

**Ambassador's Speech at the launch ceremony of the QIP
"Expanding Traditional Heritage Opportunities for Women Pattern
Setters (Chorabab) in Khsach Kandal District"**

08 May 2025

Namashkar! Chum reap sur, Good morning,

Her Excellency Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Honorable Minister of Women's Affairs,

Distinguished guests and the inspiring women of Khsach Kandal District

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I stand before you today to co-chair the launch of the "Expanding Traditional Heritage Opportunities for Women Pattern Setters (Chorabab) in Khsach Kandal District" alongside Your Excellency. This occasion marks a significant step in our shared journey to empower women, preserve Cambodia's rich cultural heritage and foster economic growth. On behalf of the Government and people of India, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Ministry of Women's Affairs for their leadership and commitment to this noble cause.

India and Cambodia share a deep bond, rooted in historical ties, cultural affinity, and a mutual aspiration for inclusive progress. Our collaboration on this project, supported by a grant assistance from India, reflects our collective dedication to advancing gender equality and economic empowerment. This initiative, implemented by the Ministry of Women's Affairs, is designed to uplift approximately 100 women weavers

in Khsach Kandal by equipping them with the tools, skills, and opportunities to excel as pattern setters, or Chorabab, in the traditional art of weaving.

By enhancing technical skills, fostering creativity, and integrating digital and ICT tools, the project aims to elevate the quality and market demand for Chorabab weaving products. This will not only increase income generation for these talented women but also strengthen their role as entrepreneurs and leaders in their communities. Moreover, by preserving and promoting traditional weaving practices, we are safeguarding an integral part of Cambodia's cultural identity, which binds communities and inspires national pride.

Under the Quick Impact Project scheme of the Mekong Ganga Cooperation, since 2015-16, the Government of India has approved 64 projects to advance Cambodia's socio-economic development. These initiatives, spanning education, IT, agriculture, health, sanitation, child welfare, women's empowerment, gender equality, capacity building, and environmental sustainability, deliver immediate and visible benefits to local communities.

I am pleased to note that, of these 64 projects, the Embassy of India has partnered with the Ministry of Women's Affairs to implement 9 projects focused on women's empowerment, sanitation, and education, among other areas.

I extend my gratitude to Your Excellency and the Ministry for this collaboration. Let us continue to work hand in hand to uplift women and celebrate Cambodia's vibrant heritage.

Thank you, Som Orkun!