

# Embassy of India Newsletter

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## CELEBRATION OF INDIA'S 69<sup>th</sup> REPUBLIC DAY ON 26 JANUARY 2018



## INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA) FOUNDING CONFERENCE 11 MARCH 2018, NEW DELHI



## AMBASSADOR'S PAGE

श्रीकुमारमेनन  
राजदूत  
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**Ambassador of India to**  
**South Sudan**

**FOREWORD**

It is my pleasure to present to you this latest edition of the Embassy Newsletter, covering events of the first quarter of 2018.

This comes at a time when South Sudan is yet again at the cross-roads, as it makes another attempt to seek and secure lasting peace for its people through the next phase of talks in end-April, under the IGAD-Revitalization Forum process. It is hoped that these renewed efforts and fresh initiatives for peace in South Sudan, both from the Government side as well as the International Community, with the help of all stakeholders, will bear fruit and the people of South Sudan will soon get to see the start of real development and implementation of infrastructure projects that this country so badly needs.

The UN Security Council at its meeting on 15 March 2018 renewed the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan for one year and commended the actions taken by UNMISS peacekeepers and Troops/Police-Contributing Countries in implementing the UNMISS mandate in a challenging environment. I am proud to see members of our Indian Military & Police Contingents continuing to carry out with great zeal & enthusiasm, their responsibilities of protecting civilians, delivering humanitarian assistance, while supporting implementation of the ARCSS agreement and the peace process.

While India celebrated its 69th Republic Day on 26 January, the Embassy marked the day with its own time-honored tradition of honouring the national flag at a ceremony organized at the chancery premises in the presence of the Indian community and members of the Indian Military & Police contingents of UNMISS.

In January, the Indian Association South Sudan (IASS) elected a new team of board members and started-off the year on the right note by organizing a blood donation camp in the capital on Republic Day. A truly noble cause that warmed the hearts of our South Sudanese friends.

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018, India hosted in New Delhi the inaugural session of the founding conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) - a global alliance of solar-rich countries. Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi called upon the world to push for developing low cost solar energy and promoting solar energy-based innovations. Hon. Mr. Aggrey Tisa Sabuni, Presidential Advisor on Financial Affairs, represented the Government of South Sudan at the ISA - accompanied by Hon. Ms. Josephine Napwon Cosmos. Minister of Environment & Forestry.

A highlight of our bilateral interactions during the quarter was the visit to New Delhi in March 2018 by the Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology – H.E. Mr. Yien Oral Lam and Hon'ble Minister of Mining – H.E. Gabriel Thokuj Deng to attend the CII-Exim Bank Conclave.

Change is the essence of life, and, as it is with everyone, the time has come for me to say Goodbye as I wind up my tenure here in Juba and move on to my next assignment. The past two years and nine months that I have spent here has been a great journey of discovery for me, both personally and professionally. A valuable learning experience and great friendships developed, something that I will always cherish.

(Srikumar Menon)

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**INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY 2018****India's 69th Republic Day marked with Asean leaders in attendance**

India celebrated its 69th Republic Day on 26 January 2018, with a grand parade in New Delhi - replete with its customary display of military strength and cultural diversity, that saw the rare attendance by Heads of State and Government from 10 countries representing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as chief guests. The 10 leaders from Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore, Myanmar, Thailand, Brunei, the Philippines and Malaysia took the stage along with their host, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while President Ram Nath Kovind took the salute from the marching contingents on Rajpath. The parade was commanded by Lt General Asit Mistry, General Officer Commanding, Headquarters Delhi Area.



## INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA) SUMMIT 11 MARCH, 2018, NEW DELHI



- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** initiative was launched at the COP 21 Conference in Paris on 30 November 2015, jointly by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the then French President Francois Hollande. The ISA is conceived as a **coalition of 121 solar resource rich countries** to address their special energy needs and provide a platform to collaborate for addressing the identified gaps through a common and agreed approach. The ISA is a treaty-based organization and will be headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana, India.
- As per the Framework Agreement (FA) of the ISA, a total of 15 countries were required to ratify the FA for the ISA to become a legal entity. **The ISA eventually became a legal entity on 6 Dec 2017** (30 days after the deposit of the 15th ratification instrument).
- Since the opening up of the ISA FA for signature at the COP-22 conference held at Marrakesh in Nov 2016, a total of **48 countries had signed the ISA FA and 21 countries had ratified it (including South Sudan)**. [The South Sudanese Parliament ratified the Paris Climate Change Agreement on 14 September 2017 and thus by signing it, **ISA was considered ratified**]. More countries are expected to sign and ratify the text in coming months.
- According to the alliance norm, the first 15 countries ratifying the ISA framework agreement become the founding members of the ISA and thus hold special responsibility in the alliance. They are: Bangladesh, Comoros, Fiji, France, Ghana, Guinea, India, Mali, Mauritius, Nauru, Niger, Seychelles, Somalia, **South Sudan**, and Tuvalu.
- **India hosted the inaugural session of the founding conference of the ISA** in New Delhi on Friday, 11th March 2018.
- This Founding Conference brought together 21 Heads of State and Government, 2 Vice Presidents, 4 Deputy Prime Ministers, 19 Ministers, the United Nations representatives, leaders of 10 Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), representatives of corporate sector as well as civil society.
- **Hon'ble PM Modi called upon the world to push for developing low cost solar energy and promoting solar energy-based innovations.** The summit deliberated on finance mechanism for the promotion of solar energy, crowd-funding and technology transfer. Demonstrative projects were showcased by participating nations. The event was a reflection of common desire to significantly augment harnessing of solar energy, make joint efforts towards development and mobilize investment in the solar sector
- **Hon. Mr. Aggrey Tisa Sabuni, Presidential Advisor on Financial Affairs, represented the Government of South Sudan at the ISA. He was accompanied by Hon. Ms. Josephine Napwon Cosmos Ngoyo, Minister of Environment & Forestry.**
- South Sudan was also represented by Mr. Joseph Africano Bartel, Undersecretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (as its National Focal Point for ISA) at the National Focal Points (NFPs) Conclave held in New Delhi from 10-18 March 2018.

## INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA) SUMMIT (11 MARCH 2018) : IN PICTURES



South Sudan delegation at the ISA - Hon. Mr. Aggrey Tisa Sabuni, Presidential Advisor on Financial Affairs, Hon. Ms. Josephine Napwon Cosmos Ngoyo, Minister of Environment & Forestry; H.E. Dr. Daniel Othol, Ambassador of South Sudan to India and Mr. Joseph Bartel, Undersecretary, Min of Environment & Forests, Government of South Sudan.



**INDIA'S 69TH REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATED IN JUBA**

The Embassy commemorated India's 69th Republic Day by organizing a flag hoisting ceremony on the morning of 26 January 2018 at the Chancery complex in Juba.

Ambassador Srikumar Menon unfurled the National Flag and read out the President of India's address to the nation - partly in English and in Hindi. The event was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the presence of about 300 persons - comprising a large cross-section of the Indian community based in Juba, senior officers and members of the Indian Military Peacekeeping contingent, the Indian Police contingent and medical personnel of the Indian Level-2 Hospital attached to the UNMISS – the United Nations Mission for South Sudan and Indian nationals working in UN agencies and NGOs. As has been the practice during celebrations of India's national days in the past, a 15-member contingent of select uniformed Jawans of the Indian military contingent of UNMISS from the Marathas Regiment, in full military armory, sounded the bugle, presented arms and saluted the Indian flag after it was unfurled.

Following the group singing of the national anthem and reading of the President's message, Ambassador in his separate welcome remarks to the gathering, highlighted the great supporting role played by the personnel of the Indian Military and Police contingent in maintaining peace in South Sudan. Ambassador also highlighted the significant contribution made by the Indian business community, Indians working in local private companies and Indian civilian staff working for UN agencies and NGOs, towards securing peace and development of South Sudan. Here are some glimpses from the event...



INDIA'S 69TH REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATED IN JUBA



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**BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN BY INDIAN ASSOCIATION**

To mark the Republic Day, the Embassy, in collaboration with the Indian Association of South Sudan (IASS), organized a Blood Donation Camp on 26-27 January in Central Juba. Ambassador, accompanied by Officers and other India-based officials, as well as office bearers of the IASS and other prominent members of the Indian Community in Juba, took turns to donate blood to the blood bank administered by the South Sudanese National Blood Transfusion Service under the Ministry of Health. Appreciating the gesture, the Acting Undersecretary for Health conveyed gratitude of the South Sudanese people and thanked the Indian Community for taking the lead in organising the blood donation campaign.

21 Army Officers & Jawans from the Indian Military Contingent of UNMISS also donated blood. The blood donation drive has been instrumental in motivating local South Sudanese, many of whom joined the Indian Community team in this campaign. This also helped to spread the important message among the local population - to educate and motivate their fellow citizens to come forward and donate blood to the Blood Bank for benefiting needy patients, especially Mothers and Children in the country. The Embassy of India congratulates the Indian Association and the Indian Community for their exceptional work in this noble endeavor.



