

Embassy of India Newsletter

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JULY-SEPTEMBER 2022

76th INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA CELEBRATIONS



AMBASSADOR'S PAGE

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Ambassador of India to
South Sudan

**FOREWORD**

On August 15, 2022, India completed 75 years as an independent nation. As part of the ongoing "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)", the grand celebration of Independence Day by the Embassy reflected all that is progressive about India's political, socio-cultural, and economic identity. The celebrations also reverberated the "Panch Pran" or five pledges announced by Prime Minister Shri Modi in his Independence Day address to make India a developed nation by 2047.

The "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign culminated on 15 August 2022 in the Embassy and large number of Indian nationals in South Sudan displaying Indian national flags in their homes and establishments. The Embassy also organized an Independence Day reception after a two-year gap due to Covid-19 pandemic. Over 250 invitees, including South Sudan Government dignitaries, led by the Hon'ble Minister of Presidential Affairs, graced the event.

The crucial decision by the Government of South Sudan on extension of the transition period, upto February 2025, under the Revitalized Peace Agreement, 2018, was supported by India in the interest of sustainable peace and security in the country. Signing of an MoU between Indian public sector enterprise TCIL and the Ministry of ICT of South Sudan in July 2022, was a step forward in reinforcing India's capacity building efforts in higher education and healthcare sectors through online education courses and medical consultation for South Sudanese nationals.

Among bilateral interactions, the participation of a high-level delegation, led by H.E. Dr. James Wani Igga, Vice President, and including the Health Minister of South Sudan, from 19-20 July 2022 at the India-Africa Growth Partnership (17th CII-EXIM Bank) Conclave, held in New Delhi, was most significant during the quarter. The delegates had several meetings with Indian stakeholders/counterparts in core sectors such as education, health, defence, IT, infrastructure and financial partnership. Both sides are exploring avenues to expand investment and bilateral cooperation in several fields.

The Indian Association in South Sudan resumed their annual blood donation camp, disrupted by Covid-19 pandemic, to cater to large demand of blood in the country. This noble life-saving activity has been supplementing the efforts of concerned South Sudanese authorities.

The appointment of an Indian army officer, Lt. General Mohan Subramanian, as the new Force Commander of UNMISS was yet another proud occasion for Indians to celebrate during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Indian peace keepers in UNMISS, in addition to fulfilling their mandate of peace-keeping, also carried out various capacity building measures and charitable activities in the country, leaving lasting impressions of goodwill among local people.

Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI), an Indian religious congregation, continued with its humanitarian service and running of vocational training courses, contributing towards peace and prosperity in South Sudan.

The Newsletter aims at providing an account of major events and activities of this Embassy and other Indian entities for the quarter. Your suggestions to make it more useful are always welcome.

(Vishnu Kumar Sharma)
Ambassador

CELEBRATION OF 76TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA – FLAG HOISTING CEREMONY

The Embassy celebrated the 76th Independence Day of India in its premises in the morning of 15th August, 2022. The celebrations started with Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma unfurling the National Flag and reading out excerpts from the address to the nation by the Hon'ble President of India. In his address to the gathering, Ambassador thanked the Indian community for their support and encouraged them to participate even more enthusiastically take part in all the events the Embassy was organizing, in the spirit of festivities of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". Taking this opportunity, Ambassador also appealed to Indian community members to register themselves on the Global Pravasi Rishta Portal, so that their details are known and easily accessible with the Embassy in the hour of need. Ambassador Sharma also applauded Indian contingent in UNMISS and Daughters of Mary Immaculate for rendering support in capacity building and philanthropic activities in South Sudan.



CELEBRATION OF 76TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA – EVENING RECEPTION

In the spirit of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Embassy of India, Juba held a reception in the Embassy premises to mark the 75 years of India's independence in the evening of 15th August, 2022. The function was graced by Hon'ble Ministers in the Government of South Sudan, Central Equatoria State Deputy Governor and Ministers, Diplomatic community, representatives of UN and other International Organizations, Friends of India and prominent members of Indian community. Hon'ble Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Minister of Presidential Affairs, represented the South Sudan Government as the Chief Guest. In his remarks, he congratulated India and Indians in South Sudan and thanked India for its continued support in capacity building and for humanitarian assistance. Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma spoke about the journey of 75 years of progressive India and its vision for next 25 years, and described India-South Sudan relations as friendly, underscoring the deepening of engagement between the two countries during the last one year.

