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# THE CONSULAR CHRONICLES



# INDIA @ 75







# 13<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF CONSULS 2022



**6-9 November 2022**

**ST RAPHAEL RESORT & MARINA  
Limassol, Cyprus**



# SAVE THE DATE





Hon. Consular Corps  
Diplomatique-India



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Greetings!

..... At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the World sleeps, India will awake to life and Freedom.

That was August 15th 1947.

It's been 75 glorious years since then and on August 15, 2022, it will mark a glorious chapter in the history of India. A proud moment for all Indians indeed and we at the Consular Chronicles, are happy to present a very special edition in celebration of the 75th year of Independence - India @ 75. "Azadi ka Amrit Mahaotsav" - An initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

We take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to make this issue very Special indeed.

Wishing you a very Happy Independence Day - Jai Hind!

**Surbhi Sharma**

Editor

Consular Chronicles

Honorary Consul of Spain

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



**Hon. Mr. Sanjay Madhavan**

Honorary Consul of Switzerland



**Hon. Dr. Akkshye Tulsyan**

Honorary Consul of Republic of Namibia



**Hon. Mr. Piruz Khambatta**

Honorary Consul of South Korea



## THE FUTURE BECKONS: INDIA @ 75

India', Winston Churchill once declared, 'is merely a geographical expression. It is no more a single country than the Equator.' The line matches the man's imperialist thinking, but he was not alone in believing this. As the British Raj came to an end, many felt that there could never be an Indian nation, and that if any such experiment were attempted, it would lead to failure. In fact, in 1947 a leading Indian statesman also warned that within six months of the departure of the British, India would descend into civil war, and shatter into a dozen pieces. As late as the 1960s, 'experts' around the world continued to prophesies that the country would not last, and if it did, it would be a dictatorship, not a democracy. But here we are in 2022, celebrating 75 years of Independence, and a journey as a vibrant, multicultural, democratic republic. The critics and experts were proved wrong, and it is India—with the hopes and dreams its founding fathers had in 1947—that has prevailed.

There is a great deal in this journey to be proud of. In 1951-52 India surprised the world by holding one of the most remarkable democratic exercises ever seen: a national election with adult franchise. Many of the individuals voting were illiterate, so parties designed images as emblems for voters' convenience. Social norms were such that women were reluctant to even give their names for the electoral rolls: they preferred to be known as 'X's mother' or 'Y's wife'. But persistent officials, convinced them and the registers were completed. Arrangements were made far and wide to ensure nobody would be left out, with ballot boxes carried across rivers, on elephants, and into the remotest tribal reaches of the land, sometimes by just one or two officials. And at last, the election was conducted, with patience but also determination. That, in fact, has always been India's key strength and hallmark: patience wedded to a quiet but clear determination to ultimately succeed, against all odds.

Just look at the statistics. In 1947, after two centuries of colonial exploitation, the average life expectancy in India was 32 years: that is how far an individual was expected to survive. Today the average Indian can expect to live to the age of 70, and is healthier, taller, and indeed more prosperous than two generations ago. From an economic under performer, with only memories of greatness and wealth centuries ago, in an age of kings and empires, India is today one of the world's top-five economies. In the early 1950s, less than nine percent of Indian women could read and write; today the number stands at just below sixty-six percent. Yes, there is still a long way to go, but India can state with pride that it has not lost sight of its goals; that it will continue to persevere. We are, after all, among the few countries in the world who have had a woman prime minister, and two women presidents. Even among our tallest business leaders, and in our list of billionaires, you will find women who have made it on their own.



One of the reasons the India story at first found few takers was simply because India was (and remains) diverse. Indians speak dozens and hundreds of languages and dialects; we have every conceivable religion practised here; we have strong regional affiliations; and we have issues of caste and class to grapple with. But India boldly and with confidence approached its diversity not as a burden but as a matter of strength. We did not push our people into a single box; we, instead, chose to celebrate what makes each of us distinct and yet Indian. As a result, India has had a Muslim president, and today our head of state and commander in chief is a tribal woman. India's victory in the 1971 war, which liberated Bangladesh, was led by a Hindu prime minister, with a Parsi general whose senior colleagues at the front were Jewish and Sikh. India has always respected difference—a historical trend, which explains why the Muslim sultan of Bijapur in the seventeenth century worshipped the Hindu goddess, Saraswati. Or how Hindus visiting the temple of Sabarimala first pay their respects at the mosque of Vavar.



This is not to say that there are no challenges. Like all large, complex countries, India battles ironies and contradictions. As the old saying goes, for everything said about India, the opposite is also true. We have done a lot to improve the lives of our girl children, for instance, but we will also be the first to acknowledge that there is more to be done: for their education, safety, and to better their workforce participation. We have traditions of syncretism, but we also have religious conflicts. But as Indians we can be certain of one thing: that ultimately India always finds its way. For example, we have faced secessionist movements in different corners of the land. It looked like it would consume the nation and break us up. Instead, the movements died down and India triumphed. We have faced insurgencies in the country, but peace has held and we have defused many a fire. We have crushing poverty even now among significant sections of society; but things are getting better. Besides, Indians have never given up the one thing that helps them power on: hope for a better future, if not for us, for our children.

