

# 68<sup>TH</sup> REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA



## HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA-NEPAL PARTNERSHIP

Marking a watershed in the bilateral relations between India and Nepal, Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State visit to Nepal from 2-4 November, 2016. This was the first visit of an Indian head of State to Nepal since 1998. President Mukherjee was warmly received by Rt. Hon'ble President Smt. Bidya Devi Bhandari on his arrival in Kathmandu. During the visit, Hon'ble President met with senior political dignitaries from the entire cross-section of the political leadership of the country as well as members of the civil society. President Mukherjee was accorded civic receptions at Kathmandu & Janakpur. At Pokhara, he addressed thousands of Gorkha Ex-servicemen congratulating them on their contributions to India's defence and security and towards strengthening bilateral ties. He was conferred with an honorary degree of D. Litt. by Kathmandu University. The President and Prime Minister of Nepal hosted banquets in Shri Mukherjee's honour. Throughout his stay in Nepal, Hon'ble President was received enthusiastically with immense warmth and affection, characteristic of India-Nepal relations.

### US \$ 1 billion committed by India for post-earthquake reconstruction of Nepal.

Committed to cooperation in Power Sector, India is now supplying 350 MW of electricity to Nepal. This is expected to increase to 450-470 MW in the next one month. Capacity will increase to 1000 MW within next two years once construction of Cross-Border Transmission Lines is Completed.

#### BILATERAL TRADE & INVESTMENT

- USD 350 million Lines of Credit for Roads, Hydropower, Infrastructure & Irrigation
- Agreement for additional Line of Credit for US\$ 550 million for Roads, Irrigation and Bridge projects signed in 2016
- Power Trade Agreement signed in October 2014
- Upper Karnali Hydropower Project and Arun III HEP (900 MWs each), moving towards financial closure
- NRs.4.5 billion disbursed for construction of embankment of Kamala, Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Khando Rivers
- Tourism and Traditional System of Medicine Agreements signed
- Agreement on Construction of Petroleum Products Pipeline from Raxaul, India to Amlekhgunj, Nepal
- Following meetings have taken place:
  - Joint Committee on Koshi and Gandak Project (JCKGP).
  - Line of Credit (LoC) review.
  - Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) relating to water resource management.
  - Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting at level of Commerce Secretary on trade, transit and control of unauthorized trade.
  - India-Nepal Joint Commission meeting was held in New Delhi on 27 October 2016.
  - Oversight Mechanism meeting.
  - Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) Fifth Governing Body Meeting.
  - Meeting of the Eminent Persons Group

#### FLAGSHIP COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Five-storied OPD complex of Bir Hospital (Kathmandu) - Capacity of 2500 outpatients
- BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan
- Manmohan Memorial Polytechnic, Biratnagar
- 807 KMs of the East - West Highway (Mahendra Raj Marg)
- 22 bridges over Kohalpur-Mahakali section of the East - West highway
- 904 KMs Optical Fibre Cable project along the East - West Highway
- 8-storeyed National Trauma Centre, Kathmandu -Capacity of 200 beds
- A new bus service started under the Motor Vehicle Agreement from Pokhara to New Delhi in July, 2016

#### MAJOR ONGOING PROJECTS

- Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at 4 points on the India-Nepal Border
- Cross-Border railway links between (i) Jayanagar - Bardibas (ii) Jobbani - Biratnagar (iii) Nautanwa - Bhairahawa (iv) Rupaidiha - Nepalgunj; and (v) New Jalpaiguri - Kakarbhitta
- Installation of 2700 Shallow Tube Well across Nepal
- Strengthening Road Infrastructure in the Terai
- Construction of National Police Academy
- Construction of Nepal Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala, Kathmandu
- Establishment of Nepal Bharat Maitri Polytechnic at Hetauda

#### SMALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (SDPS)

- 268 school/campus projects ongoing or completed
- 45 health related projects ongoing or completed
- Work on 20 roads/04 bridges ongoing or completed
- 582 Ambulances and 114 buses gifted covering 73 districts of Nepal
- 17 fire tenders were gifted to Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development to enhance fire-fighting capacity of municipal administration
- Construction of school buildings in Sunsari, Dhading, Kapilvastu, Morang, Kailali & other districts of Nepal
- 1,52,100 cataract surgeries, 4200 TT Surgeries performed Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh. 57300 students provided with optical devices
- Assistance of NRs.755 million extended for Goitre Control Programme since 1973
- 697 people provided hearing aids, 754 people underwent surgery and 4657 people attended ear care awareness camps till date
- NRs 49.47 million to Healthy Nepal Community based Hospital, Kathmandu for organizing health camps for women suffering from Uterine Prolapsed cases in 9 Terai Districts of Nepal

