

# CELEBRATING THE 77TH REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

## AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



It is my distinct honour to extend warm greetings to my fellow Indians and friends of India in Nepal, on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day of India.

Seventy-six years ago, on this day, India adopted its Constitution and became a Republic. India and her people set forth on a journey to build a democratic polity in which every citizen could pursue his aspirations and achieve his fullest potential. Our developmental journey has been underpinned by commitment aptly captured in Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi's description "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas".

Even as we have moved forward on our development path, India has also stuck to its ancient ethos of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam" (the world is a family). India thus has consistently sought to share its experience and capabilities with all its friendly partners particularly neighbours. Our "Neighbourhood First" policy, reflects this through our endeavour towards pursuing mutually beneficial, people-oriented, policies for peace, prosperity and development, including through the building of physical, digital and people-to-people connectivity.

Our relationship with Nepal is unique, embedded in civilizational connect and deep-rooted people to people linkages. Both nations have a rich history of cooperation and partnership that reflects the principles of Neighbourhood First policy and the values of mutual respect and equality. The importance attached to this relationship is also reflected in the leadership-level exchanges and pronouncements over the past few months.

In the wake of developments in Nepal in September 2025 and the formation on Interim Government, Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi congratulated Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sushila Karki on her appointment. The two leaders also had a telephone conversation. Prime Minister Modi conveyed heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of lives during developments of 8-9th September 2025 and reaffirmed India's steadfast support for Nepal's efforts for peace.

The last year also witnessed our development cooperation venturing into newer areas particularly for enhancing youth engagement.

The launch of India Nepal Startup Partnership Network (IN-SPAN) was one such initiative.

There was enthusiastic participation from Nepali startups and after a transparent, competitive

and stability and for the progress for the people of Nepal.

Guided by this sentiment India, on the request of Nepal, has committed to provide election-related assistance to support Nepal's priority of holding the elections in March 2026. India will be providing therefore, through grant assistance, about 650 vehicles and other supplies to Nepal. The first tranche of this assistance was formally handed over to the Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs of Nepal, Mr. Om Prakash Aryal, on 20th January 2026. The remaining election-related assistance will continue to be delivered in batches, over the next few weeks. This is also in keeping with India's past support for elections in Nepal. Since 2008, India has provided 2,400 vehicles, for various Ministries and Departments in Nepal including the Election Commission.

There have been outcome-oriented and fruitful developments in other domains of the bilateral partnership over the past few months including three Ministerial-level visits from Nepal to India. Both countries finalised Letters of Exchange (LoE) amending the Protocol to the Treaty of Transit between India and Nepal, in November 2025 which will facilitate the movement of rail-based freight between Jogbani (India) and Biratnagar (Nepal) including bulk cargo, and will further strengthen multimodal trade connectivity between the two countries and Nepal's trade with third countries.

The two countries have most recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in exchange of Pre-arrival Information of Exports of goods for trade facilitation and customs control which will enhance overall efficiency in cross-border trade. These developments would further boost our vibrant trade relations. Taking forward the mutually beneficial Energy Cooperation, particularly in area of export of power from Nepal to India, we have also concluded last year, two joint venture agreements for new high-capacity electricity transmission lines between India and Nepal.

The role of the Indian community and friends of India in Nepal continues to remain significant and substantial, in further bolstering the kinship and goodwill between the two countries. We remain grateful for their enthusiastic participation in and support to various initiatives of the Embassy.

process, 24 Nepali Startups were selected to attend an 8-week incubation programme at IITM 'Pravartak', a technology incubator in IIT Madras Research Park. These startups from diverse sectors such as AI, cybersecurity, space, ed-tech, legal-tech, climate-tech, IT Saas, agri-tech, solar etc. have been engaging with Indian counterparts, mentors and investors and to derive benefit from India's vibrant Startup Eco-system. The IN-SPAN programme has laid foundation for future collaborations between the youth of our two countries. This programme complements the already strong capacity building cooperation between our two countries such as through India's Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and scholarships which continue to see enthusiastic participation.

Expanding our areas of cooperation, the two countries also signed new MoUs for cooperation in the areas of Drinking Water supply and Sanitation as also Agriculture. The two sides will continue to further enhance the framework for cooperation and expand areas of engagements for mutual benefit.