This, then, is what defines India at 75: hope. Ours is an ancient land, with a long history and a many-layered civilisation. Like the elephant, we are all at once stately and majestic, and yet at times we seem like we move too. So how do the next 75 years look? To me they clearly seem like an age of opportunity. Yes, like all countries around the world, there will be problems, political hiccups, and social changes. There will be tough conversations to be had, and many readjustments to be made, and we must be ready for surprises. But the fundamentals—and the wider historical trajectory of India—shows only one path. And that path is upwards and onwards, as a democratic nation state, one of the world's leading economies and markets, and a land that will not only tap into the best potential of its citizens, but also give something to the world at large. Indian businesses have already shown that they have the potential to be global in orientation, for example—in the next few decades they will establish new standards of innovation, brilliance, and daring. India can also help shape a new global order. Indian democracy survived all the old prophecies of doom. Now, as Western states grapple with issues of diversity and multicultural societies, India can shine a way, born of its own longstanding experience and knowledge. slowly. Technology is helping the elephant pick up pace: in the 1980s Indians had to wait years for a telephone connection; today with 4G internet and the marvellous penetration of mobile devices, we are the second largest smart phone market in the world, with virtually every village connected. In some parts of the country, the 'right to internet' has been declared a fundamental right; in others, governmental education infrastructure has made such dramatic improvements that parents are now vying for seats there, instead of seeking out elite schools. After liberalisation, millions have been lifted out of poverty, and India's middle class is growing year after year. And an expanding middle class automatically means a growing market and greater prosperity for the nation. It helps that we have a strikingly young population—its restless energy is steadily transforming the elephant into an agile tiger.

To me, then, India matters not just to Indians; it is critical for how the world as a whole takes shape in the twenty-first century. And this makes me excited, thrilled, and positive. The future is bright—we just have to do our best in the present to pave the way.



**Manu S Pillai**  
Historian & Author



Hon. Consular Corps  
Diplomatique-India

## HCCD - INDIA

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**K L Ganju**, o.c.v.c. (cdr.)  
Consul General (Hy.)  
Advisor to the Foreign Minister  
Union of the Comoros  
President – HCCD – India

I take this opportunity to congratulate all Hon'ble colleagues on the occasion of 75th year of India's Independence which is being celebrated by Govt. of India as "Azadi ka Amrit Mohotsav". It is a great day in the history of India that we have completed 75 years of Independence during which India has made progress and has become one of the powerful countries in the family of the world. On this occasion HCCD – India, Bangaluru Chapter under the leadership of Hon'ble Ms. Surbhi Sharma, Hony. Consul of Spain in Bangaluru is bringing out special edition of "Consular Chronicles" which may be released during this period. I on behalf of the Board of Directors and also on behalf of all Hon'ble Members of HCCD – India congratulate Hon'ble Ms. Surbhi Sharma for this great effort.

As regards, activities of HCCD – India, it is to inform you that the process of finalizing the HCCD – India Identity cards and also FICAC (World Federation of Consuls) identity cards is under process. It is hoped that by the end of September, 2022, the identity cards will be provided to all Hon'ble Members who have contributed for the same. The remaining Hon'ble Members who have not sent in their contribution for identity cards may do so now.

It is also to inform all Hon'ble Members that President of HCCD – India visited Chennai to meet the Hon'ble members of HCCD – India Chennai Chapter. It was a very well organized meeting. The President proposes to visit Bangaluru, Hyderabad and finally Mumbai to interact with Hon'ble Members to discuss topics of Mutual Interest.

God bless you all!!

### SECRETARY GENERAL'S MESSAGE



**Purshottam Bhaggeria**  
Hony. Consul of Maldives  
Secretary General, HCCD- India  
Director, World Federation of  
Consuls (FICA)

As you all know that this year is 75th year of India's Independence. The Govt. of India is celebrating the 75th Year as "Azadi of Amrit Mohotsav". It is therefore suggested that all the chapters of HCCD – India may also celebrate the Independence Day and share their pictures which may be included in the next edition of Consular Chronicles.

It is further to inform you that the Secretariat is working to finalise the identity cards of HCCD – India and also for forward details for FICAC Id cards to the World Federation of Consuls. Both the identity cards may be forwarded as soon as they are ready.



Hon. Consular Corps  
Diplomatique-India



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES CORPS ET ASSOCIATIONS CONSULAIRES AISBL

[www.ficacworld.org](http://www.ficacworld.org)

\*United Nations NGO with ECOSOC SPECIAL Status\*

Monday, July 11, 2022.

Dear Honourable K.L. Ganju, Chairman of the HCC Diplomatique-India,  
Dear Honourable Members of the HCC Diplomatique-India,  
Dear Honourable Colleagues and Friends,

It is a real pleasure and a great honour for me to extend my sincere congratulations to the HCC Diplomatique-India, on the occasion of the Special Issue of the Consular Chronicles in celebration of India's 75th Independence Day.

HCC Diplomatique-India is a highly appreciated and very active Member of the World Federation of Consuls - FICAC -, with Representatives having been Members of the Board of Directors, Hon. K.S. Bhalla, Hon. K.L. Ganju, Hon. S. Vaswani and during this term Hon. P. Bhaggeria, but also several Members attending regularly FICAC events: I'm pleased to invite all the distinguished Members of HCC Diplomatique-India to attend the World Congress of Consuls, in Limassol, Cyprus, 6-9 November, 2022!

FICAC is an internationally recognized Non-Profit Organization, founded in 1982 in Copenhagen, Denmark, in order to incorporate honorary consuls through the world to share experiences and coordinate efforts to enhance and to strengthen their legitimacy rights and effectiveness, but also to raise their responsibilities status and their security to universal standards.

FICAC is recognized as a NGO with ECOSOC Special status by United Nations, but also by European Union and by the Organization of the American States.

