserve, maintain and showcase Indian heritage and culture abroad. Towards this end, the Embassy of India, Juba has been organizing various cultural events from time to time in line with Govt. of India's objectives of promotion of cultural ties with Indian diaspora and various other initiatives.



UNMISS-INDBATT-1 ACTIVITIES

The 8 ASSAM INFANTRY BATTALION GROUP (INDBATT-1) through its proactive, persistent and integrated presence in the entire Upper Nile State ensures safety of the people and conducive environment for the humanitarian agencies to deliver critical humanitarian relief in the region. Apart from the mandated peace keeping operations, Indbatt-1 also undertook some environment friendly and charitable activities during the quarter.

A tree plantation drive organized at INDBATT-1, was attended by Ms Leda Limann, HOFO Malakal and Brig Gen Ao Yi, Sector Commander, Sector North on 16 Mar 2023. Indbatt-1 provided veterinary assistance by conducting 14 veterinary camps and treated around 2778 domestic animals belonging to the local communities in collaboration with various UN agencies and the local government. As cattle are lifeline of the local population, the veterinary assistance was much appreciated and won the hearts and minds of the local people.



REMEMBERING INDIA'S FREEDOM HEROES

Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose - This Embassy held a Pushpanjali (floral tributes) inside the Embassy premises in memory of one of the tallest Indian freedom struggle leaders, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on the occasion of his birth anniversary on 23 January 2023. Netaji's patriotism towards India during India's freedom struggle continues to inspire us all even today.



Death Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi - This Embassy paid tributes to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, on his death anniversary on 30 January 2023. Members of Indian community and friends of India in South Sudan also joined the Embassy officials in paying respect to the Mahatma. Gandhiji's ideals & principles continue to act as a beacon of hope for the world to this date.



Death Anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh - On the occasion of the 94th death anniversary of India's legendary freedom fighters, Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru, this Embassy organised several events and activities on 23 March, 2023. These included Pushpanjali ceremony, tree Plantations at Embassy premises and at Juba Orphanage with children and playing of documentary and Bollywood movie on the work and life of Shaheed Bhagat Singh. The Embassy appreciates the inspiring initiatives of some public spirited Indian community members, who collaborated with the Embassy to organize this event.



SUMMARY OF THE ECONOMIC SURVEY OF INDIA 2022-23



India to witness GDP growth of 6.0 per cent to 6.8 per cent in 2023-24, depending on the trajectory of economic and political developments

Globally, Economic Survey 2022-23 projects a baseline GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in real terms in FY24 economy is expected to grow at 7 per cent (in real terms) for the year ending march 2023, this follows an 8.7 per cent growth in the previous financial year

Credit growth to the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector has been remarkably high, over 30.5 per cent, on average during Jan-Nov 2022

Capital expenditure (CAPEX) of the Central Government, which increased by 63.4 per cent in the first eight months of FY23, was another growth driver of the Indian economy in the current year

RBI projects headline inflation at 6.8 per cent in FY23, which is outside its target range

Return of migrant workers to construction activities helped housing market witnessing a significant decline in inventory overhang to 33 months in Q3 of FY23 from 42 months last year

Surge in growth of exports in FY22 and the first half of FY23 induced a shift in the gears of the production processes from mild acceleration to cruise mode

Private consumption as a percentage of GDP stood at 58.4 per cent in Q2 of FY23, the highest among the second quarters of all the years since 2013-14, supported by a rebound in contact-intensive services such as trade, hotel and transport

Survey points to the lower forecast for growth in global trade by the world trade organisation, from 3.5 per cent in 2022 to 1.0 per cent in 2023



‘Make in India, Make for the World’ - Vision for a secure and prosperous future



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