

**High Commission of India
Victoria, Seychelles.**

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PRESS RELEASE

Project Handover Ceremony at Mont Fleuri Secondary School & Plaisance Primary School on Monday, 14 September 2020, 0930-1130 Hrs

The High commissioner of India, General Dalbir Singh Suhag conducted the Project handover ceremony for the 'Renovation Works' at Mont Fleuri Secondary School & Plaisance Primary School which was executed under the High Impact Community Development Projects Phase-1 (HICDP) funded under India's grant assistance.

Dignitaries and guests present on the occasion were Secretary of State for the Department of Foreign Affairs & Blue Economy, H.E. Amb. Barry Faure; Principal Secretary for School Education, Dr. Odile Comarmond and the Head Teachers of the respective School, Mr. Mark Hoareau and Mrs. Therese Athanase.

Speaking at the two separate functions organised at each of the schools, the High Commissioner said that he was happy to note that with this event, 10th and the 11th projects of the 33 High Impact Community Development Projects costing SCR 35 Million (USD 2.5 Million) which are spread across various Ministries and Departments, and in fact across all the 3 Main Inner Islands of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue are being handed over. These come as a direct grant-in-aid from the people of India to their Seselwa brethren for their community developmental aspects. It is to be noted that India's developmental partnerships are marked by respect for partners, diversity, care for the future and sustainable development and does not come with any conditions, nor is it influenced by any political or commercial considerations.

While the project in Mont Fleuri Secondary School in particular, costing SCR 2.43 Million (USD 135,000), covers 'General Renovation Works – External painting, Reinstating windows, doors & ceiling, toilet renovation and floor screeding etc', the project in Plaisance Primary School covers 'General Renovation Works – External painting, Reinstating windows & doors, renovation of toilets, construction of guard rails around the crèche courtyard and floor screeding' at total cost of SCR 4 Million with SCR 2 Million covered under Indian Grant. The project were awarded to Seychelles based, 'GNC Constructions' and 'Charles Builders and Maintenance' respectively. High Commissioner said that he was delighted to note that the project has been completed within the scheduled period. All of these projects under implementation as part of High Impact Community Development

Projects (HICDP) shall not only generate more employment and business opportunities to Seselwa, but also touch the lives of each and every one of them!

All of such noble works are being carried out in Seychelles, inspite of all hindrances posed in front of both the Governments of India & Seychelles due to COVID-19. This is the level of commitment and dedication the High Commission of India devotes for the community level project assistance for its best maritime neighbour and friend, Seychelles!

The High Commissioner addressed the children and the day's activity also coincides with our year-long celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of the world epitome of Peace and Non-Violence, Mahatma Gandhi. The United Nations General Assembly unanimously passed a resolution declaring his birthday, 2nd October as the 'International Day of Non-Violence'. The principles that he practiced and propagated through his life are worthwhile to emulate even to this date.

Government of India, taking the footsteps of the Mahatma, has pioneered many initiatives for fighting against climate change and for sustainability including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), wherein more than 75 countries have already ratified their cooperation and it is a proud moment that Seychelles is one of the founding members of the ISA and will be availing Solar Implementations to the extent of USD 8.7 Million under this development partnership arrangement directly from the people of India. This would cover rooftop solar installations in various government building, housing units and even solar street lighting in various locations in Mahe, Praslin and La Digue. In fact, the Government of India has committed more than USD 1 Billion Concessional Credit Lines for the Solar Projects under ISA in the African countries alone.

While the High Commissioner gifted 800 washable and re-usable cotton face masks to the Mont Fleuri Secondary School management to be distributed to all the students and the faculty, he gifted 1200 such facemasks to Plaisance Primary School to be distributed amongst more than 1000 students in the school. It is to be noted that Plaisance Primary School is the largest school in the country and it was expressed by both the sides that covering for the requirement for the entire strength of the school student and faculty shall go a long way in our collective fight against COVID-19 pandemic in Seychelles.

As part of the ceremony at the Mont Fleuri Secondary School, the High Commissioner also donated 20 books for the School Library. The High Commissioner concluded his speech by thanking and saying that he looked forward to more such opportunities to meet and greet them in the near future.











