

CELEBRATING 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA



POWERING TIES: EAM'S LANDMARK VISIT TO NEPAL

Hon'ble External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, concluded a successful visit to Nepal in January 2024. During the visit, a long-term power agreement was signed under which both the countries will strive to increase the export of power from Nepal to India to 10,000 MW in the next 10 years. Three more agreements were also signed for cooperation in the field of renewable energy cooperation, the Munal Satellite launch, and High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs). In the new Agreement, the budgetary ceiling for implementation of HICDPs has been increased from NPR 5 crore to NPR 20 crore. Furthermore, EAM along with his counterpart jointly inaugurated three 132 KV cross-border transmission lines between India and Nepal, namely, the second circuit of Raxaul-Parwanipur line, the second circuit of Kataiya-Kusaha line, and the New Nautanwa-Mainhiya line. To support Nepal's reconstruction after the recent earthquake in Jajarkot, EAM also announced that the Government of India would be providing a financial assistance package of approx. NPR 1,000 crores.

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



It is my distinct honour to extend warm greetings to my fellow Indian citizens and Friends of India in Nepal on the occasion of 78th Independence Day of India. Seventy seven years ago on this day our nation broke the shackles of centuries of colonial rule. We decided to chart our future in a newly independent country where all Indians would be able to pursue their aspirations and realise their full potential. Our founding fathers ensured that we could do so in a democratic polity where justice, liberty and equality is guaranteed for all the citizens. In the last more than seven decades since that historic day we have as a nation made tremendous progress. The strength of our democracy has been repeatedly demonstrated through free and fair elections including earlier this year when India organized the largest such exercise in the world.

Today, India has emerged as the fastest growing major economic power that is playing an increasingly important role in global affairs reflected for instance, by its successful Presidency of G-20 Summit in the past year. Other notable recent achievements include the successful landing of the Chandrayaan-3 on the south side of Moon highlighting progress and prowess in scientific domain as also victories in the ICC T20 World Cup and other international tournaments showcasing sporting skills.

As a leading developing country, India is also taking forward its commitment to ensure that the

priorities of Global South are factored in even as the international community collectively addresses the most pressing global challenges. In this regard India has brought together the countries of Global South on a platform through the Voice of Global South Summits. Nepal has also participated in these summits at the highest level. High level exchanges between the leaders of India and Nepal including the visit of External Affairs Minister of India to Nepal earlier this year, the visit in June 2024 of the then Prime Minister of Nepal to India to participate in the swearing-in ceremony of the new Government and recent exchange of congratulatory messages between leaders testify to the strong bonds of friendship between our two countries. The strong linkages that India shares with Nepal are also rooted in the deep and historical people-to-people relationship a reflection of which is the support that was extended by several prominent personalities of Nepal during our Independence movement.

As Nepal moves ahead in its developmental journey India will continue to be a steadfast partner. This commitment is manifested in the rapid progress and continued momentum of a number of infrastructure and development projects being undertaken as per priorities of Nepal with India's assistance. Such projects also help in enhancing physical, digital, energy and people-to-people connectivity. Several projects have been launched in the last one year including the start of cross-border digital payments system which will help promote tourism and operationalization of the Integrated Check Post

(ICP) at Nepalgunj that would lead to enhanced trade. Both our Governments are working to ensure early completion of various other ongoing infrastructure and connectivity projects, including new cross border railway links, additional Integrated Check Posts and petroleum pipelines. We are also looking to further expand our cooperation in areas such as capacity building, education, agriculture, space and digital sector. Energy partnership between our two countries has been a shining example of our mutually beneficial cooperation. The last few years have seen a tremendous increase in hydropower exports from Nepal to India. It has enabled hydropower exports to become a new revenue earner for Nepalese economy. In the coming years growing power exports would be helpful also as Nepal moves towards graduation from LDC status. Our age old civilizational, cultural and historical ties are thus being progressed further with a strong focus well-being and prosperity of our two peoples.

The role of Indian Community of Nepal in this endeavor has been very significant and substantial. I would also like to convey my sincere appreciation to the Community for the support extended to activities undertaken by the Embassy to further strengthen the relationship between our two countries.

Let me wish you all a very happy and joyous 78th Independence Day.

Jai Hind

(Naveen Srivastava)



FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VISIT TO NEPAL

Foreign Secretary of India, Shri Vikram Misri paid an official visit to Nepal from 11-12 August 2024 at the invitation of the Foreign Secretary of Nepal, Ms. Sewa Lamsal. It was Foreign Secretary's first visit to Nepal after assuming office last month in July 2024. During his visit, Foreign Secretary called on Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal, Mr. Ramchandra Paudel and Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli. Foreign Secretary also called on Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Urban Development, Mr. Prakash Man Singh, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paudel, Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Ramesh Lekhak and Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba. During the various engagements, both sides affirmed the close and friendly relations between India and Nepal which are deeply rooted in historical, cultural, civilizational and people-to-people ties. Both sides also appreciated the progress made in the mutually beneficial partnership in the field of power sector cooperation with Nepal's hydropower export to India, increasing manifold in the last 2-3 years.



