Embassy of India
Guatemala City
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PRESS RELEASE

Ambassador of India receives the Keys to the City of Quetzaltenango in recognition of his contribution to the local community

In a distinguished ceremony held on 14 April 2025 in the Hall of Honour of the Quetzaltenango Municipality, the Municipal Council conferred the Keys to the City upon H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of the Republic of India to Guatemala. This prestigious honor recognizes Ambassador Mohapatra's outstanding contributions to the local community and his instrumental role in strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Guatemala, particularly with Quetzaltenango and neighboring municipalities.

2. During his tenure, Ambassador Mohapatra has spearheaded several transformative initiatives that have had a lasting impact on the Municipality of Quetzaltenango. These include the donation of essential medicines to bolster local healthcare services, in line with India's philosophy of *Sarbe Santu Niramaya (let everyone remain healthy)*, the creation of hundreds of employment opportunities through Indian enterprises, the promotion of technological advancements, development of infrastructure by Indian companies, and active support for community-driven development programs. His efforts embody India's broader commitment to promoting social and economic progress in Guatemala.

3. The event was graced by the Honourable Mayor H.E. Mr. Juan Fernando López, members of the Municipal Council, diplomatic representatives, and distinguished members of civil society. The award symbolizes the deep appreciation of the people of Quetzaltenango for Ambassador Mohapatra's remarkable service and the enduring partnership between the two nations.

4. In his acceptance remarks, Ambassador Mohapatra expressed profound gratitude and humility. He acknowledged the robust and growing India–Guatemala partnership and reaffirmed his commitment to working together for the benefit of the people of Xela, united by shared aspirations

for progress and prosperity. He extended heartfelt thanks to Mayor López, the Municipal Council, and the vibrant community of Quetzaltenango for the singular honor. Mayor López praised Ambassador Mohapatra as a true friend of Quetzaltenango, highlighting his impactful contributions in the fields of healthcare, employment, and development. He emphasized that the gesture of presenting the Keys to the City reflects the city's gratitude and its desire to further deepen bilateral cooperation. The awarding of the Keys to the City to Ambassador Mohapatra is not only a testament to his distinguished service but also a reaffirmation of the mutual desire to strengthen collaboration between India and Quetzaltenango within the framework of a supportive and development-oriented diplomacy.

5. A particularly memorable highlight of the ceremony was the moving rendition of the Indian National Anthem performed by the Xela Orchestra, a tribute that was deeply appreciated by the Embassy of India. This artistic gesture symbolized the cultural respect and growing closeness between the people of India and Guatemala.

6. The Embassy of India reiterates its commitment to supporting initiatives that contribute to the welfare of Guatemalan communities and looks forward to fostering new avenues of cooperation in the years ahead.

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Quetzaltenango, 14 April 2025