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Azadi Ka  
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मेरा भारत महान

CELEBRATING THE 75<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA



15<sup>th</sup>  
August

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF

India

"Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes"  
- Mahatma Gandhi

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**KHMER TIMES**  
Your Opinion Matters

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CELEBRATING THE 75<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
Nation Religion King**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Phnom Penh, 06 August 2021

**H.E. Dr. Devyani Uttam Khobragade**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of the Republic of India to the Kingdom of Cambodia

Your Excellency,

I personally would like to convey my warm congratulations to the government and the people of the Republic of India on the auspicious occasion of India's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend my profound appreciation to the Embassy of the Republic of India for all the contribution and efforts given to Cambodia. I am confident that our strong cordial relations and cooperation will continue to deepen and flourish for mutual benefits of our two Nations and People.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my sincere consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

**HUN Many**  
Member of National Assembly  
Kingdom of Cambodia



CELEBRATING THE 75<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY

# India sets up Centre of Excellence in Software Development & Training (CESDT) at ICT Innovation Centre, NIPTICT



As part of India’s commitment to promote Information Technology skills in CLMV countries, an Agreement was signed in 2015 between the National Institute of Posts, Telecom and ICT (NIPTICT), Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Kingdom of Cambodia and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), a research and development institute of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India to establish a Centre of Excellence in Software Development & Training

(CESDT) and accreditation of these training courses in Cambodia under ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund (AICF). The total cost of the project is approximately IRs. 43.00 crore. The idea of setting up CESDT as a “finishing school” is to develop the employable work force and bridge the gap between academia and industry.

Detailed discussions had taken place between NIPTICT and CDAC on courses & its delivery mechanism, capacity utilisation, etc. NIPTICT also showed interest to collaborate

with CDAC on various research areas, Language Technology e-Governance, Network Security, Mobile Computing, etc.

Supply, Installation, commissioning and onsite support of IT Hardware & Software at the Centre was completed in 2018. As part of the project, 10 candidates (trainers) from Cambodia attended advanced ICT Training Programme conducted by CDAC in India for a period of 6 months in two batches.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, formal inauguration of the Centre could not take place

and the two CDAC experts, who were to visit Cambodia to look after centre coordination and course delivery could not travel. Given the uncertainty on the start of the international flights and to roll out the activities by saving time, both sides decided to start the courses from India in an online mode. Once international travel normalises, two dedicated trainers will manage the first 1 year of training activities along with the Cambodian trainers, trained at CDAC in India, for a period of six months and assist in centre co-ordination. ▲

WISHING 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE TO

# India

15<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST

*From the management and staff of*

**KHMER TIMES**  
Your Opinion Matters



Indian Navy ship INS Kiltan arrived in Cambodia with 15 tonnes of flood relief material to benefit flood affected people of Cambodia under its Mission Sagar-III last year. **Supplied**



# Celebrating Achievements and laying road map for future: India marks its celebrations for 75<sup>th</sup> Independence day

Independence Day is the most significant day in the history of India as it reminds us of the bravery and struggle of our freedom fighters. As India is celebrating its 75th Independence day on 15th August, 2021, I wish to congratulate the people of India and Indians living in Cambodia and abroad - a Happy Independence day!

When it comes to the lifespan of nations, India is still young. In 1947, India took a bold step to become one of the largest democracies in the world, overcoming a large number of challenges to earn a place for itself. India has come a long way since then to become one of the strong, powerful and developing nations.

To name a few important landmark events, India adopted its Constitution in January 1950 and since its adoption, the Constitution of India became the strong foundation stone to maintain India's unity and integrity while showing flexibility, wherever required, in order to ensure the requisite socio-economic transformation. Despite many challenges time has thrown, thanks to the strong structure and institutional set up visualised by the framers of the Constitution, India has evolved its own distinct characteristics for itself at the global level, which inspires others in the comity of nations to follow the path shown by India.

Since the beginning, the challenges faced have been turned into opportunities. The Green Revolution (1967-1978) transformed India from a foodgrain deficient country to

a foodgrain exporting nation in a span of less than 3 decades. It is also worth mentioning about the significant results achieved in the fields of dairying and oil seeds through our White and Yellow Revolutions. In terms of agricultural output, India is now ranked second in the world and is the largest producer in the world for milk, cashew nuts, coconuts, tea, ginger, turmeric and black pepper. India is also the second largest producer of wheat, rice, sugar, groundnut

**It is internationally recognised that one of India's significant global contributions has been through its soft power – drawing on its ancient cultural and civilizational roots.**

and inland fish and home to 10% of the world's fruit production with first rank in the production of fruits such as banana and naseberry etc. Today, India is self sufficient in terms of food production and exported various food grains worth around US\$ 42 billion in 2020.

On many social indicators, India has seen substantial progress in many areas including rise in income levels, growth, literacy, life expectancy, etc. Life expectancy, which was around 37 years in 1951, almost doubled to 69 years in 2020. Besides, Infant Mortality

has also declined with death rate coming down to half of what it was during the 1950s. In 2014, India became a polio-free country. The number of tuberculosis cases also reduced to 19 per million people in 2019. The cases of HIV-infected people are also witnessing a declining trend. One can gauge the Government of India's emphasis on public health with allocation of around \$30 billion in the current year's budget.