As FICAC, our main objective is "Bridging the World" and, to achieve this goal, all of us we need Cooperation, Goodwill, Friendship, Peace, Health, Serenity, Love, Happiness, Patience, Tolerance and Success. Indeed, as honorary consuls, our mission is "Bridging the World" by contributing to a better understanding of different and common values: our mission to improving cultural, social and commercial relationships between countries is important to build a more peaceful world. FICAC performs a key role to bridging people together and to fostering mutual understanding, in organizing meetings and events to allow Consuls from all around the world to meet and to exchange with their colleagues their ideas.

FICAC congratulates and thanks HCC Diplomatique-India for the excellent contribution it has made and continues to make to the activities of the World Federation of Consuls, and for representing India internationally with distinction.

FICAC wishes HCC Diplomatique-India continued success in the future.  
Congratulations!

Sincerely Yours,

Aykut Eken, President



## Message on Independence day



Hon. Consular Corps  
Diplomatique-India

*Our warmest congratulations  
and best wishes to the citizens of  
India on the occasion of India's  
75<sup>th</sup> Independence's Day.*

*On behalf of Portugal,  
wishing all the people Peace,  
Prosperity, Good health, and  
Success.*



*Best Wishes from  
Carlos Pereira Marques  
Ambassador of Portugal in India*

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



*In the year when our two countries – Slovenia and India –  
celebrate 30th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations,  
India is celebrating 75th anniversary of its independence. On  
behalf of Slovenia and on my own behalf I wish all the people of  
India the brightest future! Heartiest congratulations!*

**Mateja Vodeb Ghosh**  
Ambassador of Slovenia in India



**SLOVENIA**  
BUILDING TRUST. SECURING FUTURE.  
UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL  
2024-2025





Hon. Consular Corps  
Diplomatique-India

## AROUND THE NATION

### CHENNAI



Honorary consul of Romania Mr. Vijay Mehta with Indian Ambassador in Poland Ms. Nagma Mallick



Our honorary consul for Greece - Mr. N Kumar was awarded the Prestigious Title " Order of the Rising Sun" by the Japanese Government



The Honorary Consul of Senegal Mr. Ashok R Thakkar with Honorable Union Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare



Consul General of Spain H.E Fernando Heredia Noguera, along with Mr. Anthony Lobo, Honorary Consul of Spain Chennai, greeting the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Mr M K Stalin and also with Honourable Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu - Mr. Palnival Thiagarajan





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## AROUND THE NATION

### HYDERABAD



The Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Hyderabad, InKo Centre, and Phoenix Foundation organized the premiere of The Story of the Lake on Tuesday, 5 July 2022 at Shilpakala Vedika.



In attendance was Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Dasari Balaiah, RPO & HEAD OF MEA BRANCH SECRETARIAT,





Hon. Consular Corps  
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## AROUND THE NATION

### MUMBAI



Mr. Mahendra Sanghi, Honorary Consul of Kazakhstan in Mumbai with H. E. Mr. Mukhtar Tleuberdi, Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan and H. E. Mr. Nurlan Zhalgasbayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan



Mr. Mahendra Sanghi, Honorary Consul of Kazakhstan in Mumbai with Mr. Vijay Kalantri, Honorary Consul of Uzbekistan in Mumbai & few other Honorary Consuls



Mr. M K Sanghi with Shri & Smt. Om Prakash Gupta, Addl Chief Secretary – Finance, Government of Maharashtra and Mr. Vinod Advani



Dr. Vijay Kalantri being felicitated with an award at an event organized by the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Mumbai on December 16, 2021



Dr. Vijay Kalantri being felicitated by H.E. Mr. Kudratov for his extraordinary contribution to promote trade, business and other areas of collaboration between India and Uzbekistan.



Flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of India's 73rd Republic Day on January 26, 2022 at the Arcade, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade with Consul Generals and diplomats from various foreign countries namely Argentina, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Russian Federation and Malaysia.





Hon. Consular Corps  
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30th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Uzbekistan and India and spring festival Navruz held at The Embassy of Uzbekistan, New Delhi on March 31, 2022. Chief guest Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi with H.E. Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India Dr. Akhatov Dilshod Khamidovich



Dr. Vijay Kalantri felicitating H.E. Mr. Asomach-Cheremeh, High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana in India at an Interactive meeting on 'Doing Business with Ghana' organised by AIAI and WTC Mumbai on April 19, 2022



Interactive Meeting with Ms. Andrea Kuhn, Consul General of The Republic of South Africa, on "Doing Business with South Africa" organized by AIAI and WTC Mumbai for promoting Trade and Business opportunities between India and South Africa in Mumbai on May 20, 2022



Interactive Meeting on 'Promoting Investment and Trade Opportunities between The Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of India' on June 09, 2022. Chief guest H.E. Dr. Hossein Amirabdollahian Hon'ble Foreign Minister, The Islamic Republic of Iran



Meeting with H.E. Abdulla Husein Salman Mohamed Al-Marzooqi, Consul General of UAE on June 23, 2022 at the UAE Consulate office in Cuffe Parade, Mumbai



National Day of Portugal in Goa on June 12, 2022



## AROUND THE NATION

### BANGALORE



Visit of H. E Mr. Mohammed Malliki - Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco along with Chief Minister of Karnataka and Honorary Consuls of Macedonia Mr. Purshotham K J and Honorary Consul of Rwanda Mr. Suresh Mohan



