



# INDIA

## ESWATINI

# RELATIONS



### 1 YEAR+ IN Eswatini

A sneak preview of HCIMbabane's  
18 months in Eswatini

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The High Commissioner and her team Pg.12

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A must read !



In a major boost to India–Africa relations, the Union Cabinet of India chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2018, approved 18 new Indian Missions in Africa to be opened over a four year period between 2018 and 2021. This decision was taken to enhance India's diplomatic outreach in the African continent and allow India to engage with Indian diaspora in these African countries.

**State Visit of President of India to Eswatini :** On April 9-10, 2018, the Honourable President of India, accompanied by the First Lady and a delegation of a Minister, Members of Parliament and Senior Government Officials made the first ever State Visit to the Kingdom of Eswatini on the invitation of His Majesty King Mswati III. The commitment made during the visit by the President of India and duly recorded in the Joint Communique issued at the end of the visit has been fulfilled with the establishment of the first resident High Commission of India in Mbabane on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 on arrival and assumption of charge of Ms Radha Venkataraman as the High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Eswatini.



Upon arrival, the High Commissioner oversaw flag hoisting on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at the residence of the Hony Consul, Mbabane, and handed over copy of credentials to the Hon. Foreign Affairs Minister, Thuli Dladla. A visit to Royal Science & Technology Park which was built with Indian Line Of Credit followed.

8 Emaswati left for India after being awarded full Govt. of India ITEC scholarships.

In October the High Commissioner presented her Credentials to HMK Mswati III.





**LOZITHA** — His Majesty King Mswati III shakes hands with Indian Consul General Muna Ashraf, who led the Special Envoy Mahesh Sharma (facing camera) and his delegation to deliver a special message to the King at Lozitha Palace on Monday night. (Photo: Minister Ngwenyana)



His Majesty the King shakes hands with Special Envoy Mahesh Sharma while Indian Consul General Muna Ashraf (L), Pawan Kapoor and Kumar Rishi (R) look on.



**His Majesty King Mswati III with India PM, Shri Narendra Modi**



**His Majesty King Mswati III with Former President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee**



## EARLIER VISITS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES



**His Majesty King Mswati III with President Shri Ram Nath Kovind during his visit to Eswatini and President Kovind while inaugurating the Royal Science & Technology Park built through Indian Line of Credit**



# ROYAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PARK



The Royal Science and Technology Park, built through a US \$20m Line of Credit from India.

Another US \$10.4m Line of Credit is being offered by Indian Government for building of a Disaster Recovery Site at RSTP.



*President Ram Nath Kovind with late PM Barnabas Dlamini during the inauguration ceremony at RSTP*

To help enhance food security in the Kingdom, a project was completed in 2017 for agricultural development and farm mechanization through an Indian Line of Credit of \$37.9m resulting in six times growth of maize productivity in the Kingdom.







During the President's visit to the Kingdom in 2018 a donation of US \$ 1m was made to National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) as well as an in-kind donation of 700 tons of rice and 300 tons of beans.



A US \$108.28m line of credit has been offered to Eswatini by the Indian Government to build a landmark Parliament building in the Kingdom.





The Gandhi Solar Journey Movement of IIT Mumbai

reached Eswatini whereby the High Commission of India donated 200 solar lamps to 2 primary schools and 2 secondary schools in Sithobela, Lubombo region. The High Commissioner demonstrated assembly of the solar lamps to pupils in the company of Bertram Steward, Ministry of Education PS.

## Benchmarking Exercises for Eswatini

A team led by Hon. Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Senator Peter Bhembe visited India in November 2019 for studying Iron Ductpipe Production. An Iron Ore Beneficiation Feasibility study which is still under process is to follow by Steel Authority of India.



Hon. Minister of Justice Pholile Shakantu and Judicial team held a virtual meeting with National Judicial Academy, Bhopal. This was for studying various judicial areas of India. The High Commissioner was also took part in the meeting.



With full support from the Government of India, for the first time, a team of Artisans and Officers from SEDCO went to India for taking part in the Surajkund International Crafts Bazaar to showcase Eswatini in India and benchmark their handicraft products.



# E3M MEDICAL SUPPLIES DONATED



His Excellency, The Right Hon. Prime Minister, Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini with Hon. Health Minister, Lizzie Nkosi received from the Government of India E3m worth of essential medicines to combat COVID-19 in the Kingdom.

