

CELEBRATING 75TH REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



As India celebrates its 75th Republic Day, I extend warm greetings to my fellow Indians and friends of India in Nepal. On this day in 1950, India's constitution came into effect, embodying the hopes and aspirations of a nation. Today, as we celebrate this milestone, we also reaffirm our resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047 as envisioned by our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

India's progress on its journey to become a developed nation in this 'Amrit Kaal' is also manifested in a more dynamic Neighbourhood First policy with the guiding philosophy of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas*. This is underlined in our relationship with Nepal where the millennia old civilizational links are being transformed into a modern partnership for mutual benefit.

The visit of the Right Hon'ble Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal to India in May-June 2023, was a milestone in this regard. Prime Minister Prachanda and Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi took several decisions to provide impetus to our ties and to make our partnership 'SuperHIT'. These decisions included announcements to construct new Integrated Check Posts (ICP), agreement on the Revised Transit Treaty that provides for access to India's inland waterways for Nepal's transit cargo, cross border freight rail operations, building of new motorable bridges at Shirsha and Jhulaghat to connect Nepal's far-west to India and facilitation of digital payments for seamless financial connectivity.

Both countries have made significant strides towards enhancing energy connectivity. The inauguration of three new 132 kV cross-border transmission lines, groundbreaking of the Indian portion of 400 kV Gorakhpur-New Butwal transmission line, MoU between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) for cooperation in renewables, foundation stone laying of Phase-II of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj Pipeline and an MoU for new oil pipelines between Amlekhgunj-Chitwan and Siliguri-Jhapa will help strengthen our cooperation across the entire spectrum of energy.

The decision to conclude a Long Term Agreement on Power Trade by the two Prime Ministers has added a new chapter. This Agreement, which was signed earlier this month, strives to increase the quantum of export of power from Nepal to India to 10,000 MW within a timeframe of ten years. Nepal has in 2023 exported hydro-power worth NPR 15 billion to India. This export showcases the immense potential of this mutually beneficial cooperation. The two countries are also in the process of enhancing regional trade in power with Bangladesh.

As a trusted friend and partner, India also remains the First Responder in the time of crises. Following the unfortunate earthquake in Jajarkot, India provided immediate relief supplies. During recent visit of the External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S Jaishankar to Nepal, fifth tranche of relief material was handed over to Nepal, including prefabricated houses and other essential supplies. India has also announced financial assistance of NPR 1000 crore to support Nepal's reconstruction

efforts.

Last year also saw our partnership evolve and expand to new frontiers. We have concluded an agreement for launch of a satellite developed by students of Nepal Academy of Science & Technology. Further, India's capabilities in areas such as space technology, showcased by Chandrayaan-3 Mission, also open up new avenues for cooperation in the future. Cricket has emerged as an exciting area of cooperation that will further strengthen our people-to-people ties, which have been a cornerstone of our age-old relationship. Digital Public Infrastructure and PM GatiShakti for Multimodal Connectivity are other areas where India's experience can be of use to Nepal as it proceeds on its developmental journey.

India and Nepal are also working together in global arena too. Nepal's constructive participation under Finance Track of the G20 Summit last year which was chaired by India as well as in the Voice of Global South Summits hosted by India reflect this. India's successful G20 Presidency, themed 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', underlined the need for promoting strong as well as sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth and highlighted the unique needs and aspirations of developing nations. It provides new opportunities for India and Nepal to further enhance coordination.

I am confident that in 2024 both countries will continue to take steps to take our multifaceted partnership to greater heights for the prosperity of our peoples.

(Naveen Srivastava)

STRENGTHENING INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONSHIP



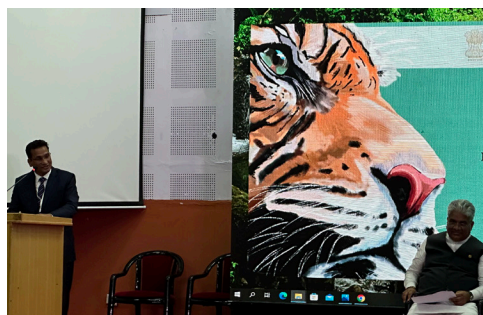
o The visit of Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to India in May-June 2023 witnessed historic decisions following his discussions with Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, including related to long-term power trade, development of hydropower projects, new petroleum pipelines, and cross-border payments.



o Strengthening South-South Cooperation: Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' participated in the 2nd Voice of Global Summit in November 2023. Nepal also participated in the 1st Voice of Global Summit held in Jan 2023.



o Finance Minister of Nepal participated in the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit held from 10-12 Jan 2024. Nepal was also a Partner Country along with Japan, Finland, Germany, UAE, etc. for the Summit.