In the infrastructure development front,

the Indian road network has become one of the largest in the world with the total road length increasing from 0.399 million km in 1951 to 5.89 million km in 2020. This effort has directly contributed to industrial growth. The Indian rail network is one of the largest rail networks in the world with its track network covering more than 68,000 kms. The civil aviation industry in India has emerged as one of the fastest growing industries in the country. During the last 3 years, India has become the fourth largest domestic aviation market in the world with passenger

traffic reaching 115 million in 2020 and is expected to become the third largest by 2024. On electricity front, India has increased its generation capacity from 1,362 MW in 1947 to 383,373 MW in 2020. India is also world's 3rd largest renewable energy producer with 136 GW (38% of the world production) of total installed energy capacity in 2020 from renewable sources, which shows India's commitment to shift to green energy. When it comes to rural electrification, the Indian government has managed to bring lights to almost every household in the nook and corner of India.

In 1990s, the IT industry started off with an export of nearly USD 100 million around 5,000 employees. This sector has grown by leaps and bounds in the last three decades with India's IT exports now touching USD 70 billion mark and providing direct employment to around 2.8 million people. The sector is also emerging as a pillar of modern India with e-Governance services reaching the last man at the bottom of the pyramid.

India began the journey of its indigenous space program in the 1960s. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which was established in 1969, has become a symbol of India's scientific and engineering strength. India has made its mark in launching lunar missions, building satellites, sending foreign satellites through our launch vehicles. India also achieved initial success in reaching the Mars orbit in its maiden attempt first

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# CELEBRATING THE 75<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY

From page 4 ▶



India boasts the largest rail network in the world and carries more than 22 million people everyday. India has committed to electrifying its entire rail infrastructure by 2024 and be completely green by 2030. **Supplied**



1,500 handpumps installed in Tboung Khmum and Banteay Meanchey Provinces. **Supplied**

Classroom buildings constructed with the Grant Provided by India at Wat Porthisat Primary School under QIP Scheme of Government of India. **Supplied**

Despite being the second-most population country in the world, India is completely self-sufficient regarding its food supply and is one of the world's largest agricultural producers in the world. **Supplied**



The above photos show the status of the portion of Angkor Wat prior to and post-conservation. India started heritage conservation of Angkor Wat in early 80s and was the first country to do so. **Supplied**

country ever to reach the milestone! The Mars Orbiter Mission mapped the surface of the Mars and analyzed technologies needed for future Indian space missions. India's space programme stands out as one of the most cost effective in the world and we would be happy to cooperate with Cambodia in this field. India is also aggressively pursuing both nuclear and missile programmes. Starting with Pokhran test in 1974, India achieved indigenous capacity in nuclear technologies. In the recent years, India continued its transformation process by bringing in major reforms such as the introduction of the landmark Goods and Services Tax (single taxation in the country), the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Farm laws and Ease of Doing Business reforms, Atmanirbar Bharat (self dependent India) and initiatives like PM Jan-Dhan Yojana (scheme to support the poor by direct money transfer), PM Awas Yojana (PM Housing Scheme), PM Ujjwala Yojana (providing gas to every household), Smart City programme, Clean India and Digital India. All these reforms and initiatives led to the foundation for India's ambitious target of \$5 Trillion economy by 2025.

It is internationally recognised that one of India's significant global contributions has been through its soft power – drawing on its ancient cultural and civilizational roots. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' – the philosophy that all individuals of the world are collectively responsible towards each other and their shared future. India was among the first pioneer of Global Citizenship

as it is understood today. India has lived by this philosophy during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic– being at the forefront by assisting other countries with vaccines, hydroxychloroquine and other essential medical supplies to the world while taking care of its own huge domestic requirements. As of May 2021, India had delivered 66.3 million doses of vaccines to 95 countries, strengthening its position as a pharmacy of the world.

**On many social indicators, India has seen substantial progress in many areas including rise in income levels, growth, literacy, life expectancy, etc.**

Accelerating the pace and expanding the scope of COVID-19 vaccination in the country, India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage achieved a significant milestone of crossing 500 million mark.

Connection with Cambodia: Historically, India-Cambodia relations dates back to the beginning of C.E., when Hindu and Buddhist religious and cultural influences emanated out of India to various parts of South East Asia. The pervading influence of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Indian architecture are borne out by the magnificent structures at Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom, Bayon, Ta Phrom and other religious and historical sites in Cambodia. India is proud of having stood

with Cambodia during its difficult phase - India was the first country to recognize the new government after the fall of the Khmer Rouge and had been actively and consistently involved ever since in Cambodia's efforts to build a strong, secure, democratic and pluralistic nation. In the context of India's 'Act East' policy and the ASEAN, Cambodia is not only an extended neighbour but also a constructive interlocutor and a

reliable partner. Contemporary times have witnessed expansion of cooperation in diverse fields such as institutional capacity building, human resource development, visits of Indian Naval and Coastguard ships on a regular basis, extension of development assistance to infrastructure projects, social security projects and capacity building in Defence, etc. India also undertakes 10 Quick Impact Projects every year with a capital cost of \$50,000 per each project, which led to access to clean drinking water, toilets, health and sanitation infrastructure and school buildings in various parts of Cambodia. While India and Cambodia enjoy excellent political relations and extending

cooperation to almost all areas, on the bilateral trade and investments front, though the bilateral trade is showing an upward trend in the last 5-6 years reaching USD 250 million mark in 2019, it has not reached its real potential so far. Both Governments are undertaking various efforts to tap the untapped potential.