Visit of H. E Minister of Agriculture, Live Stock and Water resources- Government of Djibouti with Honorary Consul Mr. Mahesh Shetty of Djibouti and Mr. Prakash Pushpak - Honorary Consul for Czech Republic



Visit of H. E Ambassador of Korea with Honourable Minister Dr. Ashwath Narayanan - Minister for I. T & B. T Government of Karnataka and Honorary Consuls of Namibia, Tunisia, Rwanda, Poland, Estonia, Spain, Lithuania and Luxembourg



Visit of H.E Mariana Pacheco - Ambassador of Colombia to ISRO and met with Chairman Mr. Somnath S



Hon. Consular Corps  
Diplomatique-India



Dr. Kiran Mazamdar Shaw – Chairman of Biocon



Honorary Consul of Colombia Mr. Arif Vazirally with Ambassador of Colombia Consul General of Germany and guests



Honorary Consul Mr. K P Balasubramaniam shaking hands with H. E. Ms. Jnara Murniece, the Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia in Riga



Mr. & Mrs. K P Balasubramaniam with the President of Latvia H. E. Egils Levits along with his wife Mrs. Andra Levite at their palace in Riga, Latvia





Hon. Consular Corps  
Diplomatique-India

## NATION IN FOCUS - CAMBODIA



**Karthik Tallam**

Honorary Consul of the  
Kingdom of Cambodia

### Relations between India and Cambodia

Goes back to centuries when Hindu and Buddhist religious and cultural influences emanated out of India to various parts of South-East Asia. India-Cambodia has maintained warm and friendly relations in the modern times. We have witnessed cooperation in diverse fields such as institutional capacity building, human resource development, investments and extension of financial assistance in infrastructure, social and cultural projects and defense.

With increased interaction in all sectors, the people to people contact has also increased. More Indians have been travelling to Cambodia, may it be, for tourism or business. Indian professional have also been brought to work in Cambodia.

At present, there are about 4500 persons of Indian origin settled in Phnom Penh the capital of Cambodia. This number will grow with the expansion in business and trade. Cambodia is one of the fastest growing economies in the region and it has witnessed a remarkable growth rate of about 7 per cent year on year since past two decades. The country also has distinction of achieving Millennium Development Goals (MGDs) in a very short period and has lifted its status from the low income to lower middle income bracket. With it's business friendly policies, the country provides a right platform for Indian investors to commence economic activities in Cambodia and take advantage of 600 Million strong market of ASEAN. Cambodia has been strong proponent of enhanced interaction between India and ASEAN and has played a pivotal role in formalization of India-ASEAN relationship. Further, Cambodia is not only a part of CMLV group but is also central to Mekong Ganga Cooperation. Big business in the region and outside is focusing on Cambodia. Indian businesses, small or big should have a fresh look at the opportunities in Cambodia and take advantage of USD 2.5 trillion worth of ASEAN economy

Cambodia has sustained very high levels of economic growth and maintains strong positive growth outlook in future as well. Macro-economic stability, reforms-oriented government, business friendly environment along with preferential access into ASEAN and advanced markets make Cambodia an attractive destination for investing. Rapidly growing middle class and relatively young and dynamic population further strengthen the business attractiveness of the country. As Indian investors are venturing abroad, Cambodia provides the right moment to tap opportunities. Moreover, close cultural and political ties between India and Cambodia provide a friendly and enabling environment for Indian investors to do business in Cambodia

High economic growth performance of the country coupled with stable macro-economy, open and market-oriented regime, geostrategic location in the ASEAN region and close cultural and political ties with India provides the right platform for Indian investors to venture into Cambodia and subsequently, ASEAN, a regional market with GDP of USD 2.5 trillion and 622 million people. United States, China, Germany, Japan and United Kingdom are important trading partners of Cambodia. Garments, footwear, construction and real estate, tourism and agriculture are main drivers of the economy. The economy has been witnessing an increasing flow of investments in non-garment manufacturing segments like automotive, beverages and consumer goods. While the trade and investment relationship between Cambodia and India are only emerging, India was one of the top ten investors in Cambodia.



Cambodia mainly imported pharmaceuticals followed by raw hides and skin, leather, man-made staple fibres, cotton and aluminum from India. Cambodia's major exports to India were wood and articles of wood, rubber and articles thereof, garments and footwear. There are unique advantages of investing in Cambodia. This is the right moment to tap the opportunities Cambodia has to offer. Businesses based in Cambodia can enjoy preferential market access provided by Cambodia by most of the advanced market of the world. The pro-business government of Cambodia applies no restriction to foreign ownership of businesses except land, levies one of the lowest tax rates in the ASEAN region, allows for easy repatriation of profits and tax exemption for up to 9 years for qualified projects. Cambodia is developing the Special Economic Zones to boost trade and investment by providing better infrastructure, public services and investment incentives. The relatively young and dynamic population of Cambodia and rapidly expanding middle class provide opportunities for venturing into emerging business areas as well. Based on assessment of policy focus and emerging opportunities in Cambodia mapped with comparative advantage of India, the following sectors in Cambodia provide attractive opportunities for Indian investment ventures.



- Agriculture focusing on agriculture mechanization, agro-processing, agri-based ICTs, horticulture as well as research and advisory Education focusing on global campuses of engineering, medical and business schools as well as technical training institutes and distance education
- Tourism focusing on hotels, culture and nature based products, destination wedding, Bollywood film shooting and MICE
- Healthcare focusing on hospitals, pharmaceutical, medical equipments, telemedicine and mobile health applications
- Technology focusing on telecommunications, IT and IT-enabled Services, E-commerce, financial technologies and e-governance
- Emerging areas of automobile and electronic assembly and manufacturing It is the right time that Cambodia's policies lay emphasis on high value added and knowledge intensive sector which are strengths of India.



