

Embassy of India Newsletter

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE EMBASSY OF INDIA, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN



No. 04/2023



OCT - DEC 2023

CELEBRATING NAVARATRI WITH INDIAN COMMUNITY



GET TOGETHER WITH ITEC ALUMNI ON NATIONAL UNITY DAY



AMBASSADOR'S PAGE

Vishnu Kumar Sharma
Ambassador of India to
South Sudan

**FOREWORD**

As we step into the promising dawn of a new year, it is with great pleasure and optimism that I extend my warmest greetings to the esteemed readers of this Newsletter. Reflecting on the past year, it is heartening to witness the resilient spirit and collaborative efforts that continue to define the bond between India and South Sudan.

The last quarter has witnessed impressive progress in implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement. With the institutional edifice in place, the leadership of South Sudan now need to meet the challenge of resourcing and operationalizing these institutions, while maintaining the current momentum of implementation. India, alongside the International community, will continue to support all efforts towards bringing peace and prosperity to the people of South Sudan.

One of the key areas that our embassy has been actively working on is exploring health cooperation. As the result of our pursuit, the last quarter saw a spate of visits from Indian hospitals eager to explore opportunities in South Sudan. By facilitating partnerships and exchanges, we aim to contribute to the enhancement of healthcare infrastructure and services in this region.

Another significant aspect of our diplomatic efforts involves addressing the concerns of the Indian business community in South Sudan. We have consistently taken up issues faced by Indian businessmen with South Sudanese authorities. Through dialogue and cooperation, we aim to create an environment that is conducive to business and investment. Various interactions and events have been utilized as valuable platforms to convey India's perspective on fostering a business and investment friendly atmosphere in South Sudan.

The Embassy celebrated "Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora" during the Navratri, a 9-day festival of devotional prayers and Gujarati folk dance "Garba". UNESCO inscribed "Garba" on its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on 6 December 2023; yet another milestone achievement for India in the cultural arena.

It is crucial to acknowledge and commend the crucial role played by Indian peacekeepers in South Sudan. The presence of Indian peacekeepers exemplifies India's steadfast commitment to global peace and security.

Indian missionaries in Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Collaborators (SDMIC), and other congregations, continue with their numerous programmes for the betterment of local communities. Their zealous pursuit for creating livelihood opportunities in South Sudan is truly commendable.

I wish to recognize and appreciate the dynamic and industrious spirit of our community members, which is playing a vital role in strengthening the economic fabric of this nation. It is a testament to the enduring ties between our peoples and the positive impact of Indian diaspora in South Sudan.

As we embark on a new year filled with hope and opportunities, let us reaffirm our commitment to fostering mutual understanding, cooperation, and shared prosperity. The Embassy of India in Juba remains dedicated to furthering the multifaceted partnership between India and South Sudan.

May the coming year bring prosperity, peace, and joy to all our readers.

(Vishnu Kumar Sharma)
Ambassador

PROMOTION OF CULTURAL TIES WITH DIASPORA - CELEBRATING NAVARATRI WITH INDIAN COMMUNITY

With a view to promoting cultural ties of Indian diaspora with the native country, this Embassy and Indian Association in South Sudan organized a cultural event on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at the Hindu Temple premises in Juba. The event was part of "Navratri" celebrations, a nine-night long Indian festival.

Hon. Rita Dominic Jada, Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports of CES, as the chief guest, and Hon. Taban Emmanuel Baya, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of CES, as guest of honour, graced the occasion. Hon. James Tatu, The Director General, Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports of CES, Mr. Edmund Yakani, the Executive Director of Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), Mr. Moses John, Organisation for Non-Violence and Development were among those present during the celebrations.

Ambassador V K Sharma, while addressing the Indian community urged them to promote Indian culture while fostering people to people understanding between India and South Sudan. The Chief Guest appreciated the initiative of the Embassy to organize such events that develop cultural assimilation between the two people. Hon. Taban while greeting the Indian community, emphasized on further strengthening of the existing cultural connections between the two nations. Mr. Edmund Yakani suggested measures to promote the cultural interactions between India and South Sudan.

Delicious Indian delicacies served at the dinner enhanced the flavour of the festival. Millet dishes were promoted during the event. The audience also keenly took part in the fun quiz on Indian culture, while a team from Indian contingent UNMISS performed a traditional Indian dance, much to the delight of all those present.

The event ended with group folk dances of Garba and Dandiya, joined by all including the dignitaries present. The participants – over 150 in number – rejoiced every bit of the gala event and dance, making the celebrations a memorable affair.



