

72nd INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

HIGH LEVEL ENGAGEMENTS



VISIT OF PM OF INDIA TO NEPAL

Shri Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to Nepal from 11-12 May 2018 at the invitation of the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. KP Sharma Oli. The Prime Minister offered prayers at Janaki Mandir in Janakpur, Muktinath & Pashupatinath. He was felicitated at civic receptions in Janakpur & Kathmandu.

- ▶ The two Prime Ministers laid the foundation stone of 900 MW Arun III Hydro Electric Power Project in Nepal.
- ▶ The two Prime Ministers launched the Nepal-India Ramayana Circuit by flagging off a bus service between Janakpur to Ayodhya.
- ▶ PM Modi announced an assistance of INR 100 crores for development of Janakpur and nearby areas.



VISIT OF PM OF NEPAL TO INDIA

At the invitation of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, the Rt. Hon'ble Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal and his spouse Mrs. Radhika Shakya, paid a State Visit to India from 06-08 April 2018. This was PM Oli's first visit abroad after assuming the office of the Prime Minister in February 2018.

- ▶ The two Prime Ministers inaugurated the Integrated Check Post at Birgunj.
- ▶ The two Prime Ministers witnessed the ground breaking ceremony of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj cross-border petroleum products pipeline at Motihari.
- ▶ The two Governments agreed to develop new connectivity between India and Nepal through Inland Waterways and expanding rail linkages connecting Raxaul (India) to Kathmandu (Nepal).
- ▶ A new partnership in Agriculture between India and Nepal was launched.



VISIT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India visited Kathmandu from 1-2 February 2018.

- ▶ The visit was in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level political exchanges between India and Nepal.
- ▶ The External Affairs Minister called on Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal and Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal; and also held talks with leaderships of major political parties.

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 72nd Independence Day of India, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the entire Indian community living in Nepal as also our Nepali friends.



It is a matter of pride for us that India is making rapid progress and is the fastest growing large economy in the world. Significant achievements in the fields of economic development, science and technology and infrastructural advancements have helped improve the lives of all sections of our society, paving the way for a resurgent India on the global stage.

India and Nepal have age-old ties that cement our common cultural ethos and civilizational heritage. These are reinforced by our multi-faceted economic ties and development partnership.

The State Visits of Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli to India in April, 2018 and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Nepal in May, 2018 have invigorated these close and cordial relations and opened the path for exploring new areas of cooperation in the field of agriculture, railway connectivity and inland waterways. The two Prime Ministers inaugurated the state of the art Integrated Check Post at Birgunj and laid the foundation stone of the 900 MW Arun III Hydropower project. India is committed to partner Nepal in its quest for prosperity and the Government of Nepal's objective of "Samridhdha Nepal, Sukhi Nepali".

JAI HIND.

15th August, 2018

(M.S. Puri)

TOGETHER ON THE PATH TO PROSPERITY

FACILITATING SMOOTH TRADE & TRANSIT INTEGRATED CHECK POSTS



India is Nepal's largest trading partner with bilateral trade volume to the tune of NRs.675.11 bn & 39% of total approved FDI from India. With an aim to further strengthening trade, commerce and economic cooperation and people to people contacts, Integrated Check Posts [ICPs] at India-Nepal borders [viz. Birgunj, Biratnagar, Bhairahawa, and Nepalgunj] are at various stages of construction at an estimated cost of NRs.8248 mn. These ICPs will have mirror facilities on the Indian side at Raxaul, Jogbani, Sunauli and Rupandehi. The ICPs will have

Customs and immigration facilities, Security and Scanning equipment, Currency exchange booths, Internet facility, Cargo processing units, Warehouse and Cold storage, Health and Quarantine facilities, Banks and other public utilities on the location under CCTV supervision. The ICPs at Raxaul and Jogbani on the India side are completed. Importantly, on 7 April 2018, Rt. Hon'ble PM of Nepal Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli and Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Birgunj during the visit of PM Oli to India.

RAMAYANA CIRCUIT



Prime Ministers of India and Nepal jointly launched Nepal-India Ramayana Circuit connecting Janakpur, the birthplace of Sita with Ayodhya and other cities associated with the epic Ramayana. To this end, the two Prime Ministers flagged

off the inaugural direct bus service between Janakpur and Ayodhya from Janakpur. Operations of the direct bus service would further strengthen the close religious and cultural ties between peoples of the two countries.

ARUN III PROJECT



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. KP Sharma Oli jointly laid the foundation stone of the 900 MW Arun - III Hydro-electric Project in Nepal. The foundation laying event was held in Kathmandu

during the visit of PM Modi to Nepal in May 2018. The two Prime Ministers expressed hope that operationalization of the Project would help enhancing cooperation in generation and trade of power between the two countries.

ENHANCING SOCIO-ECONOMIC RELATION STRATEGIC RAIL NETWORKS



During the visit of Rt. Hon'ble PM of Nepal Mr. KP Sharma Oli to India in April 2018, an announcement was made towards expanding rail linkages connecting Raxaul in India to Kathmandu in Nepal. The proposed rail network, financed by India, will further enhance connectivity and people-to-people contacts

between the two countries. Besides, on the ongoing rail projects; railway lines from Jayanagar to Janakpur/Kurtha and from Jogbani to Biratnagar Custom Yard are progressing steadily, while work on the remaining stretch i.e. Jayanagar-Bijalpur-Bardibas and Jogbani-Biratnagar is on priority.

LIBRARY BUILDING AT NEPAL ACADEMY



On 10 July 2018, Rt. Hon'ble PM of Nepal Mr. KP Sharma Oli inaugurated a three-storeyed Library building for Nepal Academy, Kathmandu, in the presence of Ambassador of India to Nepal Shri Manjeev Singh Puri. Other attendees were Minister for Culture, Tourism and

Civil Aviation of Nepal Mr. Rabindra Adhikari and representatives from related ministries among others. The Library, built with Indian assistance of NRs.43.94 million, has state of the art facilities including research and reference facilities and an advanced offset press for printing.

POST-EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION SUPPORT IN HOUSING SECTOR



As part of the Government of India (GoI)'s announcement to support post-earthquake reconstruction of Gorkha and Nuwakot districts, GoI signed Partnership Agreements with UNDP and UNOPS on 8 March 2018 to provide social and technical facilitation to identified beneficiaries to build safe and earthquake compliant homes as per GoN norms.

To this end, on 27 July 2018, Ambassador of India to Nepal Shri Manjeev Singh Puri handed over a cheque amounting NPR 2.1 billion to Finance Secretary of Nepal Dr. Rajan Khanal as reimbursement of 1st tranche of the housing support. Government of India remains committed to continue supporting the people and Government of Nepal in post-earthquake reconstruction process.