Despite the plethora of opportunities that Cambodia offers, investors need to understand that Cambodia achieved remarkable progress in a very short period of time. While the government is continuously making progress, key challenges businesses may face are right match of job specific skills, infrastructure gaps and an environment in which laws and institutions are still being developed. In a very short time span, Cambodia has become a foreigner friendly city offering a range of lifestyle choices, access to foreign banks as well as the recently started stock exchange.



The economy of Cambodia is marked by an open and market-oriented regime with a stable macro-economic environment. Geostrategic location in ASEAN, youthful population along with close cultural and political ties with India provides an opportunity for India and Cambodia to enhance their economic relations. India's Act East Policy provides the right platform for Indian investors to venture into Cambodia. The World Bank moved Cambodia from the status of a low income country to a lower middle income

## **BRIEF SNAPSHOT OF CAMBODIA**

### **a. Geography**

- Location: Indochina peninsula of Southeast Asia
- Land area: 181,035 sq. kms.
- Border: Thailand, Lao PDR and Vietnam
- Major cities: Phnom Penh (capital), Siem Reap and Sihanoukville

### **b. Government System Government system: Constitutional Monarchy**

- Head of state: His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni
- Head of government: Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen
- Ruling Political Party: Cambodia People's Party (since 1979)
- Upcoming national election: July 2018 c. Climate
- Main seasons: wet (May to October) and dry (November to April)
- Average temperature: 27° Celsius 13 d. Demography Population: 15.76 million
- Youth population: 65.3% under the age of 30
- Population growth rate: 1.6%
- Rural population: 79%
- Life expectancy: 68 years
- Ethnic composition: Khmer (90%)
- Official languages: Khmer
- Religion: Buddhism
- Poverty rate: 13.5%
- Local currency: Riel (KHR)
- Exchange rate: 1 USD = 4037 KHR At present, US Dollar (USD) is the functional currency with around 80% of the bank deposits maintained in USD. Cambodia is the only Dollarised economy in Southeast Asia.

**PROGRESSIVE REFORMS** The government in Cambodia is progressive and has been undertaking several reforms. Cambodia improved the ease of starting a business by simplifying company name checks, streamlining tax registration and eliminating the requirement to publish information on the new company's incorporation in the official gazette. The Credit Bureau of Cambodia has also started providing credit scores to banks and financial institutions, thus, improving access to credit information. Additionally, Cambodia has also introduced a new online system for registration of foreign workers which includes an option for self-employed individuals

## **BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND CAMBODIA**

Governments of India and Cambodia enjoy friendly bilateral relationship which dates back to history. The two countries also share close religious and cultural ties dating back to the first century AD. The two countries have been undertaking efforts to increase bilateral trade and investment flows.







Cambodia is a priority country under the Government of India's Act East Policy focusing on Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV). The Government of India plans to create a Special Purpose Vehicle for INR 500 crore fund to increase Indian economic presence in CLMV. Additionally, India-Cambodia Bilateral Investment Treaty is being discussed. Cambodia and India have signed agreements on cooperation in the areas of but not limited to agriculture, scientific and technological cooperation, entrepreneurship development and tourism. The economic relations between the countries are also facilitated by the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.

**INDIA'S GATEWAY TO ASEAN** Building on the historical and advancing economic relationships between the two countries, Cambodia is an attractive location to provide India a gateway to ASEAN. Cambodia is centrally located in the heart of ASEAN bordering three dynamic ASEAN economies – Thailand, Vietnam and Laos. As ASEAN is gearing towards a single market and production base, Cambodia can serve as India's gateway to the regional market with combined GDP of USD 2.5 trillion and market size of 622 million across 10 countries. Cambodia has free visa for all ASEAN nationals and relaxed visa on arrival/e-visa regime for a large number of countries. There are direct flights from Cambodia to important ASEAN destinations including Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Yangon, Vientiane and Hanoi. There are also direct flights to Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul and Guangzhou. Business operations in Cambodia can benefit from greater flow of trade, investment and skilled labour through the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement and the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements. As India moves forward to expand its economic cooperation and linkages in the East, there are enormous opportunities that the two countries can tap.

**RIGHT MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIA** is the world's seventh largest economy in the world and the third largest economy in Asia after China and Japan. At the rate of 7.1%, India was growing faster than any other large economy including China that grew at 6.7%.

Moreover, India is expected to grow at 7.6% as compared to China's 6.25%. As India plans to expand its investment in Southeast Asia, the fast and steady Cambodia with business-friendly investment environment will be the right launch pad. Cambodia is increasingly becoming a destination for companies to extend their operations under China Plus One and Thailand Plus One Strategy.





Hon. Consular Corps  
Diplomatique-India

# ROYAL HERITAGE OF INDIA - THE DECCAN



**His Exalted Highness  
Sir Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan  
Bahadur Nizam VII**

Has history ever witnessed a man who used a 185-carat gem, the size of a round plum, as a paperweight? The Asif Jahi dynasty ruled the Deccan, a vast and lustrous plateau of south India. Hyderabad, under the rule of the Nizams, was the largest princely state in India, encompassing an area equivalent to both England and Scotland put together.