Indian community ladies performed Garba, a traditional dance from Gujarat. INDBATT-II (8 BIHAR) troops performed Chhaau, a semi classical Indian dance with marital and folk traditions of the tribals of Jharkhand and Odisha states of India. Another UNMISS team performed Bhangra dance from Punjab enthralling the guests with its catchy foot-tapping beats.

Videos on Indian Tourism, about India's rich cultural heritage, major achievements of India and yoga were played. A few Indian business establishments in South Sudan also displayed their Indian products ranging from automobiles to agriculture machinery. Indian travel agencies also put up their stalls at the venue. The venue of the event at the Embassy was packed to capacity with dignitaries mingling over rich Indian delicacies.



COMPLETION OF ARTIFICIAL LIMB FITMENT CAMP

The six-week long Artificial Limb Fitment Camp, which began on 31st May, 2022 at Juba Military Referral Hospital, Juba came to an end on 09 July, 2022. About 500 amputees were served at the camp with 350 limbs, 100 elbow crutches and 50 walking sticks. The beneficiaries were jubilant to regain mobility and independence. Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma thanked the BMVSS team for performing their duty tirelessly and with full devotion despite several challenges. He also thanked the Indian Association in South Sudan for their support and shared his vision of such collaborations between India and South Sudan in future.



E-VIDYABHARATI AND E-AAROgyABHARATI (E-VBAB)

The Telecommunication Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL), a Government of India enterprise and Ministry of ICT of South Sudan signed an MoU for online tele-education and tele-medical consultation for the benefit of South Sudanese nationals. This programme, called the e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (in short, e-VBAB) Network Project is part of ongoing capacity building efforts of the Government of India in Africa. The high quality tele-education programme under e-VB that have already commenced will benefit a number of South Sudanese students in several fields, such as technology, health, education, IT sector, etc.



“TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES”

With a view to promoting trade between India and South Sudan, the Embassy organized a “Trade Promotion Seminar” in collaboration with the “South Sudan Professional Business Women” Association, on 2nd August 2022.

The venue of the meeting was full to capacity with a large number of businesswomen as well as representatives from Parliamentary Committees, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Investment, representatives from Commerce and Trade entities/companies, participating in the event. In a brain storming session, the participants discussed the challenges being faced in enhancing trade and investment between India & South Sudan. Ideas were put forth to address the issues impeding the bilateral trade. The Ambassador in his address, while expressing satisfaction at the growth in bilateral trade, stressed on the huge potential for further increase in the trade. He added that the Embassy, on its part, was bringing the impediments in the growth of bilateral trade & investment to the notice of the concerned authorities from time to time for resolution. The sentiment was echoed by other speakers.

The President of “South Sudan Professional Business Women” Association Ms. Rachel Achew Akech, wholeheartedly, thanked the Embassy for facilitating the event.



Meeting with Indian Businessmen



BEACON Diagnostics product launch

TOURISM PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

The Embassy of India, Juba organized a tourism promotion activity on 22nd July, 2022. A short video clip covering a few amazing sites spread across India was played at the event. Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma also briefed the participants about the cultural and ethnic diversity of India and shared with them a list of must do activities in India. These included trying some of the delectable varieties of Indian dishes, picking up one-district-one-product for gift, watching Bollywood movies alongside visiting some famous historical sites and architectural wonders.

As part of celebrations of 75 glorious years of India's independence, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", and with a view to promoting tourism to India, Ambassador called yet another meeting of prominent tour operators of Juba on 29 July 2022, at the Embassy to tap India's huge potential by making it a destination for affordable yet world quality higher education, medical treatment and ancient traditions of healing. Potential for growth of tourism to India and possible tourism promotion avenues were among other things discussed.



BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

India and Africa have longstanding, historic trade and economic linkages which go back into the recesses of time. These historical linkages provide our contemporary partnership mutual understanding and a sense of comfort. To further expand and strengthen the cooperation between India and Africa in different sectors, 17th CII-Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership was organized in New Delhi from 19-20 July 2022. His Excellency Dr. James Wani Igga, Vice President (Economic Cluster) of the Republic of South Sudan, led a high level delegation, comprising hon'ble Yolanda Awel Juach, Health Minister and senior officials from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of South Sudan. The delegation attended a number of sessions organized for different sectors and had fruitful interactions with several Indian dignitaries, including with Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya the Health & Family Welfare Minister of India and private investors, seeking investment & collaboration, particularly in health, agriculture, infrastructure, energy and IT sectors. The Ambassador had a meeting with H.E. Wani Igga, after his return from India to concretize the outcomes of the visit.

The Ambassador met several government ministers during the quarter to discuss avenues of cooperation and collaboration between the two countries to further deepen the bilateral relations. Among the more significant interactions were his meetings with Hon. Kuol Athian, Minister of Trade & Industry (to explore possibilities of trade and investment promotion), Hon. Onyeti Adigo Nyikech, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries (to consider capacity building in livestock sector), Hon. Josephine Joseph Lagu, Minister of Agriculture & Food Security (for collaboration in Agriculture sector) and Hon. Yolanda Awel Juach Minister of Health (to follow up on her meeting with the Indian Minister of Health and Family Welfare).



Meeting of Ambassador with H.E. Dr. James Wani Igga, Vice President of South Sudan



Ambassdor receiving H.E. Dr. James Wani Igga, Vice President after his visit to India in July 2022



Ambassador's Meeting with Hon. Josephine Joseph Lagu, Minister of Agriculture & Food Security of South Sudan



Meeting of Ambassador with Hon. Onyeti Adigo Nyikech, Minister of Livestock & Fisheries of South Sudan

THREE-DAYS WORKSHOP ON "HEARTFULNESS MEDITATION"

In the spirit of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav festivities, the Embassy of India, Juba, organized a three-day workshop on "Heartfulness Meditation" from 15-17 July, 2022 in the Embassy premises. Lt. Col. Saurabh Sethi from UNMISS, also an expert "Heartfulness Meditation" conducted the workshop. People from different walks of life, including diplomats, Indian community and South Sudanese nationals keenly took part in the workshop. After each session, participants shared their individual experiences, which was encouraging, and appreciated the efforts made by Lt. Col. Saurabh Sethi to introduce meditation to them.



HINDI DIWAS CELEBRATIONS

Embassy of India, Juba celebrated "Hindi Diwas" at its premises on 14th September, 2022. Poetry recitation, Essay writing and Hindi dialogue competitions were organized. The winners were presented certificate and awards.

The event started with remarks by Ambassador of India, H.E. Vishnu Kumar Sharma on the importance of Hindi language in office work of the Union Government of India and its constitutional position. This was followed with screening of inspirational Hindi poems recited by well known personalities in their voices, such as legendary Amitabh Bachchan and inimitable Ashutosh Rana.

Members of Indian community and Indian contingent from UNMISS participated enthusiastically in the celebrations, some of whom also recited their own poetry.



AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV PROMOTING INDIA'S RICH HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

A. Tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

Ambassador of India led Embassy officials in paying floral tributes to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his death anniversary on 18 August 2022. Addressing the gathering, he talked about the life and contributions of Netaji in the great cause of India's freedom and also shared his thoughts on the occasion on India's freedom struggle. Members of Indian community and friends of India in South Sudan also took part in the ceremony.



B. Janmashtami Celebrations at the Embassy of India, Juba

Janmashtami is a popular Indian festival celebrating the birth of the Lord Krishna which falls in the month of August–September every year. This year the festival was celebrated on 19 August, 2022 across India and various parts of the world, including by this Embassy. All the Embassy officials, led by Ambassador, offered prayers to Lord Krishna at the Embassy premises.