INDIA-NEPAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Substantial progress has been achieved in Development Cooperation in recent years. Specially in various areas of connectivity - Physical, Digital, Energy & People to People.



MAJOR MILESTONE ACHIEVED: ARUN-3 HEP HEAD RACE TUNNEL BREAKTHROUGH

On 4 June 2024, the final blast was triggered to mark the completion of heading excavation of 11.8 KM long Head Race Tunnel of 900 MW Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project in Sankhuwasabha District of Nepal. This marks a significant milestone in the construction of the 900 MW Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project, which aims to greatly enhance Nepal's hydroelectric capacity and contribute to the country's energy security. The event was attended by key officials from both Nepal and India, underscoring the importance of this achievement for the region's energy infrastructure development.



INTEGRATED CHECK POST (ICP) NEPALGUNJ: BOOSTING CONNECTIVITY

There are 5 ICPs being implemented in Nepal with Indian grant assistance. ICPs in Birgunj and Biratnagar were operationalized in 2018 & 2020 respectively. ICP Nepalgunj was officially handed over to the Government of Nepal on 21 April 2024. Trade through ICP Nepalgunj was operationalized on 6 May 2024. This development is anticipated to significantly strengthen and streamline trade between India and Nepal, enhancing cross-border commerce and fostering economic cooperation between the two neighboring countries.



DISASTER RELIEF: FIRST RESPONDER

Following the devastating earthquake on 3 November 2023 in Jajarkot and West Rukum districts of Nepal, GoI responded swiftly delivering emergency relief within 48 hours. The first consignment included tents, blankets, sleeping bags, and essential medical equipment. Over the next two weeks, additional consignments provided medical and hygiene supplies. During his visit in January 2024, India's External Affairs Minister, handed over prefabricated houses, 1,200 blankets, 150 tents, and 2,000 sleeping bags. India also announced a financial assistance package of approximately NPR 1,000 crores (USD 75 million) to support reconstruction efforts of Nepal.



INFRA ASSISTANCE: NEW TU CENTRAL LIBRARY AND 58 PROJECTS

Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, during his visit to Nepal jointly with the then Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. N. P. Sarda inaugurated the new building of the Tribhuvan University (TU) Central Library. Furthermore, both the ministers virtually inaugurated other 25 schools, 32 health facilities and 1 culture sector post-earthquake reconstruction projects in Nepal built with Government of India's grant assistance. These new facilities represent a substantial step forward in rebuilding and supporting affected communities.

20 YEARS OF HIGH IMPACT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (HICDPs)

Budgetary ceiling increased from NPR 5 cr to NPR 20 cr

Total Projects: Over 551 HICDPs

- o Completed: 490 projects
- o Ongoing: 61 projects
- o Total Cost: NPR 1249.00 Cr

Project Activity (August 2023 - July 2024):

- o Inaugurated: 25 projects
- o Initiated/MoU Signed: 6 projects
- o Foundation Stones Laid: 9 projects



HICDPs

Ambulances and School Buses Gifted (April 2024):

- o Ambulances: 35
- o School Buses: 66
- o Total so far: 1009 ambulances, 300 school buses



THOUSANDS JOIN IDY 2024 CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate the 10th International Day of Yoga, Embassy of India in Nepal organised a series of engaging events across 10 cities in Nepal including Kathmandu, Pokhara, Lamjung, Lumbini, Janakpur, Chitwan, Birgunj, Hetauda, Gaur and Pokharia. The overall participation was more than 10,000 people across Nepal.



A NEW DIMENSION TO INDIA-NEPAL FRIENDSHIP: CRICKET

Nepal's national cricket team is currently undergoing a two-week training program at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, India. India is committed to the growth of cricket in Nepal as underlined by Hon'ble EAM of India, Dr. S Jaishankar during his interaction with the Nepali cricket team & the Cricket Association of Nepal during his visit in January 2024.

EDUCATIONAL CONNECT

For Study in Nepal

500 Under the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship scheme (MGSS) for class XI & XII.

200 Under Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (GJSS) for various Undergraduate courses.

For Study in India

700 For various Undergraduate, Postgraduate and PhD courses.

33 For studying in Army Public Schools in India

Training/Capacity Building Programmes

444 Nepalese candidates trained in 64 courses at 29 Indian institutes in last financial year.

21 customized ITEC courses organized for key Nepalese institutions.



During the period from August 2023 to August 2024, over 1500 scholarships were provided by the Government of India to Nepali students under various scholarship schemes.



EXCITING MILESTONE IN FINANCIAL CONNECTIVITY

Nepal has seen a significant milestone with Unified Payments Interface (UPI) merchant transactions crossing the 1,00,000 mark. This achievement was made possible through the collaboration between NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and Fonepay, Nepal's largest payment network. The cross-border Person-to-Merchant (P2M) UPI acceptance was launched in March 2024, marking a new era of digital payment connectivity between India and Nepal.