"SWACHHATA HI SEWA" CAMPAIGN

Cleanliness Drive - In the spirit of the "Swachhata Hi Sewa" campaign, the Embassy officials with public participation carried out cleaning of the surroundings of the Embassy building and Chancery premises on 1 October 2023.



Mission LiFE - This Embassy carried out various activities together with Indian community members during the second half of October, 2024, such as, Plantation of tree saplings at the Embassy complex and Juba Orphanage; Creation of Compost pit; Installation of eco friendly LED bulbs at the Embassy; and Poster making competition where children of Juba Orphanage enthusiastically took part.



VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK – 30 OCTOBER TO 05 NOVEMBER 2023

The Central Vigilance Commission of India had announced observance of the Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW), from 30 October to 5 November 2023. This annual event aims to raise awareness and reaffirm the commitment to upholding integrity in public governance. This year the theme of the VAW was "Say No to Corruption; Commit to the Nation".

All India-based officials, led by Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma, took the Integrity Pledge. This Embassy, through its social media accounts, also promoted the VAW and requested all Indian citizens to take the "Integrity Pledge" to commit to highest standards of honesty and integrity and support the fight against corruption.



TRIBUTE TO INDIAN FREEDOM HEROES

Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti - On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October, this Embassy paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and extended warmest greetings to the Indian community in South Sudan and all those who follow Gandhian ideology of peace and non-violence.



Tributes to Lal Bahadur Shastri ji on his birth anniversary - On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the 2nd Prime Minister of India, Lal Bahadur Shastri, who was particularly known for his simple living and high thinking among his many virtues, Ambassador led the Indian officials in offering floral tributes to the great leader.



Paying homage to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on Constitution Day - Saluting the wisdom of great Indian leaders, who gave India its Constitution, and recommitting to the fundamental values of democracy, the Embassy officials celebrated the Constitution Day on 26 November by reading out the preamble and paying homage to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Father of Indian Constitution.



ITEC DAY

This Embassy held a get together of alumni of Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) on 31 October, 2023 to celebrate ITEC Day. The occasion was also used to celebrate the National Unity Day.

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. He also talked about the stellar role Sardar Patel, a noted leader from Indian freedom struggle days and first Interior Minister of India played in unifying India, post its independence from colonial rule, which was achieved by peaceful means in challenging circumstances.

Hon Bangasi Joseph Bakosoro, Minister of Public Service and Human Resource Development, and Hon John Moses Monday, a Gandhian Activist from organization for non- violence & development, were the Guests of Honour, who also shared their thoughts and appreciated the assistance rendered by India, with over 1200+ South Sudan officials having benefitted from the capacity building ITEC courses since 2013. A few participants also gave valuable feedback about the various programmes they attended in India and how these benefited them in their career.

Other items in the programme included :-

- Discussion on the theme of Unity and Peace
- Recent developments in India, especially in the context of Science and Technology
- Medical Tourism to India
- Yoga session

The interaction continued late into the evening with guests relishing delicious Indian cuisine and millet dishes to celebrate the International Year of Millet 2023.



MEDICAL CAMP IN JUBA BY INDIAN DOCTORS FROM SANAR INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

Given the availability of world-class health-care facilities, affordable and quality medical treatment in Indian hospitals, the Embassy has been promoting medical tourism to India. To extend their outreach, Indian hospitals have started organizing free medical camps in Juba in association with their local partner hospitals. One such medical camp was organized by Healthians Medical Assistance for Indian doctors from Sanar International Hospital in the Juba Medical Complex from 3-4 November, 2023.

A networking event was also organized at Hotel Pyramid on 3.11.2023 by Sanar International Hospital, where an informative presentation about the facilities available and working of the hospital was made. The participants included local medical fraternity, an Indian company Healthians Care Insurance and local health insurance companies. There were impressive feedbacks from patients, who had received treatment in the Sanar International hospital and a networking platform for the participants.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma, described the medical treatment facilities in India as one of the best and value for money. He also mentioned the efforts of the Embassy to extend cooperation in the field of healthcare between India and South Sudan.



DIWALI CELEBRATION ON 11 NOVEMBER 2023

On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, to commemorate the victory of good over evil, which is the defining spirit of this great festival, the Embassy officials held a prayer ceremony at its premises, and wished and prayed for Love, Peace, Progress, Harmony & Togetherness everywhere.