"This donation comes at a time when the country needs it most while battling with the prevalent Covid-19 pandemic," the Hon PM said while receiving the medicines.



## World's Pharmacy



# LUBUYANE DAM



High Commission of India, Mbabane released Grant Assistance of \$400,000 to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kingdom for the irrigation project on Lubuyane river for the Maphalaleni constituency. On completion, 50 homesteads will be able to raise themselves from subsistence farming to commercial farming. The grant which came in two installments was received by Hon. Minister of Agriculture Jabulani Mabuza.





# Plant a Tree & Save The Environment Campaign

In commemoration of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary Celebration, High Commission of India joined Eswatini's 'Plant a Tree & Save The Environment Campaign'. 150 Trees were planted at Coronation Park, with 50 trees from the Mbabane Municipal Council. In attendance were Hon. Minister of Tourism & Environmental Affairs, Moses Vilakati, His Lordship Mbabane Mayor, PS, Tourism Ministry, several Members of Parliament and officials from Municipal Council of Mbabane.



# Plant a Tree & Save The Environment Campaign

Consequent to the tree planting at Coronation Park, High Commission of India further planted 25 trees at Selection Park as part of the 'Climate Change Awareness Workshop' for women parliamentarians organised by the Eswatini Ministry of Tourism and Environment.





# KhanyaDiwali Bazaar

In November 2020 the High Commission of India organized its first ever Bazaar dubbed 'KhanyaDiwali Bazaar' - in celebration of Deepawali Festival. This was in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (Department of Handicrafts) and Ezulwini Municipality. The event was held at Ezulwini Handicrafts Market where local artisans and Indian business people in the Kingdom were given a platform to showcase their items to the visitors that made it to the Bazaar. High Commission of India funded the inaugural bazaar which was a grand success and saw a few Ministers, Mayors, Diplomatic Corps, prominent dignitaries and the general public in attendance. Handicraft, Indian and Eswatini cuisine and wear, children's face painting and more were part of the program on that day.



The High Commission plans to host this event on an annual basis, around the same time as Deepawali Festival every year to highlight local artisans and handicrafts.





Indian Council for Cultural Relations  
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद्

# Study in India!

India offers 25 Academic scholarships to Eswatini every year through Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships.

Since 2017 till date 44 Eswatini have availed of this scholarship for academic courses ranging from Engineering in Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, Computer Science, post graduation in Biology, Public Health and Epidemiology, Geo-informatics, Economics, Cyber Security, Botany, Forensic Science and undergraduate courses in Physics, Chemistry, Math, Botany, Business Administration, Commerce, Journalism and Mass communication and many more.



Every year announcement for scholarship for the particular academic year is placed on the High Commission's Website for applicants attention, and submission online.

To apply for a fully funded Indian Scholarship, the applicant must have all documents in PDF format, then log onto the High Commission's website at [www.hcimbabane.gov.in](http://www.hcimbabane.gov.in). Click on the Education link and a drop-down menu will appear. Choose ICCR scholarship from that menu. At the bottom of the page click on A2A Online Portal for redirection to a new web page. From the new home page, create an account by using your personal email and password of choice (applicant may use password they will easily remember). Upon successful registration of account, scroll to the different universities to choose any university of choice which offers the course you are looking for. The applicant may then download Medical Form to be filled by Government Hospitals [N.B. applicants with Chronic Diseases would not be successful in enrolling]. That form may then be scanned and uploaded on to the web page form together with academic certificates. Wait for a response email from the university in India. Once mail is received forward it to HCI Mbabane at [cons.mbabane@mea.gov.in](mailto:cons.mbabane@mea.gov.in). Further steps will be communicated with the applicant by HCI Mbabane.

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Latest batch of selected ICCR students at HCI offices before leaving for India



# Train in India!



## India's Capacity Building Training Programmes

Nearly 184 Eswatini got the benefit of capacity building training under various eITEC/ITEC courses of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India in 2020.