India offers scholarships for under-graduate, post-graduate and doctoral studies under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Scholarship Scheme (10) and General Scholarship Scheme (13) every year. India has also offered to receive 2 Buddhist monks/scholars under Distinguished Visitors Programme. Similarly, prestigious Nalanda University offers two slots every year for post graduation under ASEAN Scholarship Programme. Recently, ICCR has started scholarship scheme for Indian classical dance and music courses. A substantial number of Cambodian nationals visit India every year for medical treatment at the world-class Indian hospitals, which provide excellent medical services at a very reasonable cost to the patients. The Indian community in Cambodia, though small in number, is resilient and working towards national development and progress of Cambodia. They appreciate every small step taken by Cambodia towards the progress of both nationalities. As we start celebrations of our 75 years of Independence, India eagerly looks forward to deepen its bond of friendship with its civilizational sister country, Cambodia.

**Long live, India-Cambodia friendship!**



Indian Ambassador Dr. Devyani Khobragade's most cherished memory of her diplomatic career in Cambodia is the presentation of her credentials to His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 at the Royal Palace. Supplied



# Ambassador of India to Cambodia talks about bilateral and trade relations

**1 Please give us a brief history of India's establishment of an embassy in Cambodia and its journey over the years to the present with Your Excellency at the helm.**

While efforts are still ongoing to get hold of any official documents on the exact date/year of establishment of our Embassy in Cambodia, we believe that India established its Embassy sometime in early-1950s and temporarily closed during the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime. Post-Khmer Rouge regime, probably we were among the first ones to re-open the Embassy in 1981, when many others were not willing to recognise the then Government.

Given the historical ties, shared culture & heritage and similar customs, we consider Cambodia not just as an extended neighbour but as an extended family and a civilisational sister country. This is the spirit in which we conduct our diplomatic activities with Cambodia and we see a similar sentiment from the other side of the table.

**2 When did you take up this post and what is your proudest moment and biggest achievement to date?**

Given the special significance of 2nd October, 2020 in India, which is Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, I made it a point to start my tenure in Cambodia on this special occasion. I, therefore, started my first day in office (after my 14 days quarantine) by paying homage to the Mahatma along with my embassy officials at his bust erected in the Freedom Park.

In an event that will remain a cherished

memory of my diplomatic career, on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, I presented my credentials to His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni at a beautiful ceremony at the Royal Palace. His Majesty was most gracious in his appreciation of deep and enduring bilateral relationship between India and Cambodia and his and Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen's words of guidance during my courtesy calls will continue to inspire me in fulfilling my diplomatic duties here. To tell you honestly, I am really honoured to receive the kind of warmth and sentiment of "our own" with which I was received by the Cambodian leadership and people alike.

Immediately, after my arrival, floods had devastated several provinces affecting millions of people in Cambodia. The Government of India, Indian nationals residing in Cambodia and business community came together to help the affected people and donated flood relief material providing some succour to the affected people. We expect to continue these collaborative efforts for lending support to the needy people in Cambodia in the years to come. I believe this will go a long way in connecting people and improve people-to-people contacts. Vaccine Cooperation, which could not take off due to heavy COVID burden in India, is still a potential area of cooperation on which we will continue to make efforts. Visit of INS Kiltan to deliver 15 tonnes of flood relief material to the flood affected people of Cambodia was also an indication of our warm relations and understanding of each other's sufferings during national calamities. Under Vande Bharat Mission (VBM), we have evacuated more than 700 stranded Indian nationals from Cambodia to India while bringing a substantial number of Cambodian

nationals stranded in India and Maldives, which has only enhanced people-to-people contracts between the two countries. Recently, we were able to get the meat ban/travel ban removed with continuous liaison with the Royal Government of Cambodia.

**3 Your Embassy has undertaken several high profile social and cultural activities which touches on people-to-people contacts. Can you explain the rationale for this and the success it has achieved this far?**

To exploit the goodwill and familiarity between the two nations, enhancing people-to-people contacts from the present level is of utmost importance. We need more people, ideas and common aspirations going back and forth between the two countries in order to fulfill the promise offered by our shared heritage, culture and destiny - rooted in millennia old mutually enriching ties. Our commonalities of faith, beliefs, values, language and customs need to be exploited more vigorously. India takes immense pride in the fact that she was the first country that the Cambodian Government approached for the conservation of the Angkor Wat, the architectural marvel of the world. India led the heritage conservation work from 1986 to 1994 under most arduous circumstances, which has been deeply appreciated by Cambodia. This work has afforded India the opportunity to rediscover our civilization linkages with Cambodia and the region.