VISIT OF DR. BIONG KUOL DENG, DEAN OF SCHOOL OF LAW IN THE UNIVERSITY OF JUBA, TO INDIA UNDER ICCR'S ACADEMIC VISITOR PROGRAMME (AVP)

Under the Academic Visitor Programme (AVP) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, the Council facilitates visits by eminent academicians of other countries to India to experience Indian culture and interact with Indian institutions, academicians, think-tanks, etc., to share their insight and experiences. The programme of the visitors includes a variety of lectures, meeting with Vice Chancellors of Indian Universities, call on meetings with Senior bureaucrats and intellectuals.



Dr. Biong Kuol Deng, Dean of Law School in the University of Juba, South Sudan, was selected for the Academic Visitors Programme for the year 2023-2024 and visited India from 18 to 27 October, 2023. During his visit Dr. Biong had interactions and discussions at University of Delhi in New Delhi, NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, National Law School of India, Manipal Academy of Higher Education and Chirst (Deemed to be) University in Bengaluru. He also visited historical monuments and places of touristic importance during the visit.

Dr. Biong has described his visit as fruitful, productive and extremely satisfying experience. His discussions in universities also open avenues for cooperation between the University of Juba and Indian institutions.

CELEBRATING GURU NANAK JAYANTI

The Embassy celebrated the 554th birth anniversary of the great social reformer Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Guru of Sikhism, who brought revolutionary changes in the society with his words full of devotion and knowledge, on 27 November 2023.



CONGRATULATIONS TO SOUTH SUDANESE STUDENT MR. JAMBU LUKUDU, AN INTERNATIONAL GOLD MEDALIST STUDENTS AT MARWADI UNIVERSITY



Embassy of India conveys heartiest congratulations to Mr. Jambu Lukudu Jambu Mabe, a South Sudanese student who has made it to the list of gold medallists International students in the recently concluded 6th Convocation of Marwadi University in Gujarat (India). We encourage such outstanding achievements of students particularly from South Sudan, who excel against all odds. We also acknowledge the contribution of educational institutions of South Sudan in his success.

2ND VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT (VOGSS 2.0)

Hon. Dr. Dhieu Mathok Diing Wol, the Minister for Investment of the Republic of South Sudan participated in an on-line session of the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit (VoGSS 2.0) on 17 November 2023. The theme of the Summit was "Global South and Resilient Supply Chains".

The Minister extended greetings to all participating ministerial colleagues from 15 developing countries in the group and Hon'ble Piyush Goyal, the Minister of Commerce and Industry of India, who was hosting the event. He congratulated the Indian government for successfully organizing the G-20 Summit earlier in 2023 and mentioned the inclusion of the Africa Union in G-20 as a significant achievement. Hon. Dhieu Mathok expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Indian government in representing the voice of the Global South countries at the G-20. He supported the Global Value Chain framework endorsed at the G-20 summit and stressed that inclusive growth is the only sustainable growth.

Emphasizing that South Sudan is rich in natural & animal resources and with security situation in the country improving steadily, the country is ready for foreign investment. He added that South Sudan needed more businessmen and enterprises to explore its markets for investment in different sectors, including the internet service, where high costs are hampering digitization.

Hon. Dhieu Mathok also addressed the challenges posed by the current UNSC arms embargo and sanctions. Blaming them for discouraging investment and trade, he called for the constructive support of the world community, particularly the G-20, to help South Sudan recover from years of conflict, natural disasters, and the recent influx of people due to the Sudan conflict.

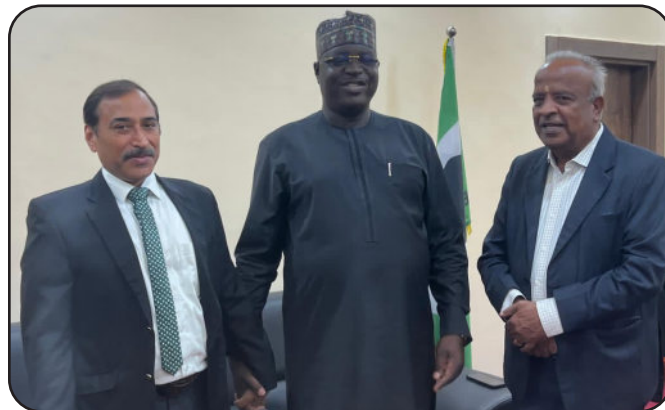
Touching upon the issue of climate change, he claimed that South Sudan had been disproportionately affected by global warming. Hon. Dhieu Mathok clearly expressed reservations about the phasing out of fossil fuels and called for a more practical approach from the G-20 that takes into account the interests of countries like South Sudan.