C. "Har Ghar Tiranga"

To celebrate 75 glorious years of a progressive Independent India and in the spirit of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", this Embassy and Indian community in South Sudan took part with all enthusiasm in the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign commemorating the freedom struggle of the country and its development and evolutionary journey.



D. Blood Donation Camp

In the spirit of celebration of 75 years of India's independence, Indian Association in South Sudan (IASS), supported by Embassy of India, Juba organized a blood donation camp in Juba during 19-21 August 2022. Officials of the Embassy, led by Ambassador of India took part in the blood donation camp on 20 August, 2022. Thanking the IASS for their commendable work, Ambassador described blood donation as a noble cause and also appreciated the work of the team at National Blood Transfusion Services, Juba. To mark India's 75th Independence Day anniversary, blood donation by at least 75 volunteers was planned. However, it was heartening to note that over 100 volunteers took part in the camp surpassing expectations.



E. Teachers' Day Celebration at the Embassy of India, Juba

Ambassador of India led Embassy officials in paying floral tributes to Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, on 5th September, 2022 on his birth anniversary, celebrated as Teachers' Day in India. Addressing the gathering, the Ambassador talked about the life and ideals of Dr. Radhakrishnan, former President of India, and one of the most distinguished scholars of comparative religion and philosophy from India. A few among the Friends of India, who were also present on the occasion, spoke glowingly about the role of teachers in their lives during their formative years.



A SNAPSHOT OF SOME SOCIETY OF MARY IMMACULATE AND COLLABORATORS (SDMIC) ACTIVITIES DURING JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2022:

A. Activities carried out in Juba :

180 Gender Based Violence survivors received training on Embroidery, Beads making and Bread Baking to support their incomes.

894 people benefited from the Medical camp conducted at IDP Camp-3, Mangateen and Kapuri.

Nutritious food provided to 300 malnourished children and 200 pregnant women at IDP Camp-3 and Mangateen Camp every month in the quarter.

10 houses were constructed for vulnerable IDP women in Kapuri village.

147 youth received training in various vocational skills.

A grinding mill was provided to Federation of Women Farmers as a pilot project to promote business enterprises among the women farmers.

Dignity kits were provided to 221 adolescent girls studying in DMI School in IDP Camp 3.

B. In Kodok (Upper Nile), SDMIC provided Agricultural tools and seeds to 543 formers and 60 farmers received training in sustainable agriculture practices.

C. In Yirol (Lakes), a federation of women's groups was formed as a forum to collectively address the issues of conflict and other challenges faced by the women and to promote group business among the member groups.



GANESH PUJA IN JUBA

The Indian community in South Sudan organized, lord Ganesh puja in Juba on 9 September 2022. Over one hundred devotees from Indian community participated to take blessings of lord Ganesh. The Embassy officials also took part in the puja and festivities.



INDIAN PEACE-KEEPERS IN SOUTH SUDAN

A. INDBATT1- WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS OF LOCAL POPULATION

The 19 RAJPUT INFANTRY BATTALION GROUP (INDBATT-1) excelled in Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC), winning hearts and mind of the local people through confidence-building efforts & community security measures, in conjunction with the various UN agencies and local government, which were vital for maintaining a high level of safety and security in the AOR. The Battalion has also provided veterinary assistance by conducting 15 veterinary camps and have treated approx 2133 cattle. Other CIMIC activities undertaken to include awareness on gender equality, importance of girl's education, providing assistance to local community in terms of distribution of sports items and first aid kits have made a tremendous impact on perception among locals about Indian peace-keepers.



B. New Force Commander of UNMISS from Indian Army

Lieutenant General Mohan Subramanian from Indian Army was appointed the new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). He succeeds Lieutenant General Shailesh Tiwari also from Indian Army. Lt. Gen. Mohan has a distinguished military career with the Indian Army spanning over 36 years. Most recently, he served as the General Officer Commanding, Military Region (Operational and Logistic Readiness Zone) in central India, contributing to the Army's operational and logistic preparedness. The Indian Community in South Sudan takes pride in welcoming him in his new role and wishes him all success in the assignment.