One of my immediate goals is to start the conservation work at the Preah Vihear temple at the earliest. Understanding the revered space Preah Vihear occupies in hearts and minds of Cambodians, it will be my

utmost effort to make India the first country to contribute to conservation of this temple originally dedicated to Lord Shiva. India will, of course, continue the restoration of Ta Prohm temple, which received a good foot fall of around 10,000 tourists every day during pre-pandemic period, and expects to receive much more in the post-pandemic phase.

We have also executed a large number of projects under our Quick Impact Project (QIP) Scheme in the areas of agriculture, health, sanitation, women empowerment, capacity building, environment, etc., impacting the lives of people. I am also glad to note that in August 2020, we had successfully completed installation of 1,500 hand pumps in Tbong Khmum and Banteay Meanchey provinces benefiting a large number of common people living in the rural areas of these provinces. With the grant provided by Government of India, Ministry of Women's Affairs constructed two school buildings for 1-3 and 4-7 grade students in Kandal Province. This year, we will be implementing some more projects with special focus on revival tourism, women entrepreneurship, education, etc.

We receive excellent cooperation and whole-hearted support for organising International Day of Yoga and other cultural and social events from various Ministries/Organisations of the Royal Government of Cambodia. We are really thankful to the Cambodian leadership for treating our initiatives as their own and lending the required support and assistance.

**4 How big is the Indian business fraternity in Cambodia and what are your plans to encourage more companies to enter**

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# CELEBRATING THE 75<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY

From page 06 ▶



The ambassador said that she has held talks with Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen during her courtesy call and expect to have many more during her tenure. **Supplied**



Ambassador Khobragade directing tuk-tuks at the embassy. The vehicles were decorated with 'Incredible India' posters depicting Buddhist sites in Bihar and Maharashtra states. **KT/Chor Sokunthea**

**Cambodia given the many opportunities, especially in energy and related aspects such as processing plants or other manufacturing facilities such as pharmaceuticals, etc.**

Seeing the immense potential immediately after Cambodia's re-birth in early-1990s, many members of our business community in Cambodia were probably the first ones to make Cambodia their home, despite difficult conditions prevailing at that time. Though the number remains relatively small as compared to some other neighbouring countries, the numbers are growing steadily and the Embassy receives many requests for information on trade and investment opportunities from Indian businesses on a daily basis, which shows that there is considerable interest in the Cambodian market in India. As a Representative of India in Cambodia, I have no hesitation in saying that Cambodia is a land of opportunities and please look at it not as a country of 16 million people but as a gateway to 620 million population of ASEAN. There are plenty of opportunities in the areas of health, IT and IT-enabled services, infrastructure – physical and digital, energy, food and agro-processing, manufacturing, etc., just to name a few sectors. It is going to be a win-win situation for both countries. The Embassy has been interacting with the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce on a regular basis and organised B2B meets between India and Cambodia on buffalo meat, pharmaceuticals, etc., to name a few. We will also focus on facilitating Cambodians going to India for medical treatment. One of our endeavours will be to bring investment in Health sector in Cambodia.

**5 How big is bilateral trade between Cambodia and India to date and what steps are you taking to enhance this despite the raging Covid-19 pandemic?**

There is immense untapped economic potential in both countries. Being invested in each other's economies by increasing bilateral trade and investment between the two countries, which, at the moment, is not up to the full potential is an area of my attention. In value terms, the bilateral trade though is not substantial, in the last five-six years, there is an upward trend and reached USD 250 million mark in 2019, though it has gone down a bit in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic as was the case with almost all countries in the world. I am quite confident that our enterprising people with their unmatched entrepreneurial skills can adjust to the new

normal and convert challenges into opportunities. I also believe that Indian Businesses are ready to fulfil the ambitious export targets fixed recently for each region and make Hon'ble Prime Minister of India's call to make 'Local Goes Global : Make in India for the World' a reality. India has extended Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme to Cambodia since August 2008. Under the Scheme, which covers almost 98.2% of India's total tariff lines, India unilaterally provides preferential market access for exports from Cambodia. The Governments of both countries are continuously engaging, encouraging and facilitating businesses so that they have a broader picture of the ASEAN as a whole, with Cambodia serving as a friendly gateway to the ASEAN market - which caters to approx. 620 million population. Similarly, utilising the business friendly climate in India, Cambodian business chambers should encourage their businesses to look at the huge market that India provides.

**6 What is your proudest moment as Ambassador to Cambodia and what were your apprehensions when you were assigned this posting?**

Presentation of my credentials to His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at the Royal Palace was very special and will remain an abiding memory of my diplomatic career. Given the age old relationship and cultural linkages between the two countries with practically no contentious issues on the political front, I was quite confident that I can contribute immensely to the enhancement of relations between the two countries in all spheres. As such, I had no apprehensions at all; only hope and happiness. I believe my belief is paying dividends during the last few months of my stay in Cambodia.

**7 How big is the staff complement from India in the embassy here and what steps are being taken on capacity building for local staff**

Unlike many Embassies here, we are a comparatively small but compact unit. Many of the local employees have been with the Embassy for the last several years and the added advantage with some of them is that they studied and spent some time in India, understand the work culture and goals we wish to achieve in Cambodia. Since they studied in India availing various scholarship schemes offered by India, they are really enthusiastic and want to contribute to the enhancement

of bilateral relations between the two countries. Wherever required, to bring better results, steps are taken to enhance their efficiency levels and resultant output.