In conclusion, the Minister thanked the Prime Minister of India for the opportunity given to Global South Countries to provide their inputs at the G-20 platform and expressed hope that the efforts of the G-20 will stimulate growth in Global South countries.



BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CORNER

Meeting with Hon. Governor of Central Equatoria State - To encourage more South Sudanese students to pursue higher education in India, the Embassy has been working hard on various initiatives. Ambassador V.K. Sharma met Hon. Emmanuel Adil Anthony, the Governor of Central Equatoria State in South Sudan, to discuss how the State can support more students to study in India through its scholarship programs.



Meeting with Vice-Chancellor of University of Juba - Amb. Sharma had a fruitful meeting with Prof. John Akec, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Juba as a follow up to the recent visit of Dr. Biong Kuol Deng, Dean of School of Law to India, sponsored by ICCR. The important aspects of Constitution making and core issues facing South Sudan were discussed in detail. Ambassador also presented a copy of the Constitution of India to Prof. Akec.



Visit to ICRC-run Physical Rehabilitation Centre - Ambassador V.K. Sharma, along with some other Ambassadors and foreign diplomats in South Sudan, visited the ICRC-run Physical Rehabilitation Centre in Juba on 02 December to assess the requirement of prosthetics for amputees and challenges being faced by the Centre. In 2022, the Embassy had also organized a BMVSS Jaipur foot camp in Juba, which benefited 500 amputees.



BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CORNER – 2.0

National Export and Investment Strategy Conference - Ambassador V.K. Sharma participated in the National Export and Investment Strategy Conference organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of South Sudan and shared his views on promotion of trade and investment in the country.



Chamber Quality Awards 2023 - Addressing the representatives of business establishments in South Sudan at the Chamber Quality Award-23 event organised by the South Sudan National Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture on 15 Dec 2023 at Juba, Ambassador Vishnu Kumar Sharma emphasized on promoting business ethics and excellence, while urging the South Sudanese authorities to expedite necessary steps to make the country more business friendly to attract investment.



Visit of team from Sparsh Hospital, Bengaluru, to Juba - A team from Sparsh hospital, Bengaluru, with their local representative visited the Embassy and discussed with Ambassador V.K. Sharma, their plan to explore the possibility of holding a free medical camp at Juba in the next couple of months. The Ambassador briefed the team about the potential and challenges in enhancing footprints of Indian hospitals in the healthcare sector of South Sudan. The Embassy of India in Juba is committed to facilitate the South Sudanese nationals receive quality treatment at affordable cost in Indian hospitals.



CIMIC ACTIVITIES OF INDIAN PEACE-KEEPERS IN UN MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)

Indian peace-keepers in South Sudan engage in variety of UN-Civil Military Co-ordination (CIMIC) activities that contribute to facilitate the interface between military and civilian components, including humanitarian and development agencies. These activities also include capacity building and benefactions.

A. CIMIC Activities of Indian Battalion (INDBATT)-II, UNMISS, at Malakal

(i) Winning Hearts and Minds: The Battalion provided veterinary assistance by conducting 07 veterinary camps treating over 756 cattle belonging to the local populace. Other CIMIC activities included awareness on gender equality, importance of girl's education, assistance to local community in terms of providing sports items and first aid kits, which made a tremendous impact on perception among locals about UNMISS.

(ii) World AIDS Day: To spread awareness about HIV/AIDS, a volleyball tournament was conducted at Malakal from 26-28 Nov 2023. A Mini-marathon was also organized 2 Dec 2023 at the Malakal Logbase.

(iii) Administrative Support & FP (QRT) at Malakal Town: INDBATT-1 collaborated in conducting 'Peace Begins with Me' even, alongwith a Cultural Programme at Malakal Stadium on 11 Nov 2023.



Bharat tex 2024
Global Textile Expo
New Delhi | Feb 26-29

TEXTILES FASHION SUSTAINABILITY

Platinum Partner
ADITYA BIRLA GROUP

Gold Partner
Reliance Industries Limited

Silver Partners
ARVIND INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED | INDRAMMA | TRIDENT GROUP

Associate Partner
CHARGEURS PCC

Organized by
CONSORTIUM OF TEXTILE EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCILS (EPCs)

Supported by
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

CIMIC ACTIVITIES OF INDIAN PEACE-KEEPERS IN UN MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS) - 2.0

B. CIMIC Activities of Indian Battalion (INDBATT)-I, UNMISS, at Bor

(i) Awareness About AIDS: On 01 Dec 2023 volunteers from INDBATT-II participated in mini marathon conducted by Sector East, at Bor to raise awareness about the challenges that remain to achieve the goals of ending AIDS by 2030.