**TRAINING OF SOUTH SUDANESE POLICE OFFICERS IN INDIA**

25 South Sudanese Police Officers (including 2 lady officers) visited India from 9-24 February 2018 to undergo a 15-days' Training course at the "Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies(CPCS)", Sardar Patel University of Police, Security & Criminal Justice [SPUPSCJ] in Jaipur-Rajasthan.

This was yet another example of India's continued commitment to support South Sudan in its Capacity Building efforts & Human Resource upgrade. The Executive Programme for South Sudan Police personnel covered Best Police Practices; Law Enforcement; Challenges of Transnational Crime: Cyber Security & Forensic Investigation. Besides cost of air travel, training expenses, including course fees, boarding, lodging, local transport and other logistics is covered by Govt. of India.

Before their departure for India, the trainee Police Officers attended a briefing at the Embassy on 29 January 2018 and air travel tickets were handed over to them. The group also had an interaction with Ambassador.



The trained Police officers returned home on 25 February 2018 on culmination of a successful and beneficial training programme for our South Sudanese friends.

Here is a group photo of the Police Officers with the Teaching Faculty of the CPCS at Jaipur.

**ACTIVITIES OF INDIAN PEACEKEEPING BATTALION IN SOUTH SUDAN**

A team from India's Ministry of Defence, led by Col. N.K.Dhas, Director SD-3A, visited Juba from 21-25 February 2018 to oversee / facilitate movement of outgoing and new incoming batches of the Indian Military Contingents of UNMISS. The visiting delegation as well as officers & personnel of the outgoing and incoming batches, including from the Indian Level 2 Plus field hospital, called on Ambassador at the Embassy on 23 February.



**UNMISS INITIATIVE : TEACHING MALAKAL 'POC' WOMEN TO MAKE "BIO-WATER FILTERS"**

As part of International Women's Day celebration-2018, Human Rights Division and INDBATT-I, Sector North, UNMISS conducted a training session, 'Mission Aqua- Clean Drinking Water for all' for Internally Displaced Women (IDPs) making bio water filters using local materials. The event was organized on 6 March 2018 at Malakal, South Sudan.



**INDIAN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES  
PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS CELEBRATED IN JUBA**

The annual Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) was celebrated in Juba on 24 January 2018. The event was attended by about 80 members of the local Indian community based in Juba, including office bearers of the Indian Association of South Sudan (IASS).

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador briefed the community on the flagship projects of the Government of India, while referring to the positive role played by the NRI/OCI community in nation building activities. He lauded the hard work and courage of the Indian business community in South Sudan and the projects undertaken by Indian entrepreneurs that contributed to South Sudan’s efforts to develop its infrastructure and facilities since 2005-06.

Ambassador welcomed the newly elected IASS office bearers -assuring them of continued support of the Embassy in carrying out their activities. He appreciated the commendable contribution made by the Indian Community, despite the many challenges in Juba, especially the heart-warming gesture of taking up a project that helped to restore much needed water supply & sanitation at the Juba Nabari School benefiting 1200 young school girls & boys.

Video messages of the PM and EAM delivered at the PBD-2018 event in New Delhi were screened during the event.



INDIAN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

In January, the Indian Association South Sudan (IASS) completed its own internal process of electing a new committee to oversee its activities from 2018 to 2020. The Embassy of India extends its facilitations and congratulations to all the new members of the IASS Committee- Mr. Ravi Prakash, the new Chairman and his Team. Our thanks and appreciation also to the outgoing board members- Mr. Sanjay Patel and team, who served and contributed to the Indian Community activities during the past year and beyond.

The IASS organised a "Holi Milan" get-together in Juba on 4 March 2018 to celebrate the festival of colours - marking the arrival of spring. Indian community members participated in large numbers. In true 'Holi Spirit' they danced to the accompaniment of vibrant Indian music and applied colours and gulaal on each other in joyous celebration.



In keeping with the sporting spirit, the IASS organised in February/March, the Juba Premier League Badminton and Volleyball tournaments for the benefit of Indians living in South Sudan. Teams were drawn-up from an enthusiastic group of young sports-loving Indians working here in Juba.