**8 India used to be a provider for military training. Is this still continuing or has it taken another direction?**

Pursuant to signing of a bilateral Defence Cooperation Agreement in 2007, our defence cooperation has been continuing with the conduct of annual training capsule for Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in Demining and peacekeeping modules, long term and short term defence courses under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), goodwill visits by Indian Navy and Indian Coastguard Ships and exchange of official delegations has been a regular feature. Despite COVID-19 pandemic, INS Kiltan visited Sihanoukville from December 28, 2020 to January 1, 2021 to deliver 15 tonnes of relief material to the flood affected people of Cambodia. In August 2020, both sides signed a G2G Agreement for providing USD 1.5 million grant for provision of demining equipment to Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF). At the request of Cambodian Government, India is providing 4 more trained sniffer dogs in addition 15 sniffer dogs already provided. Efforts are underway to enhance defence cooperation to other areas in the coming months. In this regard, I already had meetings with Hon'ble DPM & Minister of National Defence and H.E. Mr. Ly Thuch, Senior Minister and First Vice President of Cambodian Mine Action & Victim Assistance Authority and floated certain

proposals for enhancing the cooperation.

**9 What would you say to aspiring Indian businesses who seek to enter Cambodia since Indian products, especially pharmaceuticals are already available here?**

There is immense untapped economic potential in Cambodia. It offers abundant opportunities to Indian businesses in sectors, where we have strength. Pharma is one such sector where we are market leaders in Cambodia with more than 40% market share in volume terms. Traditional medicine is another area where there are plenty of opportunities in Cambodia. Agro and Food Processing, Health, Power, IT and IT-enabled Services are some other areas where there are innumerable opportunities. To encourage investments, both Governments have started negotiations on concluding a Bilateral Investment Treaty, which are at an advanced stage of finalisation. Discussions are also underway to enter into a Preferential/ Free Trade Agreement between the two countries. I am quite optimistic that this Treaty would increase confidence in the Indian businessmen in investing in sectors, which have huge potential and critical to Cambodia's graduation from lower-middle income status to middle income status. ▲



The Mumbai-native started her tenure in Cambodia on October 2, 2020, coinciding with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Republic of India. **Supplied**

# Celebrating 7 Dec of Friendship



# Decades

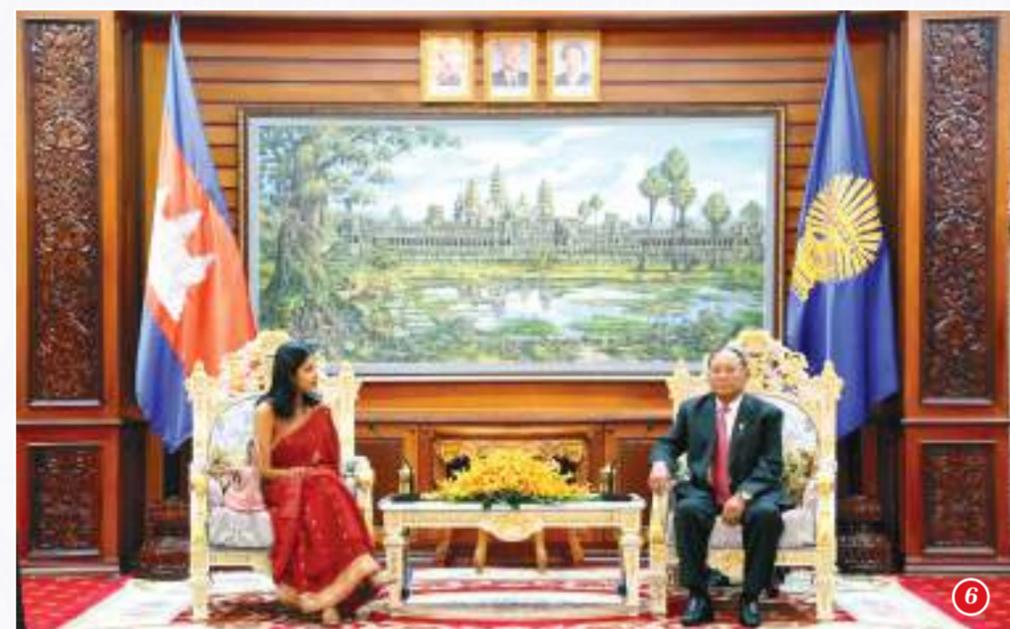
15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
INDEPENDENCE DAY



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1. Her Royal Majesty The Queen Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk greets the ambassador at the Royal Palace this year.
2. His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni receives the new incoming ambassador to Cambodia in 2020.
3. The first diplomatic meeting between Ambassador Khobragade and Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen this year.
4. A bilateral meeting held this year with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Prak Sokhonn.
5. Ambassador Khobragade meets Senate President H.E. Mr. Say Chhum this year.
6. National Assembly President discusses critical issues with Ambassador Khobragade this year.
7. Ambassador Khobragade meets with H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh of the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation.
8. Cultural Exchange Programme Agreement ceremony between India and Cambodia in 2018.
9. Former Ambassador Manika Jain signs a MoU for the restoration of Preah Vihear temple in 2019.
10. Former Ambassador Manika Jain at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Kampong Speu province on May 25, 2019, supporting clean water, sanitation hygiene in a school funded by the Government of India's Quick Impact Project.
11. Indian Association Cambodia and Indian Businesses in Cambodia partner with the embassy to provide relief to flood victims in Battambang in 2020.
12. A daily yoga practitioner, Ambassador Khobragade helps kicks-off International Day of Yoga on June 18, 2021
13. The Indian Embassy awards winners of its Photo and Quiz Competition ahead of International Day of Yoga.



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Photo credits: Indian Embassy, Ministry of Royal Palace, Ministry of Tourism, Prime Minister's Office, Infrastructure Asia, Civil Service College

ក្រុមហ៊ុន RMA Cambodia បានឈានជើងចូលទីផ្សារប្រទេសកម្ពុជាតាំងពី ឆ្នាំ១៩៩២ មកម៉្លេះ។  
 ក្រុមហ៊ុនបាន ពង្រីកវិសាលភាពរបស់ខ្លួន ទៅក្នុងវិស័យយានយន្ត គ្រឿងយន្តកសិកម្ម គ្រឿងចក្រធុនធ្ងន់  
 ដំណោះស្រាយឃ្នាំង សេវាកម្មហិរញ្ញវត្ថុ ការជួលរថយន្ត និងអាជីវកម្មម្ហូបអាហារ ។

RMA Cambodia entered Cambodian market since 1992, and has since expanded its business to include automotive, agricultural vehicles, heavy machinery, warehouse solutions, financial services, car rental and Food & Beverage.



គ្រឿងចក្រ Mahindra G90



រថយន្តដឹកទំនិញខ្នាតតូច Mahindra Supro



រថយន្តផលិត និងក្រឡុកប៉េតុង AJAX





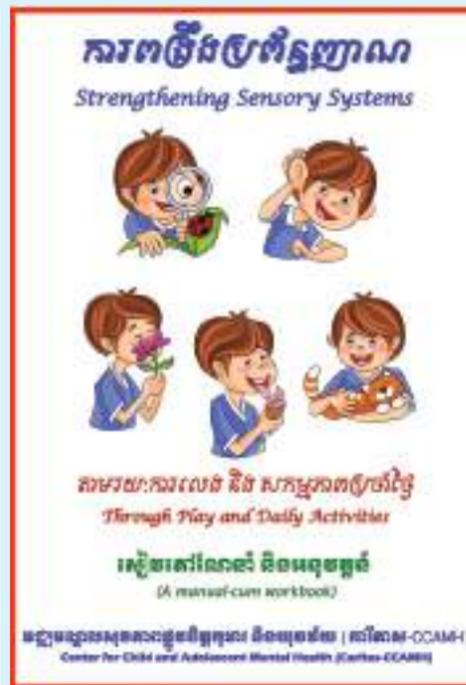
# Enduring partnership with the health sector in the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'

“ India, one among the first of the nations to reestablish the diplomatic mission in the immediate aftermath of Khmer Rouge, contributed a shipload of medicines and medical equipment such as autoclaves, generator, x-ray and EEG machine worth of \$200,000 USD in the year 1985-86 to the Chey Chumneas Referral Hospital (CCRH), Takhmau, Kandal province. This enduring partnership in health sector in the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (One World, One Family)' further strengthened in the coming years. During the UNTAC (United Nations and Transitional Authority) period, the Government of India sent 3 doctors to assist the staff at Chey Chumneas Referral Hospital to treat clients in general medicine, maternity and mental health, and to build the capacity of health professionals, through the International Technical Exchange Co-operation (ITEC) program.

In the year 2013, a multi-specialty unit to provide comprehensive services for children with neurodevelopmental and mental health problems has been built with the support of India Brazil South Africa (IBSA) Trust Fund at the cost of \$999,739.00 USD at the CCRH. The Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CCAMH) team at CCRH, headed by Dr. Bhoomikumar, a child psychiatrist and public health physician offers periodic health check-up to the children at the India-Cambodia Friendship School, Kampong Cham province, in partnership with the Indian Association in Cambodia (IAC), symbolizing the people-to-people contact between Cambodia and India.



Health check-up, 'India-Cambodia Friendship school Kampong Cham province.



The Quick Impact Project (QIP) administered by the Embassy of India, Phnom Penh enabled the CCAMH team not only to build the capacity of the caregivers and professionals in disability sector but also publish scientific literature in Khmer language to empower the children, young people and their families towards disability prevention. This timely support through QIP helped the children with disabilities and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic, using telemedicine and tele-counselling.

Scientific publications with QIP support.

“ In Cambodia, hundreds and thousands of families below the poverty-line migrate to neighboring countries in search of employment leaving their young children with their grandparents and relatives. With the support of the Quick Impact Project (QIP) the CCAMH team plans to reach these left-behind vulnerable children in Kampong Cham and T'beng Kumum provinces to provide comprehensive care, including homebased intervention for children with multiple disabilities, in the spirit of compassion and solidarity, the essence of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (One World, One Family).