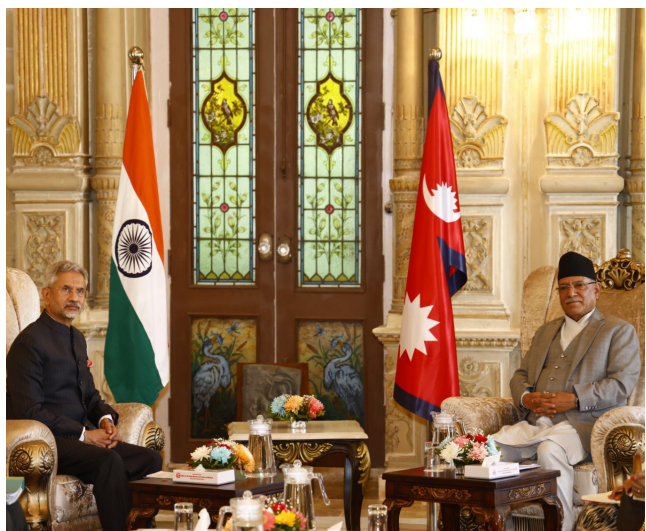


o Minister for Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation, Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet attended the launch of the International Big Cat Alliance for conservation of seven big cats namely tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma in Mysuru on 9 April 2023.



o Former Deputy Prime Minister & Finance Minister, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paudel attended the First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting at Bengaluru, Karnataka from 24-25 Feb 2023. The meeting was held during G20 Presidency of India.

VISIT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER



o External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S Jaishankar paid an official visit to Nepal from 4-5 Jan 2024 for the 7th meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission. The meeting of the Commission reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation between India and Nepal. During his visit, agreements were signed for Long Term Power Trade; Launch Service for Munal Satellite developed by Nepal Academy of Science & Technology; Cooperation in Renewable Energy Development between NTPC Limited and Nepal Electricity Authority; and Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal. EAM Dr. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. N.P. Saud jointly inaugurated three 132 kV cross-border transmission lines between India and Nepal: the second circuit of Raxaul-Parwanipur line; the second circuit of Katalya-Kusaha line; and the New Nautanwa-Mainhiya lines. The two Ministers also inaugurated 59 post-earthquake reconstruction projects in education, health and culture sectors, including the new building of Tribhuvan University Central Library building, built with Government of India's grant assistance. During his visit, EAM Dr. S Jaishankar called on Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal, Mr. Ram Chandra Paudel and Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.

NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST: INDIA'S RELIEF EFFORTS



o India has been the first responder to Nepal in times of crisis, be it the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, COVID-19 pandemic or the recent earthquake in Jajarkot and West Rukum districts. Following the Jajarkot Earthquake, India responded with immediate relief supplies and provided 5 tranches of relief materials, including tents, tarpaulin sheets, blankets, and sleeping bags along with essential medicines and medical equipment. India has also announced financial assistance NPR 1000 crore to support Nepal's reconstruction efforts.



INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY "ONE EARTH . ONE FAMILY . ONE FUTURE"



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP



o The year 2023 marked the 20-year milestone of the High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP), encompassing over 550 projects in priority sectors of Government of Nepal, with a total grant assistance of over NPR 12 billion.



o Motihari-Amlekhgunj Pipeline (Phase-II) along with additional new pipelines at Amlekhgunj-Chitwan and Siliguri-Jhapa and construction of greenfield terminals at Chitwan and Jhapa will strengthen energy connectivity.



o Under the post-earthquake 2015 reconstruction, more than 100 reconstruction projects in Health, Education, and Cultural sectors have been inaugurated since the beginning of 2023, including Tribhuvan University Central Library.

SECTORAL COOPERATION



o A delegation from Nepal visited India from 13-19 Oct 2023 to see various aspects of implementation of PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity.



o 11th meeting of the Joint Steering Committee on Power Sector Cooperation was held in Chitwan on 5 January 2024. The meeting comprehensively reviewed the bilateral power sector cooperation.



974 Ambulances Gifted 234 School Buses Gifted

DEFENCE COOPERATION



Surya Kiran: 17th iteration of the India-Nepal Joint Military Exercise 'Surya Kiran', was conducted in India in Dec 2023 where an Infantry Battalion from each country trained together.



o Fifteenth Meeting of the India-Nepal Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues was held at Pokhara in Nepal in Oct 2023. The discussions covered issues relating to mutual security & defence cooperation.

EDUCATION & TRAINING COOPERATION



o Around 1500 scholarships are provided every year by India to Nepali nationals for undergoing various courses in India as well in Nepal.



For Study In Nepal
500 Under the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship Scheme (MGSS) for studying in XI & XII.
200 Under Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (GJSS) for various Undergraduate courses.
For Study India
700 For various Undergraduate, Postgraduate and PhD courses.
33 For studying in Army Public Schools in India



Under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), in calendar year 2023, 500 professionals from Nepal were trained in 91 courses in 47 prominent institutes of India such as IIT Roorkee, IIM Kozhikode, St. Stephen College of University of Delhi etc.

CULTURAL CONNECT



India-Nepal Cultural Festival was organized in Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, in Dec 2023 to showcase the rich cultural heritage and traditions of India and Nepal, with a focus on Buddhism.



Dashain Mahotsav was held on 14 Oct 2023 to celebrate the shared cultural heritage of India and Nepal. The event witnessed performances by an emerging Nepali band Sonagi Blues and students of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre.