

CELEBRATING THE 76TH REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

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 the 76th Republic Day of India.

Seventy-five years ago, on this day, India became a Republic. We set forth on a journey to build a democratic polity in which every Indian could pursue their aspirations and fulfill their potential. The strength of our democracy has been repeatedly demonstrated through free and fair elections including in 2024 when India organized the largest such exercise in the world.

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. 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.

India and Nepal have been connected geographically by land, rivers and mountains for millennia. These physical connections have been bolstered by the strong linkages between our peoples, our shared culture and traditions. A notable manifestation of this deep rooted connection is reflected in the large number of the Indian pilgrims who visit Nepal's famous holy sites like Pashupati Nath Temple in Kathmandu, Muktinath in Mustang, or who come to Janakpur for Vivah Panchami. Similarly the 'Maha Kumbh' being currently held in Prayagraj, India from 13 January to 26 February 2025 has seen participation by number of Nepali pilgrims. Mahakumbh

this year is expected to witness more than 400 million visitors from across the world including Nepal. It is not just a 'Sangam' of sacred Ganges, Yamuna and now invisible Saraswati, but also a 'Sangam' of traditions and modern technology. It is a place to witness how modern technology has been harnessed by India to ensure safe, secure and smooth experience by pilgrims in this world's largest convergence of humanity. I encourage our friends in Nepal to witness this once in a lifetime experience in large numbers.

High level exchanges between the leaders of India and Nepal, including the meeting between the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2024; the visit of Nepal's Foreign Minister to India in August 2024; visits by Nepal's Ministers for Energy as well as Commerce & Industry to India in 2024; and the reciprocal visits by the Army Chiefs of India and Nepal in November and December 2024 testify to the strong bonds of friendship between our two countries.

As Nepal moves ahead in its developmental journey, India will continue to be a steadfast partner across all sectors. This commitment is also manifested in India's support to Nepal during natural disasters and emergencies. In the wake of the floods and landslides in Nepal in September 2024, India provided over 25 tonnes of humanitarian aid and also delivered 10 pre-fabricated steel bridges, as a grant, to help with Nepal's rehabilitation and land-connectivity efforts.

India's commitment to Nepal's development is also witnessed 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 help in enhancing physical, digital, energy and

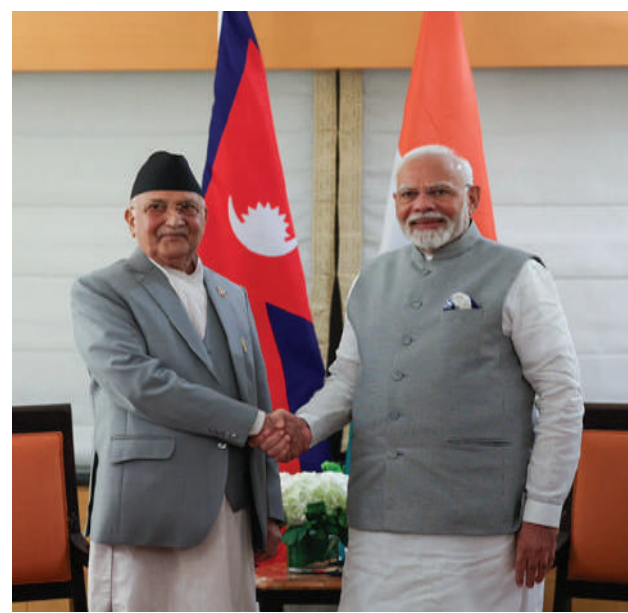
people-to-people connectivity. The commencement of the first trilateral power transaction of 40 MW from Nepal to Bangladesh through the Indian grid, in November 2024, is a noteworthy example of such connectivity. This trilateral connectivity will continue and grow, especially in the monsoon season. The bilateral power trade has crossed a significant milestone as Nepal became a net revenue earner by exporting power to India. In the coming years we expect this export to increase further, offering benefits to Nepal and strengthening our economic partnership. The steady increase in the number of per day cross-border digital payments is a notable indicator of enhanced people-to-people connectivity, particularly helping the tourism sector and the transfer of remittances. 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. 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 the Indian Community of Nepal and Friends of India in Nepal in this endeavor has been very significant and substantial. I would also like to convey my sincere appreciation to them 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 76th Republic Day. Jai Hind!

(Naveen C. Srivastava)

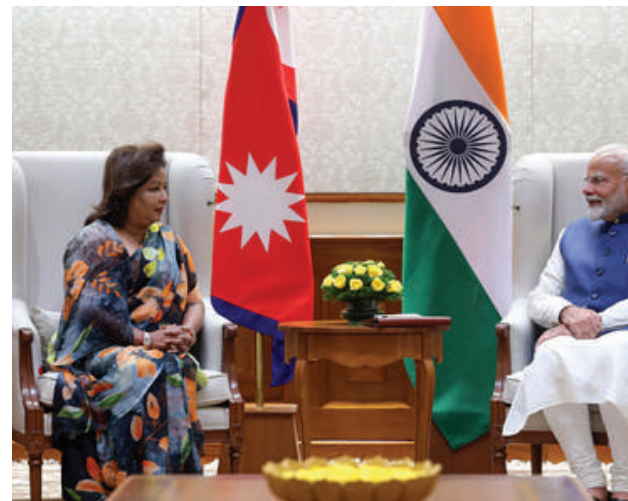
STRENGTHENING INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONSHIP



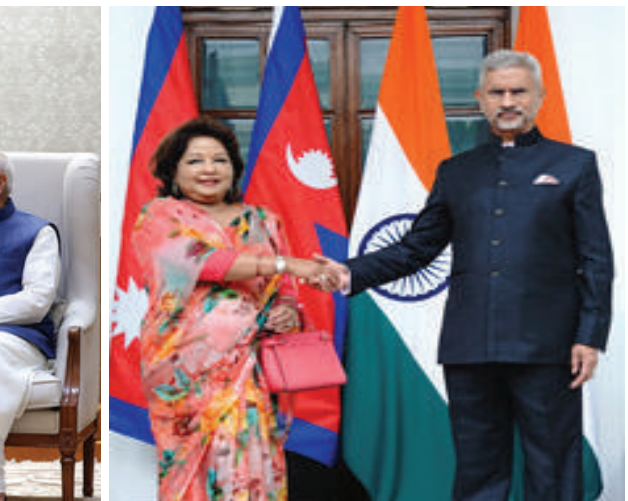
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi met Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. K P Sharma Oli, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 22 September 2024.



Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. K P Sharma Oli participated in the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit hosted by India on 14 August 2024.



Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba paid an official visit to India from 18-22 August 2024 at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar. During her visit, Foreign Minister of Nepal also called on Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi.



DEFENCE COOPERATION



General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, Chief of the Army Staff, Indian Army visited Nepal from 20-24 November 2024 and was conferred with the Rank of the Honorary General of the Nepali Army by the Rt Hon'ble President of Nepal. Subsequently, Suprabal Janasewashree General Ashok Raj Sigdel, Chief of the Army Staff of the Nepali Army visited India from 11-14 December 2024, where he was conferred with the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army by the Hon'ble President of India.



An Indian Army Band contingent visited Nepal from 02-10 March 2024 and participated in the Nepali Army Day 2024 celebrations at Kathmandu on the invitation extended by the Nepali Army.