The Asif Jahi's particularly the last Nizam, Nizam VII Sir Mir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur was known as the architect of modern Hyderabad. The massive region reached its zenith during the dynasty's control from 1724 to 1948, flourishing to cultural and economic standards of prosperity, unprecedented by the rest of India. The Nizams were among the wealthiest individuals in the world and were altruistic philanthropists, with the last Nizam VII, my great-grandfather rightly being called Aala Hazrat which translates to Supreme Presence in Arabic.

The name of the sovereign rules comes from the title Nizam-ul-Mulk, meaning Administrator of the Realm. My ancestors were of Parso Tajik origin from the region around Samarkand in modern-day Uzbekistan, believed to have descended from Abu Bakr-al-Siddiq, one of the closest

companions and father-in-law of the Prophet. Abu-Bakr-al-Siddiq was the first Caliph of the Rashidun Caliphate.

The dynasty was founded by Mir Qamar-ud-Din Siddiqi. The contributions of the Asif Jah's were unparalleled in every field, be it art, literature, or architecture. Under their patronage, the region produced many of the biggest talents in the country like Sarojini Naidu and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

The exquisite and renowned jewelry collection of the Nizams, some of the finest jewels in the world, stands as a silent witness to the history of our Deccan region and can rightly be called a cultural contribution to the heritage of India.

The grandeur of these iridescent and intricate jewels even reached England during the wedding of Queen Elizabeth in 1947. The Nizam VII had gifted the Queen a tiara, brooches, and a necklace of diamonds set in platinum resembling the shape of English roses. The necklace, called the Nizam of Hyderabad necklace, now accounts for being the most expensive jewel in the royal vault, valued at a whopping £66.3 million in today's world.

The Nizam Jewelry collection is outstanding not only for its grandeur but for its elaborate yet detailed craftsmanship and for having such a rich history spanning 224 years affiliated with it.

Due to his £25 million donation to the British during the First World War, my great-grandfather was the only ruler in British India to hold the title of Exalted Highness. He ascended the throne at the age of 25 and continued to rule for the next 37 years, serving his subjects selflessly even after his rule ended in 1948. Tradition dictates that no Nizam may ever leave India, regardless of how compelling the case may be; as it was believed that, "the Sovereign is too important to his people to ever leave India."



**Nizam of Hyderabad Necklace  
gifted to Queen Elizabeth**





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Even before his ascension to the throne, my great-grandfather was sympathetic and aware of the needs of his people. Three years before his coronation, in 1908, after the Musi River floods devastated and claimed thousands of lives in the state, he started the construction of two reservoirs, Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar, to prevent the disruptive damage caused by natural disasters. Huge reservoirs at Nizam Sagar, Nagarjuna Sagar, and Tungabhadra were also commissioned by him during his rule.

When the Nizam VII ascended the throne, his first act as a sovereign ruler was to abolish the death penalty from the criminal code for civilians. The income tax was also abolished and the state flourished with its own currency, domestic airways, mint, railways, mills, postal system, and copious infrastructure.

My great-grandfather was responsible for bringing about a remarkable revolution in the education system of the region, as he gave the utmost importance to the easy availability of education for all, particularly for women and the economically weaker sections of society, stressing on the potential of knowledge in revolutionizing one's life. The first government Zenana school for the education of young girls was opened during the period of Nizam VI, Mir Mehboob Ali Khan Bahadur.



**My grandfather His Highness  
Nawab Hasham Jah Bahadur**

In 1921, he was the first ruler in all of India to separate the executive from the judiciary. Before this was adopted across the rest of India, it would take 53 years.

The rule of the Nizams also saw the establishment of copious important public institutions like the Hyderabad High Court, the State Bank of Hyderabad (now called the State Bank of India), and the Begumpet Airport.

The Asif Jah were proponents of secularism. Several financial endowments were made to mosques, churches, temples and gurudwaras irrespective of the religious affiliation.

Our family has always valued education as the driving force of life. My great-grandfather was a great pioneer of education, conferred with the title of Sultan-ul-Uloom, and established the Osmania University in 1918. This university was the first of its kind in British ruled India to have Urdu, a regional language as the medium of instruction. Almost 11 percent of the government's budget was allotted for education.



**Nizam VII laying the foundation stone of  
Osmania University**

The Nizam VII smashed stereotypes, and paid princely salaries to teachers, asking them to give their best in raising a generation of young, independent, and bold thinkers of science and literature. The university's wages in the early 1920s, at a time when 10 grams of gold cost 18.50 rupees, ranged from 250 rupees for teachers to 1250 rupees for the principal.

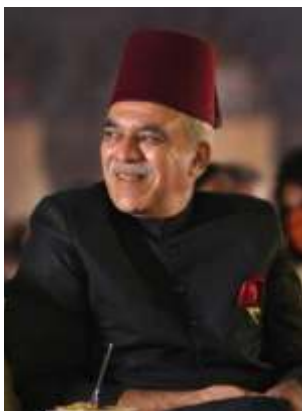




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Falaknuma Palace



**My father,  
His Highness Nawab  
Mir Najaf Ali Khan**

The Nizams are also credited as being the pioneers of Ayurveda due to their patronage of Ayurvedic physicians and scholars. The Nizam Ayurvedic college and Nizam Ayurvedic Sadar Dawakhana were established in the year 1934. The Nizam VII is also credited with establishing the Fever Hospital, where Sir Ronald Ross discovered the bite of Anopheles mosquito as the cause of malaria, the Nizam Orthopedic Hospital, and the Osmania General Hospital.

