



**National** March 26, 2025

# India, Cambodia strengthen ties with MoUs on QIPs

Taing Rinith / Khmer Times



Information Minister Neth Pheaktra (R) signs two MoUs with the Indian Ambassador to Cambodia, Vanlalvawna Bawitlung for Quick Impact Projects on Community Support for Schooling and Solar Energy on Monday. KT/Khem Sovannara

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India and Cambodia have taken another step toward strengthening their bilateral relations with the signing of two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) on Monday.



These agreements pave the way for the implementation of two Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) aimed at enhancing education and expanding access to clean energy in Cambodia.

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The MoUs were signed by Neth Pheaktra, Minister of Information, and Vanlalvawna Bawitlung, Indian Ambassador to Cambodia, on behalf of their respective governments. The two initiatives covered under these agreements are Solar Energy to Access Information and Improve Knowledge and Community Support for Schooling in Kratie province.

The Community Support for Schooling project will provide bicycles to students in rural areas, addressing transportation challenges that often lead to school dropouts. By improving mobility, the initiative aims to reduce absenteeism, lower travel costs, and promote a sustainable and healthier mode of commuting for students. This support is expected to significantly benefit students in Kratie province, where long travel distances often hinder regular school attendance.

The Solar Energy to Access Information and Improve Knowledge project will equip 60 households and 35 community locations in Snuol commune, Kratie province, with solar home systems. The initiative is designed to ensure reliable electricity access in remote areas, improve quality of life, and contribute to environmental sustainability by promoting clean energy solutions.

During the MoU signing ceremony, Ambassador Bawitlung reaffirmed India's commitment to supporting Cambodia's socio-economic development. He emphasised India's long-standing partnership with Cambodia and highlighted how these initiatives align with the shared vision of inclusive growth and community empowerment.

The QIPs are part of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) framework, through which India provides annual grant assistance for 10 projects in Cambodia. These projects focus on key areas such as education, healthcare, women's empowerment, and information technology. To date, 61 QIPs have been sanctioned in Cambodia, with 42 successfully completed and 19 currently underway.

The QIP scheme, under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) initiative, provides grant assistance for 10 projects annually in Cambodia, focussing on key socio-economic sectors such as education, health, sanitation, women's empowerment, and agriculture.

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To date, India has sanctioned 60 QIPs in Cambodia, with 42 successfully completed and 18 currently in progress.

India and Cambodia share a rich history of cultural and economic ties, further strengthened by India's Act East Policy and ASEAN cooperation. Cambodia remains a key partner in India's regional strategy, and collaborative projects like these reinforce the commitment to sustainable development and mutual progress.



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