**At the juncture of 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence, we hail the civilizational ties of Cambodia and India, that are further strengthened by the partnership in health and disability sector.**

CCAMH team  
Chey Chumneas Referral Hospital  
Takhmau, Kandal province



Capacity building using health technology.



# CELEBRATING THE 75<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY



## SINCERE APPRECIATIONS TO OUR PARTNERS

Embassy of India  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

# Allana



# AIMLEA

ALL INDIA BUFFALO & SHEEP MEAT EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION

# Lochan & Co

Chartered Accountants



# 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST



## WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

### Lochan & Co

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# A reflection on 75 years of Indian independence



Mother and son at The Residency in Lucknow in August, 2010, the site of the first Indian-led mutiny against the British. **Supplied**



Jawaharlal Nehru (right), Morarji Desai (centre), Syed Husain Haider (left) in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, post-Independence. **Supplied**

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“It’s a long story” – my standard response when someone asks me where I’m from.

Born in Saudi Arabia to an Indian father and mother of Bengali origin, my family immigrated to Canada in the mid 1990s. I took the first opportunity available and ran away to China immediately after university.

In a hushed tone, my mother sometimes shares the story of Bangladesh when it was known as East Pakistan. The country holds the grisly distinction as being the only nation where genocide had occurred based on language.

It was chaos. Occupying forces brutally killed and raped Bengalis. In response, Bengalis would react and kill anyone suspected of siding with West Pakistan.

As an Urdu-speaking family, they sought refuge in Kolkata, where my maternal grandfather, Nawab Ali Sarwar Khan, was born.

My mother recalls a caravan of nearly 100 people quietly escaping the country with Indian aid.

They told her not to laugh lest someone know that there were girls in the group. They were told to keep quiet lest someone hear the language they spoke. They were told not to light the kerosene lamp at night, otherwise they would be discovered.

She recalls the kindness of Indian soldiers – Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Christians and Muslims – who guided them along the way.

“There was so much fear, we could not believe the generosity and kindness of the Indian military. We never had to ask for help, their hands were already open. If you want to know what India means to people, study the liberation of Bangladesh,” she told me before rapidly changing the subject.

Indian forces gave the children toys, the adults tea, opened the gates when the family appeared at the border crossing and perhaps most importantly, granted them the freedom

to speak. “We, the people of India, have solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic to ensure its citizens: justice, social economic and political; liberty, of thought, expression, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation,” the preamble of the Indian constitution reads.

It remains to be seen if the noble aspirations of those words will be realised.

Bangladeshis during that time, my mother said, looked to India for help. The British had divided the nation (poorly) and had no intention of being involved again. The US and China were supportive but hesitant to involve them-



*Your air force has been destroyed. You are surrounded on all sides. And if you don’t surrender, you will be killed unmercifully.*

selves in a civil war isolated to the sub-continent.

## THEN THERE WAS RELIEF

“Your air force has been destroyed. You are surrounded on all sides. And if you don’t surrender, you will be killed unmercifully,” Indian military told Pakistani forces on their own radio frequency.

With that message, on Dec 16, 1971, with the rest of the world watching on, India singlehandedly ended a genocide that resulted in the ethnic cleansing of up to three million people under “Operation Searchlight.”

Ten years later, India became the first country outside the Eastern Bloc to recognise Cambodia through Heng Samrin after the collapse of the Khmer Rouge.

Cultural symbols were destroyed.

Journalists, poets, philosophers, lawyers and teachers were murdered.

India assisted in the 1993 elections. Then it took on efforts to preserve the Angkor Wat temple. Most recently, New Delhi agreed to help with the restoration of portions of Preah Vihear Temple.

With Cambodia now on the path to becoming an upper middle-income country, India’s “Act East” diplomacy has seen the country direct its focus towards development rather than aid. Scholarships, libraries, foreign direct investments, soft skill training, and so on.

As vaccines became available, millions of Astra Zeneca doses were made available to the Kingdom, many of which were donated.

Yet, as India celebrates 75 years of

squashed. There, where I last saw my grandmother and still have yet to visit her grave.

The India I have seen is admittedly through rose-tinted glasses. Bollywood, food, music, architecture; Shah Rukh Khan, dosa, Zakir Husain and the Taj Mahal.

The last time I set foot in India, incidentally, was on Aug 14, 2019. just before the clock struck midnight in Bangalore.

Autorickshaws waved the flag of Bharat. Cars honked their horn. Firecrackers went off as I exited the airport.

I am still an outsider when I visit the country. Straddling between the lines of videsi (foreigner) and local. My accent, gait and the fact that I don’t know the first thing about cricket give away that I am an unknown entity. In Canada, I am a coconut or Wonder Bread – brown on the outside and white inside, my friends say.

Now, sitting in Cambodia, I often wonder not only where I’m from but where I belong. The same source of water from the Himalayas flows eastward to become the Mekong. When it travels West, it becomes the Ganges.

The human journey is defined by waves of migration and integration, my cousin reminds me. I recall being in need of the Indian Embassy some years ago after a colleague, an Indian national, had passed. I desperately needed help from the diplomatic corps to repatriate the body.

Around 11 pm, former councilor DC Pant appeared, almost immediately after I appealed to his office for help. He worked tirelessly for over one week to repatriate the body of the journalist who had died abroad.