Amongst the palaces of the Nizam were the Chowmahallah and the Falaknuma Palace which means "Mirror of Sky" in Urdu. The Falaknuma, built in the shape of a scorpion in 1884 by Sir Nawab Viqar-ul-Umra, the then Prime Minister of Hyderabad was bought by the Nizam VI, Mir Mehboob Ali Khan in 1897.

In 1965, when India was on the verge of war with Pakistan, Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri visited Hyderabad and requested my great-grandfather to contribute generously to the National Defense Fund. Immediately, it was announced that five tons of gold would be donated. In today's world, this would amount to more than Rs 2,000 crore. This donation is the biggest of its kind in history and is unsurpassed to date.

The website of the Nizam's Museum records that when the Nizam VII passed away, on 24 February 1967, "the streets and pavements of the city were littered with the pieces of broken glass bangles as an incalculable number of women broke their bangles in mourning as is the Telangana custom on the death of a close relative." His funeral was the largest ever recorded in history with over ten lakh people paying their last respects.

My grandfather, Prince Nawab Mir Hasham Jah Bahadur was the fifth son amongst his 16 sons and 18 daughters. He was highly esteemed in both political and royal circles. He was a regular guest of the banquets hosted by the President and the governor.

My father, Nawab Mir Najaf Ali Khan is one of my biggest inspirations due to his integrity and benignity that upholds his values even when faced with any difficulties.

Written by:

**Sahebzadi Noorah Fatima,**  
Great-grand daughter

H.E.H Sir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur Nizam VII



**Funeral Procession of Nizam VII**



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## NEWS FROM FICAC

### March 2022 : FICAC Summit with H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca

Great FICAC Summit with H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Former President of Malta, on the 10th of March, 2022, managed by President Hon. Aykut Eken, by Honorable Mrs. Gonul Oray Eken, by FICAC Secretary-General Hon. Nikos Margaropoulos and moderated brilliantly by Malta Honorary Consul General in Sofia Honorable Borislav Boyanov.



Video of this FICAC Summit is available on FICAC Youtube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiBJdlbuW44LcCyl0PcPOQ>

### May, 2022, visit of FICAC BoD to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg

Following a Board of Directors held in Luxembourg on the 9th of May, 2022, several Members of the FICAC Board of Directors paid a courtesy visit to Mrs. Sarah Anja, Vice-Director, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, and Mr. Mario Wiesen, Vice-Director for the passports and visas department.







## May, 2022, visit of FICAC BoD to the Deputy Mayor of Luxembourg City

Following a Board of Directors held in Luxembourg on the 9th of May, 2022, several Members of the FICAC Board of Directors paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Serge Wilmes, Deputy Mayor of the city of Luxembourg, on the 11th of May, 2022.







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## SPECIAL FEATURE - Looking for Technology? Think Spain!

These words of Fernando Heredia Noguer, the Consul General of Spain, in Mumbai, intrigued us. We engaged in an interesting discussion on the strengths of Spain, as a technology provider of high quality at affordable pricing.

**Consular Chronicles:** You made a very interesting statement hinting that Spain is a one stop for technology. Can you elaborate?

**Fernando Heredia:** Firstly, it is important to point out that Spain is the 4th largest economy in Europe and stands 14th in the world. We are the hub for many MNCs in Europe and attract one of the highest FDI's per capita.

Spain has always been export oriented and currently we are the 8th largest exporter of automobiles. Despite extreme factors like Covid-19 that hit all of us across the world and the current ongoing war, Spain is positioned well due to its deep investment in the areas of Innovation, Research & Development. Business has contributed definitively to R&D, with an 8.2% increase in investment.

Substantial investments by multinational companies established in Spain account for 38.4% of total business assets. Public investment is also recovering.



Galelio

**Consular Chronicles:** You mentioned that Spain offers a bouquet of technologies. Can you elaborate?

**Fernando Heredia:** Spain has always been a frontrunner in developing technologies for the world, from the Renaissance times in the areas of trade, sailing, medicine, agriculture, infrastructure, urbanization, etc. to being one of the most innovative countries in the world, leading in technologies like infrastructure technologies, Intelligent Manufacturing, Biotech, Water technologies, Renewable Energy, ICT, aeronautics or transport.

**Consular Chronicles:** Innovation is the key to growth and sustainability. How does Spain work in this aspect?

**Fernando Heredia:** Spain is a believer in Open Innovation. In fact, we stand out in open innovation initiatives. Major Spanish corporations work in a wide range of industries.

From ICT to energy, finance and retail, they have the ability to combine the university's educational and scientific efforts with the business ecosystem, since most of them have their own startup programmes.

While our Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, assumes the responsibility for fostering research and innovation, and the management of international relations in R&D&I, our Regional Autonomous Ministries also participate in the creation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of R&D&I policy.

According to the 2021 European Innovation Scoreboard, Spain scores high in sales impact/sales of new-to-market and new-to-firm innovations, which measures the turnover generated by new products and products being ranked second in Europe.



Europe's largest solar telescope in La Palma



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**Consular Chronicles: What would your advice be to companies seeking to collaborate with Spain and procure Spanish technology?**

Fernando Heredia: I would say that that's a great decision! Please do contact our Commercial & Trade office in both Delhi and Mumbai. We have a full-fledged team to assist you in identifying the technology you need, the right partners and also could help you with market studies.

Spain is also an investment destination for companies that are not just looking at access to the European markets, but also North Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

**Consular Chronicles: How do you see Indo-Spanish technology partnerships at present and in the near future?**

Fernando Heredia: Spain and India definitely have many areas in which we already collaborate but of course I think there is tremendous potential that still lies untapped.