CULTURAL CONNECT



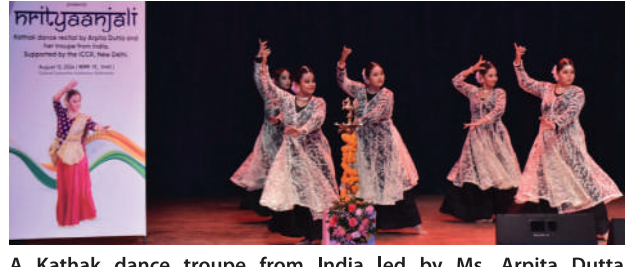
The Mahakumbh, a religious gathering currently underway in Prayagraj from 13 January to 26 February 2025, is drawing a large number of visitors from Nepal. The event is expected to witness more than 400 million visitors from around the world and promises to be more than just a religious event – integrating modern technology and infrastructure to enhance the experience for devotees. One can visit Mahakumbh, and experience this blend of spirituality and modernism.



A Kathak dance troupe from India led by Ms. Arpita Dutta performed in Kathmandu, Birgunj, Biratnagar, and Pokhara from 13-19 August 2024, as part of the celebrations for India's 78th Independence Day.



The Embassy of India in Nepal, in collaboration with the Lumbini Development Trust and Lumbini Buddhist University, organized the second edition of the India-Nepal Cultural Festival in Lumbini on 08 December 2024. Dance troupes from India and Nepal performed during the event. An academic seminar on 'Buddhist Cultural Heritage of India and Nepal' was also held.



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ENERGY COOPERATION



The first-ever trilateral power transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh via the Indian grid was inaugurated on 15 November 2024.



On 3 October 2024, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Nepal Oil Corporation signed a Business to Business (B2B) Framework Agreement, paving the way for the development of critical petroleum infrastructure projects in Nepal.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP



Third integrated check post (ICP) at Nepalgunj (following Birjung and Biratnagar), constructed with India's grant assistance, was operationalized in 2024. The 4th ICP at Bhairahawa is under construction and work on the 5th ICP at Dodhara Chandani is set to begin soon.



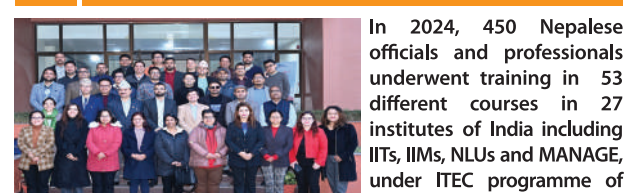
On 11 August 2024, Shri Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of India along with Mr. Maniram Gelal, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of Nepal, jointly inaugurated the new building of Shree Nepal Bhasha Parishad, Kathmandu, a post-2015 earthquake reconstruction project undertaken with India's grant assistance.

EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

500	Seats under the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship Scheme (MGSS) for studying in XI & XII in Nepal in 2024.	700	Seats for various Undergraduate, Postgraduate and PhD courses in India in 2024.
200	Seats under Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (GJSS) for various undergraduate courses in Nepal in 2024.	33	Seats for studying in Army Public Schools in India in 2024.



In 2024, about 1500 scholarships were provided by India for Nepali nationals for various courses in India as well in Nepal.



In 2024, 450 Nepalese officials and professionals underwent training in 53 different courses in 27 institutes of India including IITs, IIMs, NLU and MANAGE, under ITEC programme of Government of India.

RELIEF AND SUPPLIES



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1ST INDIA NEPAL TOURISM MEET



Embassy of India, Kathmandu in association with the Nepal Tourism Board jointly organized the 1st India-Nepal Tourism Meet on 10 December 2024. The event focused on promotion of Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh and creating B2B connections to foster implementation of circuit tourism between India and Nepal. In 2024, more than 3 Lakh visitors from India traveled to Nepal via air route. India is the largest contributor to Nepal's inbound tourism.

SPACE



ISRO

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully achieved satellite docking as part of its Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) on 16 January 2025, becoming only the fourth nation globally to accomplish successful space docking. India is also partnering with Nepal in space sector, providing grant assistance in the launch of Nepal's indigenously developed satellite "Muna".

35 Ambulances Gifted in 2024



66 School Buses Gifted in 2024



HIGH IMPACT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (HICDP)



21 HICDPs inaugurated and handed over in 2024

15 HICDP Project specific MOUs signed in 2024

09 Foundation Stone for HICDPs laid in 2024