India also is privileged to be the first responder whenever Nepal has faced natural disasters. Last year saw unprecedented floods, especially in Eastern and Central Nepal. India is providing on grant 10 new Bailey Bridges (70-meter plus span) for restoring connectivity that had been adversely affected by these floods. The first of these bridges will be installed soon in Nepalthok (Sindhuli District). Sites for six more bridges have been identified, and preparatory civil work is underway. India also donated 10 Bailey Bridges to Nepal in November 2024 in the aftermath of heavy floods and landslides that mostly affected the Bagmati Province.

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Let me wish you all a very happy 77th Republic Day. Jai Hind! Jai Nepal!

(Naveen Srivastava)

## STRENGTHENING INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONSHIP



Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, held a telephone conversation with Mrs. Sushila Karki, the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, on 18 September 2025. During the conversation, Prime Minister of India congratulated Prime Minister Mrs. Sushila Karki on her appointment and conveyed best wishes on behalf of the Government and people of India.

Shri Munu Mahawar, Additional Secretary (North), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, visited Nepal from 7-11 December 2025. During the visit, he paid a courtesy call on the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mrs. Sushila Karki. He also called on five ministers and the Foreign Secretary of Nepal. Earlier in August 2025, Foreign Secretary of India, Shri Vikram Misri, had visited Nepal.



Hon'ble Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies of Nepal, Mr. Anil Kumar Sinha, visited India from 13-15 November 2025 to attend the 30th edition of the Partnership Summit and met his counterpart Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry on 13 November 2025.

The then Minister of Energy, Water Resources & Irrigation of Nepal, Mr. Kulman Ghising, visited India from 27-30 October 2025 for the 8th ISA Assembly and met Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Minister of Power of India, on 29 October 2025 to review hydropower projects and discuss cross-border electricity trade and grid connectivity.

Dr. Sudha Sharma Gautam, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Population of Nepal, visited India from 17-19 December 2025 to attend the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine. During the visit, she held a bilateral meeting with the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare of India, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda.

## DEFENCE COOPERATION



The 19th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'SURYA KIRAN' was held at Pithoragarh, India, from 25 November to 8 December 2025. 334 troops each from India and Nepal, including Special Forces, participated in activities to boost interoperability in Counter-Insurgency and Disaster Management. The 7th Assam Regiment and Devi Dutta Battalion led the respective contingents.

Mr. Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of India, met General Ashok Raj Sigdel, Chief of Army Staff of the Nepali Army, on 18 August 2025, and handed over defence stores including Light Strike Vehicles, Critical Care Medical Equipment, and Military Animals during a presentation ceremony held at the Nepali Army Headquarters, Kathmandu.

Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, GOC-in-C, Central Command, Indian Army, called on Gen Ashok Raj Sigdel, Chief of Army Staff of the Nepali Army, at the Nepali Army Headquarters. They discussed ways to strengthen defence cooperation and enhance operational collaboration between the Indian and Nepali Armies.

## COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIP



The Government of India launched a fully funded India-Nepal Startup Partnership Network, providing Nepali startups a gateway to India's dynamic innovation landscape, with training for the first cohort of 24 startups from Nepal at IIT Madras Pravartak from 1 December 2025.

The Embassy of India in Nepal organized an event titled "AI for Inclusive Growth: Building Nepal's AI Ready Future" on 21 November 2025, in partnership with the AI Association of Nepal. Over 400 participants from startups, government bodies, Chambers of Commerce, academic institutions, think tanks, and media attended the event.

The Embassy of India in Nepal, in partnership with the Pokhara Tourism Council, organized the 2nd India-Nepal Tourism Meet on 18 December 2025 to promote tourism between Uttar Pradesh and Nepal with special reference to the Gandaki Province. About 10 Indian and 60 Nepali delegates joined the B2B sessions to strengthen tourism.



During the visit of Mr. Anil Kumar Sinha, Hon'ble Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies of Nepal to India in November 2025, a Letter of Exchange amending the Protocol to the Treaty of Trade and Transit between India and Nepal was signed. This signing will facilitate the movement of rail-based freight between Jogbani (India) and Biratnagar (Nepal) including bulk cargo under an (Nepal)-New Purnea (India) and Lamki (Dododhara) (Nepal)-Bareilly expanded definition, thereby improving cross-border trade and connectivity.

The then Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation of India, Mr. Kulman Ghising and Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Minister of Power of India, witnessed the signing of Joint Venture and Shareholders' Agreements between POWERGRID, an Indian PSU, and the Nepal Electricity Authority for developing the Inaruwa (India) and Biratnagar (Nepal) including bulk cargo under an (Nepal)-New Purnea (India) and Lamki (Dododhara) (Nepal)-Bareilly 400 kV transmission links on 29 October 2025.

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