We have a lot that we can share with each other - India's IT prowess, production capabilities and its growing market along with Spanish innovation, evolved design capabilities and access to global markets, can really create win-win partnerships for Indian and Spanish industry.





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## SPECIAL GUEST - H.E Mr. Alfonso Tagliaferri -Consul General of Italy

**ITALY CELEBRATES THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH INDIA IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY: OPENING A NEW CONSULATE GENERAL, IN BENGALURU.**

**By Consul General Alfonso Tagliaferri**

### **The opening of the new Consulate General**

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Indian independence, as well as 75 years of diplomatic relations between Italy and India. And what a better way to celebrate this double anniversary than by opening a new Italian diplomatic post in the country? We will start with processing around 25.000-30,000 visas a year, and we will work to increase this numbers. But the Consulate will do much more: it will become a point of reference for the Italian community in South-east India, and it will promote Indian-Italian ties at all levels: economic, scientific, cultural, touristic. The Consulate General will host also the Italian Trade Agency, the Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Uni-Italia, which is a university link, that will be useful for Indian students who wish to study in Italy. The offices will open to the public at the beginning of 2023, and will be located on 56, Richmond road (Trinity Circle), on the 2nd floor of the new Vaishnavi ICON building, which I hope will become, in the years to come, a 'popular spot' among the 'friends of Italy': it boasts in fact a lovely terrace on top, where we plan to organize many gatherings and events.



On the occasion of the first celebration of the Italian National day in Bengaluru, last June 2 at the Four Seasons hotel, I could explain some of the above-mentioned goals, and also how the idea of opening a new diplomatic post came about: I was posted in Kolkata in 2020 for a short mission, to fill the gap between two Consul Generals, and then Covid started and the lockdown happened. I was stuck in Kolkata for five months. That's when I fell in love with the Country and, together with Ambassador De Luca in Delhi, we started discussions on opening a new office here, in the South. It wasn't difficult to convince headquarters, given the importance of Bangalore as the heart of Indian scientific and technological development, and in less than two years we are here, fitting-out the new offices and hiring personnel.



The Consulate General will cover the states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu with Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh.

And the opening of the CG was blessed, at the highest level, last May 5, during the first mission to India by an Italian Foreign Minister since 2012. In that occasion Minister Di Maio, beside symbolically inaugurating the offices of the Consulate General, met with Chief Minister B.S. Bommai, with the directors of ISRO and IISc, and with the CEOs of a few Italian companies and start-ups active in Bangalore.



### **The economic ties**

Once the pandemic emergency has reduced, mutual visits at high level have resumed and satisfying economic results have arrived: in 2021 bilateral trade reached 10 billion, exceeding the figure of 2019.





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Renewable energy, infrastructure, food processing, make in India and lifestyle are the five leading sectors of our relaunched economic partnership, each of which opens up ample opportunities for collaboration. First of all, the energy transition, which calls into question investments and technologies for which we are the European leaders: thanks to the large Italian companies already present, active on renewable, gas and hydrogen, on networks, such as on green chemistry and biofuels, our country can play a leading role. Italy is the second manufacturing country in Europe, India is the Asian digital superpower. In the list of collaborations that are being implemented, some significant investments in the aerospace sector and the start of scientific collaborations in astrophysics must also be mentioned.

### The people to people relations

We are focussing now on encouraging people-to-people relations from the bottom up. The idea is to bring Indo-Italian cultural relations to the young generations through education in the most attractive fields of study such as design and fashion. This is why we are supporting the development of new university courses in India promoted by the best Italian institutions. We are also promoting more business opportunities for our creative industries, also thanks to the conclusion of important agreements that facilitate film co-productions.

There are many scholarship opportunities available for Indian students willing to study in Italy. Over 5000 Indian students are currently enrolled in our higher education system and some of them have benefited from such scholarships. First, there are scholarship opportunities offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Indian students are also eligible to apply for the Invest Your Talent in Italy program, which offers postgraduate courses in the field of Engineering, Advanced Technologies, Architecture, Design, Economics or Management and a complete training opportunity, as it provides academic studies at prestigious Italian universities as well as a period of on-the-job training, through an internship at some of the Italian leading companies.



### The cultural relations between India and Italy

The cultural exchanges between Italy and India date back to an ancient history and this is also why the relations between our two countries are based on common values. Italy boasts the most important tradition of Indology studies in the world outside India.

In the last 50 years, exchanges in the cinema field have flourished with the production of docu-films by Pierpaolo Pasolini and Roberto Rossellini and awards at the Venice Film Festival to Satyajit Ray and Mira Nair. These ties are not only rooted in the past, but they are very much driven by innovation, creativity and contemporary cultural contamination.

### Next events organized by the Consulate General

The offices will open in 2023, but we are already organizing events in order to promote Italy and to strengthen bilateral ties. Here below a few of them, which are already planned in Bangalore:

- End of September 2022: Italian sound artist Eva Macali will present the research work done during her August-September residency at the Indian Sonic Research Organization, in Bengaluru. In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute, Mumbai, and the Goethe Institute, Bengaluru.
- 12-14 October 2022: ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL, which will showcase 6 recently released Italian movies (location to be announced; most probably at the Phoenix Mall, in Whitefield);
- Fall 2022: BINARY CODEX, a retrospective exhibition on the work of Italian artist/designer Andrea Anastasio (at the Karnataka Chitrakhala Parishath);
- November: WEEK OF ITALIAN CUISINE (exact dates and venues to be announced at a later stage).



*Wishing all a very  
Happy Independence Day*