- Technical & Vocational Education & Training (TVET) to meet the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (12 TVET Trainers under Ministry of Education)
- Regulatory Procedures, Best Practices for Promoting Technology Cooperation, Particularly for Mitigation of Covid-19 organised in December 2020 (10 Senior officers of NDMA)
- Capacity Development on Voter Registration and Capacity Building on Electoral Technology (9 Senior officers of Eswatini Elections & Boundaries Commission)
- Training Programme on Legislative Drafting (42 Legal Officers from Attorney General's Office headed by PS, M/o Justice & Constitutional Affairs)
- Policing During Pandemic Times (6 Senior Police Officers from Eswatini Royal Police Service and HM's Correctional Services)
- Solar Electrification & Rainwater Harvesting - (6 Solar Mamas from various regions of Eswatini) and Concept to Commissioning of Solar Power(1)
- Cyber Security/Digital Forensics/Investigation of Cyber Crimes/Role of Forensics in Combating Terrorism (10 Eswatini Royal Police Officers)
- Remote Sensing for Geoscientists (1), Innovative Leadership (1), Wind Turbine Technology (1), Social Media for Govt Officials (1), SME Policy (1), Leadership Skills in Digital Era(1), Educational Applications Using Web Technologies(1), Corporate Governance & Excellence in management of Public Enterprises (1)
- Receipt & Compliance Audit/Audit of E-Governance/Environment Audit/Government Accounting and Financial Management (6 Auditors)
- Performance and Compliance Audit - (51 Auditors from Auditor General's Office)
- Gender Inclusive Governance for Policymakers (24 participants from NDMA, Correctional Services and M/o Justice)



# Others



On High Commission's recommendation the Board of Directors of IBSA Fund have approved in January 2021 nearly US\$1m for WASH initiative of NDMA. This will be implemented through the UNRC office in Eswatini. This WASH proposal of NDMA is for rain water harvesting , hygiene behavior improvement as well as improving food security in rural areas made possible through irrigation for backyard gardens and innovative climate smart agriculture technologies etc.



The High Commission of India in Mbabane helped Sithobela Hon. Member of Parliament Bheki Dlamini in creation of a project for women empowerment by providing them with sewing machines.



The High Commission sponsored construction of a tool house for RISE Community for one of the vegetable gardens in Nkilongo Inkhundla in Big Bend, Lubombo region.

HCI coordinated safe return home of six successful Emaswati graduates of ITEC course on Solar Engineering of Barefoot College, through a chartered flight from Mumbai to Johannesburg on 18th September 2020. Their return home was delayed due to Covid-19 induced travel restrictions.



HCI also coordinated safe return home to India of several sets of Indian nationals stuck in Eswatini due to cancellation of commercial flights. This was done through Vande Bharat and other Charter flights from Johannesburg.





# THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND HER TEAM



**Name:** Radha Venkataraman

**Date of Birth:** April 22

**Marital Status:** Single

**Education:** Master's Degree in Sociology , Diploma in Russian and limited knowledge of Serbo-Croatian, German and Portuguese languages & fluent in English, Hindi and Tamil.

Joined the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in 1982. Has served under different capacities in Belgrade, Bonn, Minsk, Lisbon, Thimpu, Kandy and New Delhi and has handled various aspects of diplomatic work covering Administration, Publicity, Human Resource capacity training, Parliament & Coordination, Consular and Public Relations.

She was the first lady Liaison Officer to HH the Dalai Lama and served in Dharamshala from 2008 to 2010. She was the Head of Chancery in the Embassy of India, Thimphu from December 2011 to November 2014 and went on to become the Assistant High Commissioner of India at Kandy (Sri Lanka) from December 2014 to December 2017.

She assumed charge as High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Eswatini on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2019.



Team High Commission of India Mbabane consists of five officers from India and five locally recruited staff members who were selected in January 2020 to join the High Commission. Details of the officers and staff of the High Commission can be accessed through our website [www.hcimbabane.gov.in/High Commission/High Commission Officials](http://www.hcimbabane.gov.in/High%20Commission/High%20Commission%20Officials).

# Engagement with the Indian Community in Eswatini

Through out these 18 months HCI continued to engage with the Indian Diaspora in Eswatini by organizing gathering for Vishwa Hindi Diwas, Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, Prakash Parv, Cultural Evening, Holi Festival, National Days of India, International Day of Yoga, Teachers Day, 70th Anniversary of Constitution Day of India, awareness campaigns for combating COVID 19 etc. Excepting for the lock down period March 27 to May 12, HCI continued to work from its premises at the UN House and served the Indian community with consular services for attestation of documents and reissue of passports, registration of births and deaths, issue of passports to new borns etc. In all 323 services were rendered during this period. The High Commission also stayed in touch and periodically updated the Indian community of various developments in India through digital means.



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