INDIAN ECONOMIC, BUSINESS AND CORPORATE NEWS



Snapshot of Indian Economy	
<b>GDP Growthrate</b>	Indian economy is estimated to grow at a rate of <b>6.7 percent in 2017-18</b> . [and projected to grow at a rate of <b>7.2 per cent in 2018-19</b> ].
<b>Gross Value Added (GVA) Composition by Sector(2016-17)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Services:</b> 53.7 percent</li> <li>• <b>Industry:</b> 31.2 percent</li> <li>• <b>Agriculture:</b> 15.2 percent</li> </ul>
<b>Forex Reserves</b>	<b>US\$ 404.922 billion</b> as of December 22, 2017.
<b>Value of Exports</b>	India's global exports stood at <b>US\$ 26.20 billion in November 2017</b>
<b>Major Export Partners</b>	US, Germany, UAE, China, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and European Union. India is also tapping newer markets in Africa and Latin America.
<b>Cumulative FDI Equity Inflows:</b>	<b>US\$ 357.345 Million</b> (Jan 2000 to Sept 2017)
<b>Top Investing Countries FDI Inflows</b>	Mauritius (34%), Singapore (17%), UK (7%), Japan (7%), USA (6%), Netherlands (6%), Germany (3%), Cyprus(3%); France (2%) and UAE (1%)



**India and France strengthen partnership, to work closely on defence, railways, urban development and solar energy :** The official visit of the French President Emmanuel Macron to India in March 2018, resulted in signing of multiple MoUs across various sectors. Along with PM Modi, President Macron also visited Varanasi to inaugurate Uttar Pradesh’s biggest solar plant.

**India attracts \$209 bn FDI during Apr 2014 to Dec 2017 :** Foreign direct investment has increased “steadily” in the country with total capital inflows reaching USD 208.99 billion during April 2014 to December 2017 period. The main sectors that received maximum foreign inflows include services, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, construction, trading and automobile.

**Indian Railways goes green :** The Indian Railways has got its first 12,000 HP electric locomotive from Alstom as part of a 3.5 billion euros ‘Make in India’ deal! This new electric locomotive has been manufactured and assembled at Alstom’s factory in Bihar’s Madhepura. This is part of Indian Railways bid to go green and reduce its carbon footprint. The WAG12-class ‘Make in India’ locomotives will be used to power trains on the Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) of Indian Railways. The project is a joint venture between Alstom and Indian Railways and involves not only manufacturing 800 fully electric “super-powered” double-section locomotives, but also maintaining them over a period of 11 years.

**India to meet solar capacity addition target of 10,000 MW :** India is set to meet its target of adding 10,000 MW of solar capacity in 2017-18, almost twice that of the increase in 2016-17. The country had added 5,526 MW of solar capacity in the last fiscal, which was itself a record

at the time. "Our cumulative capacity was 19,584 MW in end-February, and we will be crossing 22,000 MW by March 31," said Anand Kumar, Secretary in Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).

**Paul Krugman says India needs to move more into manufacturing:** Increased investments in the rural areas and the manufacturing sector will help India generate the required jobs for its working age population, according to Nobel Prize winning economist Paul Krugman.

**Maharashtra clears Rs. 5,000 crore investment in start-up sector:** The Government of Maharashtra approved a Maharashtra State Innovation and Start-up Policy with a target of investment worth Rs 5,000 crore (US\$ 781.5 million) in the start-up space and generating 500,000 direct and indirect jobs

**Impressive reforms in India:** Describing the recent economic reforms in India as "impressive", the IMF chief economist Maurice Obstfeld has said that- if you look around the world, it is hard to find reforms on this scale. The asset quality review by the RBI, recapitalisation of banks, improvement in the ease of doing business rankings of the World Bank; insolvency and bankruptcy code (IBC), goods and services tax (GST) are all important initiatives.

**13th CII-EXIM BANK CONCLAVE ON**  
**India-Africa**  
**PROJECT PARTNERSHIP**

Partners in Development,  
Building new Synergies

**Date:**  
25-27 March 2018  
**Venue:** (Hotel)  
Taj Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi

**27 Ministerial Delegations from**

- Burundi
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Malawi
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Republic of Congo
- Senegal
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- The Gambia
- Togo
- Uganda

**13th CII-EXIM BANK CONCLAVE ON**  
**India-Africa**  
**PROJECT PARTNERSHIP**  
 25 - 27 March, 2018 | TAJ DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI

**India's Largest**

- Financing for Indian Investments in Africa
- Agriculture & Food Processing
- Healthcare & Service Economy
- Infrastructure Development

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with EXIM Bank organized the 13th edition of the "CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India - Africa Project Partnership" with support of the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, from 25 - 27 March, 2018 in New Delhi.