(ii) Veterinary Clinic (Bor): The veterinary team in collaboration with the Directorate Animal Resources, Fisheries and Tourism, Jonglei state, is running a veterinary clinic in Bor Town, wherein, veterinary care and treatment to 1,714 animals including cattle, goats, dogs and poultry was provided during the quarter.

(iii) Medical Assistance to Local Populace: A medical team located at Bor, Pibor and Akobo treated and rendered medical advice & treatment to 101 South Sudanese civilians during the period.

(iv) Swachhata Abhiyan Campaign: On the occasion of Christmas & New Year, a Swachhata Abhiyan Campaign on sanitation and maintaining hygienic environment was conducted at Bor on 29 Dec 2023.



GARBA IN UNESCO – A CULTURAL FEAT FOR INDIA

A traditional dance of Gujarat state in India - "Garba", representing harmony and brotherhood in society, has been included in UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Indian Association in South Sudan organized an event on 09 December at Hindu Temple in Juba to celebrate the landmark achievement. Indian community members enthusiastically participated in Garba dance in traditional attire to mark the momentous occasion with a great sense of pride.

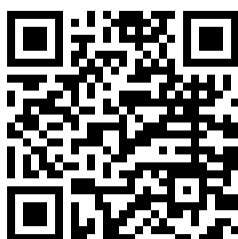


SOCIETY OF DAUGHTERS OF MARRY IMMACULATE & COLLABORATORS (SDMIC) CAPACITY BUILDING AND CHARITY ACTIVITIES

- SDMIC supported Dignity Kids to 223 adolescent girls at IDP Camp 3 School every month.
- 120 women at IDP Camp 3 underwent 10 days skill training on Bakery and beads making.
- 135 Women and Youth competed three month Skill training on Basic Computer, Tailoring and Beauty Arts training at DMI St. Joseph Skill Training Centre.
- Emergency Locust Response Project awareness created among the farmers in Juba County through Radio talk show with the collaboration of Ministry of Agriculture and the Farmers.
- 3590 farmers were trained on sustainable and good agricultural and fishing practices during the last quarter at Juba and Malakal.
- 1648 small-holding farmers were trained on improved nutrition-sensitive practices, good practices in post-harvest handling and processing food under FAO Food and Livelihood programme.
- 1849 Farmers Trained in IPM technologies (push and pull strategy, crop diversification system, climate change mitigation) Community and farmers groups trained in surveillance and monitoring pests.
- SDMIC Malakal team educated the community on GBV issues, sustainable agricultural practice and Clean Drinking Water through Cultural team activities to 690 beneficiaries at Fashoda County.
- Graduation for DMI Mother virgin Pre Primary and IDP Camp3 school children under DMI Education program at Juba and Gogrial were organized. Total 1568 children participated.



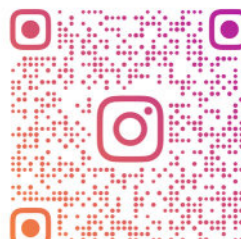
SCAN TO VISIT THIS EMBASSY'S SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS



[@IndiaInSouthSudan](#)



[@eoijuba](#)



[@IndiaInSouthSudan](#)



[YouTube @IndiaInSouthSudan](#)

INDIA'S FIRST SOLAR OBSERVATORY, ADITYA, REACHES THE LAGRANGE POINT L1! YET ANOTHER LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT BY INDIAN SPACE SCIENTISTS.



Showcasing Indian Culture at



https://www.g20.in/ebook/Showcasing_Indian_Culture/index.html?fbclid=IwAR3QkSD1MpksC-bAHfsA7bOQXaGgtozvQi_M820b5CpeV50iyNW-cOoV3WjtU



Participate & Get an Opportunity to Interact with
Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi





CONSECRATION CEREMONY OF RAM MANDIR ON 22 JANUARY 2024



Designed & edited by Embassy of India, Juba, Plot. No. 209 & 245, Block 3K (South), Juba Na Bari, Juba
Feedback / suggestions can be shared by email to : amboffice.juba@mea.gov.in / cul.juba@mea.gov.in