C. Change over of National Senior and CO UNMISS Hospital in Juba

Brigadier Dhananjay Joshi, National Senior & UNMISS South Sector Commander left South Sudan after completing his term. He is succeeded by Brigadier Narendra Shekhawat.

The Commanding Officer of UNMISS Level-II+ hospital in Juba, Col. Sreenivas handed over charge to his successor Col. M.M. Singh.



D. Veterinary Camp:

INDBATT-II conducted a day-long Veterinary Camp for residents of the Jonglei State at Bor, South Sudan on 11 Aug 2022. The Vet camp witnessed tremendous turnout of over one thousand livestock animals. The event coincided with the 75th anniversary of India's Independence being celebrated as "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav". A total of 224 goats and 554 other cattle were treated. Local population appreciated the efforts made by INDBATT-II towards treatment of animals, the main stay of their livelihood.

E. Run for Unity

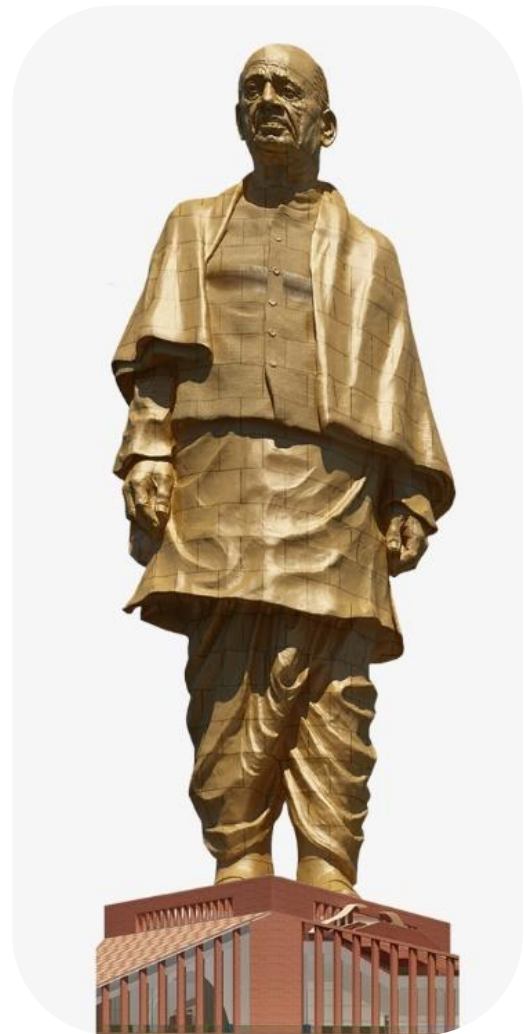
To commemorate AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV, a 'Run for Unity' was organized by INDBATT-II (8 BIHAR) at SSB Bor on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day of India. UNMISS Personnel from contingents of Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Cambodia, Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Ghana & Russia also participated in the run. Total of 208 runners participated in the Event.



The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention will be held in the city of Indore from 8-10 January, 2023. The Convention is being organised by Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The theme for the convention will be "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal."

The registration process for the diaspora members, who wish to participate in the Convention in India, has begun on the website (<https://pbdindia.gov.in/>). The website also provides other information on PBD 2023.

Indian community members in South Sudan could consider planning their regular holidays/ visit to India keeping these dates in view to participate in the event.



This Statue Of Unity – 182 metre high statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat (India) is the tallest statue in the world and an engineering marvel. Installed in a picturesque setting amidst mountain ranges and on the bank of river Narmada is gaining popularity as a touristic spot in India.



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Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal

First Pran - **Goal of Developed India**

Second Pran - **Remove any trace of colonial mindset**

Third Pran - **Take pride in our roots**

Fourth Pran - **Unity**

Fifth Pran - **Sense of duty among the citizens**

PM Modi at 76th Independence Day Celebrations



भारत 2023 INDIA

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

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