“What is your background?” He asked me one evening.

## I GAVE MY STANDARD RESPONSE

“As far as we are concerned, you are an Indian.”

*And my heart soared – Phir bhi dil hai Hindustani. ▲*



CELEBRATING THE 75<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY

# India's flag flies high on its Independence Day celebration at the Embassy of India in Cambodia

Members and staff of the Embassy of India, along with Ambassador Khobragade stand together to wish 75 years of Independence to all the Indians in Cambodia and around the world. KTISiv Channa



Ambassador Khobragade listening to the special video message by Mr Hun Many, Padma Shri awardee and member of Cambodian National Assembly, who wished and congratulated India on its 75th Independence anniversary. KTISiv Channa

Ambassador Khobragade saluting the Indian Flag with pride after hoisting it during the celebration yesterday at the embassy of India. KTI Siv Channa

The Indian National Flag was hoisted yesterday at the Embassy of India in Cambodia to commemorate the celebration of the 75th Independence Day of the Republic of India. KTISiv Channa

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AS India celebrates its 75th anniversary of Independence this year on August 15, the Embassy of India in Cambodia celebrated this auspicious day with great enthusiasm and patriotism to its country.

The celebration took place at the premises of the Embassy of India, around 9:00 a.m. yesterday. The event was officiated by Dr Devyani Uttam Khobragade, Ambassador of India to Cambodia who unfurled the Indian National Flag which was filled with flower petals and she hoisted the flag with pride. This was then followed by the Indian National Anthem.

Ambassador Khobragade then gave a speech where she emphasised the importance of Independence Day and how the brave fought to bring freedom to the country.

She also read the speech from the President of India, Mr Ram Nath Kovind which explained the journey of India from slavery to being a free country today. How the brave soldiers fought courageously to bring freedom to the country. The speech also mentioned about the Indian Olympic players who bagged medals for India, including a gold medal and made the Indians proud.

Ambassador Khobragade said that after the Independence of India, many countries thought that India would not be able to sustain its democracy, yet today one of the

largest populated country stands strong. She also mentioned the difficulties amid the pandemic and how all the countries have helped each other along with India also aiding vaccines to various countries.

Later a video message was played featuring Mr Hun Many, Padma Shri awardee and member of Cambodian National Assembly congratulating and wishes all the Indians on this auspicious day.

In this video Mr Hun Many, Chairman of the Commission on Education, Youth, Sport, Cult, Religious Affairs, Culture and Tourism of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and also the President of Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia said, "I would like to congratulate the people of and the government of the Republic of India on the auspicious occasion of 75th Independence Day of India and wish India great success and fruitful achievement, especially in the fight against COVID-19 I believe that the relations between the two countries, both bilateral and multilateral will continue to further strengthen and expand."

"The close traditional relation between Cambodia and India began in the long history of both countries, especially the closeness between people-to-people as well as the cultural relations and civilizations since the ancient times. Based on this traditional relation, the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic

of India have officially established diplomatic relations on May 30, 1952 and continue to strengthen the economy, security, national defense, education, culture, religion and health development, bilateral and multilateral cooperation. I would like to extend my appreciation to the people and government of India for the support accorded to the Kingdom of Cambodia. In these fields of socio-economic, cultural and educational and many other sectors," he added.

Mr Hun Many also expressed his sympathy and shared his condolences to all the India families who have lost their loved due to COVID-19, while the whole world is fighting this contagious disease.

A live streaming of a cultural programme conducted by members of Indian community was also played which showed the diverse history of India, its rich culture, heritage and traditions.

The 75th anniversary of the Independence Day celebration is an integral and important part of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" (Nectar festival of freedom). This programme was launched by Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi on March 12, 2021 and will continue till August 15, 2023, highlighting the five pillars i.e; Freedom struggle, ideas at 75, achievements at 75, actions at 75 and resolves at 75 as guiding force for moving forward keeping dreams and duties as inspiration.

A video of the Prime Minister of India Mr Narendra Modi was played, where he said that this occasion of 75th Independence will be gifted to the present generation like a nectar. This historic and glorious occasion is the pride of India. This "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" is the celebration of India's culture and traditions, the story of its struggle for Independence and Independent India's progress and

development. This event is the celebration of India's awakening and fulfilling the dream of good governance.

This video also spoke about India's remarkable development in various fields such as science, technology, health and education.

This event concluded by wishing Indians in Cambodia and around the world for the 75th Independence Day. ▲



Dr Devyani Uttam Khobragade, Ambassador of India to Cambodia, hoisted the Indian Flag during the 75th Independence Day ceremony at the Embassy of India, yesterday. KTI Siv Channa

# Allana

## Celebrating India's 75th Independence Day

On this momentous occasion, let's cherish more than a millennium old cultural & historical relations between India & Cambodia.

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15th August 2021

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# AIMLEA

ALL INDIA BUFFALO & SHEEP MEAT EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION

## *Celebrates* India's 75th Independence Day

*On this special occasion,  
let us also commemorate  
India-Cambodia's long friendship!*



### AIMLEA

ALL INDIA BUFFALO & SHEEP MEAT EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION

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