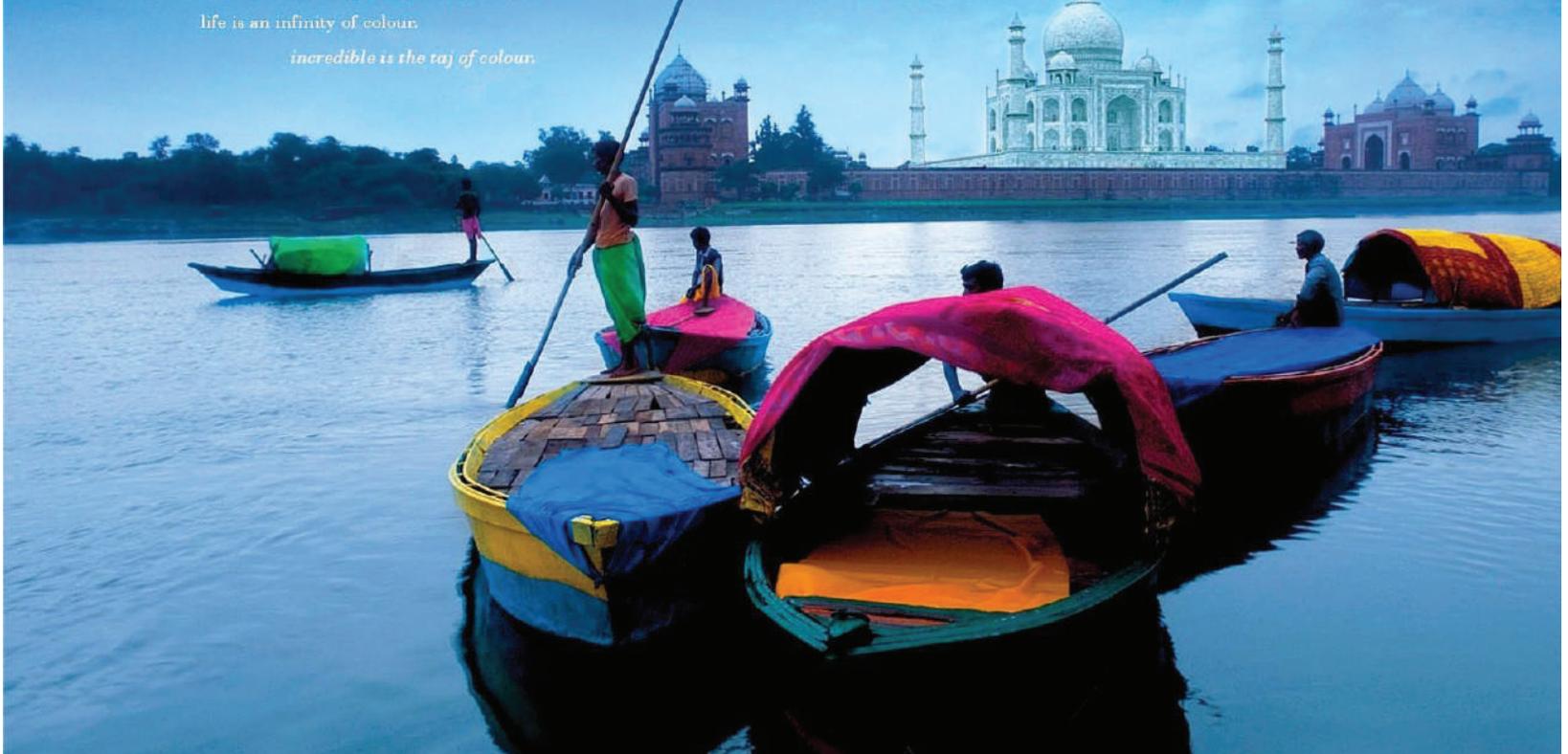
South Sudan was represented at the conclave by Hon'ble Minister of Mining – H.E. Gabriel Thokuj Deng and the Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology – H.E. Mr. Yien Oral Lam. On the sidelines of the conclave, the two Ministers interacted with Indian and foreign businessmen - seeking investments in South Sudan's Mining and Higher Education sector with the aim to boost the economy through investment cooperation.



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love is a shrine of colour,  
*beauty is a stone of colour.*  
time is a flood of colour,  
*homage is a ferry of colour.*  
life is an infinity of colour,  
*incredible is the taj of colour.*

## Incredible India



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