

SMES URGED TO UTILISE INDIA DAY

BY MHLONISHWA HLOPHE

India Day is the rightful platform for Emaswati to strengthen business ties with their Indian counterparts and to also network.

The day was celebrated by the High Commission of India in conjunction with the Municipal Council of Mbabane at the Prince of Wales sports ground, for the better part of yesterday.

It was spiced with good music, various handicrafts displays, food, clothing and many more.

Ajay Sharma gave an insight of the India day. He mentioned that yesterday's event was the fourth to be hosted by the High Commission of India since its establishment.

Sharma disclosed that the first event was held at Eruhini Handicrafts market in 2020. In 2021 it was hosted in Matsapha Municipal Council and then the following year was held at the Malkerns Sports ground.

He urged Emaswati who want to venture into business to make good use of such an event as it was the rightful platform to strengthen business ties with their Indian counterparts and also networking with other business people from diverse backgrounds.

The main aim or intention of the event was promoting business and market expansion activities between India and Eswatini.

He said such an event also assisted in promoting and facilitating of businesses to various states of India in addition to promotion of their respective cultural heritage.

"Earlier, these events were called as Khanya Diwali, however, from this year onwards we are calling it 'India Day' so that it will have a wider appeal rather than only on one festival," he said.

He explained that by hosting such an event the aim was to try and involve more big businesses from India showcase products and services avail-



More people wanted to take pictures at the High Commission of India stall.



Rajesh Bhalla, Ajay Shorma, Brahmam Sajabatuni and Prasann Dubran.

able in India and how easily they can be procured for Eswatini.

"This year, we have handmade products from the States of Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

There will be information on the stakeholders of these products in India, which Eswatini businesspeople could easily get in touch with, allowing an excellent opening for import of various

ICCR benefitted locals with scholarships

Emaswati have benefitted more from the educational scholarships offered by the government of India.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers 900 academic scholarships annually to students from Africa. However, since the opening of resident Mission in Eswatini, High Commission has ensured fullest utilisation of allocated scholarship slots to Eswatini.

"In fact, as against 25 slots for the year 2020 to 21 Eswatini students not only utilised all the 25 slots but with the initiative of High Commission, an additional five more slots were approved by ICCR and for the academic year 2021 to 22, upon full utilisation of the 25 allocated scholarship slots, High Commission obtained 15 additional scholarships slots with the total number of scholarships reaching 40, for the year 2022 to 23 Eswatini students utilised all 25 slots. For the academic year 2023 to 24 Eswatini students utilised all 30 slots availed by ICCR," disclosed Ajay Sharma.

goods as also exporting their wares and products to India. A shirt can have a retail cost of about E150 in India whereas the same shirt could be sold at or above E500 in all branded stores in Eswatini," he explained. He said, this was an opportunity for Emaswati small business owners to reach out and make good money from the profit. He disclosed that a team of Emaswati of handcrafters, artisans and cultural troupe were expected to visit the Surajkund Mela early next year. He said through their Surajkund Mela they could establish B2B linkages for manufacturing some products in Eswatini, which could generate employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers.



RESEARCH ANALYST/JUNIOR ECONOMIST

The primary purpose of the role is to assist in the activities of the Policy & Research Department. The position reports to the Manager Policy & Research.

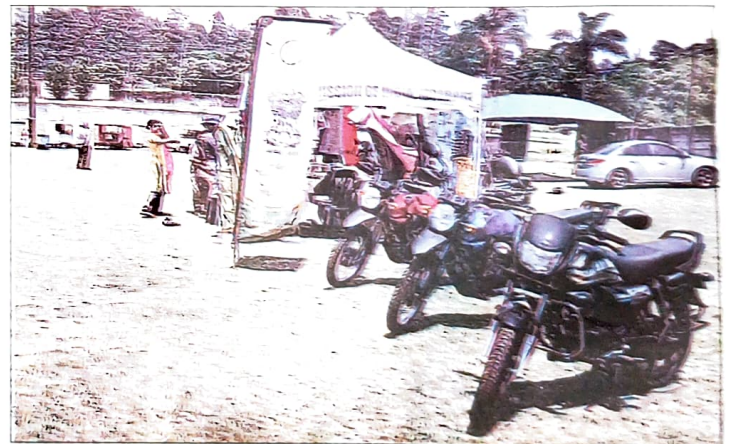
Duties include:

- Assist with conducting sector studies which will include instrument development and testing, data collection and analysis.
- Literature review including analysis of sector policies and markets.
- Assist in policy development and strategic planning within the Commission.
- Develop economic research papers.
- Assist in the design of remedies for complex mergers and restrictive trade practices.
- Prepare, compile, review, and write high quality reports, publications, including articles.

Required qualifications and Experience.

- Economics Degree from a recognised institution.
- A post graduate qualification in related field would be an advantage.
- Knowledge of research, economic principles and theory.
- Basic project management knowledge and experience.
- Appreciation of or regulations and competition analysis.
- Application of principles of logical and economic reasoning to a wide range of intellectual and practical scenarios.
- Be able to synthesise information and deal with a variation of variables.
- Ability to analyse and interpret legislation, technical procedures, and government regulations.
- Excellent report writing and presentation skills.
- Ability to pay attention to detail and taking pride in assigned tasks.
- Ability to meet deadlines and work under pressure.
- Drivers license an added advantage.

Applications with curriculum vitae, application letter, certified copies of certificates and references should be posted, hand delivered or emailed no later than **Thursday 30 November 2023**. The following address should be used: Executive Director, Eswatini Competition Commission, Highlands View (Mountain Inn area), Emoyeni Road, Mbabane or P.O. Box 1976, Mbabane or email to Info@compco.sz



Displays of bikes by the Commission of India.



Alfeyana from Home Made Cakes based in Mbabane also came through.



Roy Tshedze from the Ezulwini Handicraft also displayed his wares.