- NRs.50 million to Gandhi Global Family Nepal for conducting 30,800 diabetic basic lab test and for providing free medicine to 1,450 diabetic patients for 06 months
- Reconstruction & Rehabilitation of small hydro power plant, Chandannath Municipality, Jumla
- Construction of a Theatre Complex, Biratnagar

#### EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION

- 3000 scholarships to Nepalese students every year
- 2200 scholarships to students for studying in Under-graduate and Graduate courses in Nepal
- 553 scholarships for Nepalese students to study in India
- 250 slots for ITEC/Colombo Plan
- Bharat-Nepal Maitri Shiksha Karyakaram for short training in India

#### INDIAN EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE

- General Dalbir Singh, Chief of Army Staff, Indian Army, witnessed the Indo-Nepal Joint Exercise 'SURYA KIRAN-X' at Rupandehi
- NRs 31.5987 billion disbursed to civil and defence pensioners in 2015-16
- NRs 63.3 million disbursed other than pension in 2015-16
- 7th pay commission implemented for Defence Pensioners
- NRs 1.8657 billion disbursed as OROP arrears
- Eight hospitals and three Polyclinics providing cashless medical treatment to Indian Armed Forces, Ex-Servicemen Pensioners and their dependents
- NRs. 332.5 million extended for 17 Solar Projects benefiting around 1.5 Lakh people
- 1061 Drinking Water Projects implemented
- NRs 7.98 Lakh Medical grants distributed to 29 beneficiaries
- Scholarships worth NRs 5.35 Lakh distributed to 114 students
- 67 Ambulances distributed
- NRs 218.6 million being disbursed for earthquake relief measure
- NRs 13.083 million disbursed to 497 beneficiaries of Assam Rifle towards Old age Grant, Medical Grant, Earthquake Grant, Education Grant, Funeral Grant
- NRs 4.2 Lakh disbursed to 60 beneficiaries as demise grant
- NRs 3.8 Lakh disbursed to 28 beneficiaries as distress grant
- NRs 72.16 Lakh disbursed to 41 beneficiaries as One Time Grant from ACWF

#### MEDIA RELATIONS

- MoU between Doordarshan and Nepal Television signed
- MoU between Press Council of India and Nepal signed
- MoU between Radio Nepal and All India Radio in pipeline
- MoU between Government of India and Government of Nepal in pipeline on Light & Sound project at Lumbini

#### CULTURAL COOPERATION

- Festival of North East India in nine cities 'Namaste Nepal' on going from 14-27 January, 2017.
- Festival of Uttar Pradesh from 26-29 January, 2017 in Kathmandu.
- Committed to reconstruction of major cultural heritage sites of Nepal.
- Kathmandu-Varanasi, Jankapur-Ayodhya and Lumbini-Bodhgaya became sister cities
- MoU between Lalit Kala Akademi and Nepal Academy of Fine Art signed, and MoU between Sangeet Natak Akademi and Nepal Academy of Music and Drama signed.
- MoU on Youth Exchange signed.
- Second International Day of Yoga celebrated.
- B.P.Koirala India-Nepal Foundation in its 25th year, has been promoting art, music, literacy, culture and academic research in Nepal
- Through its activities, BPKF has aimed at women empowerment, socio-political consensus, child development, environment preservation and fostering people to people ties between India and Nepal.
- Indian Cultural Centre, Kathmandu conducts regular classes for about 600 Nepalese students on Tabla, Classical Vocal Music, Yoga and Bharatnatyam Dance.
- The Indian Cultural Centre holds various events and cultural shows coinciding with various Nepali and Indian festivals and occasions.
- A new bi-monthly information journal of the Embassy called "Saransha" being published.

भारतीय राजदूत, काठमाण्डू  
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA  
KATHMANDU



On the auspicious occasion of the 68<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the Indian community and to our friends in Nepal. We pay homage to our Founding Fathers who promulgated our Constitution, the fountainhead of inclusive democracy in our nation.

During the last seven decades, India has made resolute strides towards her goal of achieving a prosperous, progressive and peaceful society. The skill, dynamism and talent of our youthful population is recognized the world over, not least in the frontier areas of information and communications technology. We are proud to be the fastest growing large economy in the world today.

As close neighbours with open borders, India and Nepal share ancient cultural and spiritual traditions and warm people-to-people contacts. The common challenge facing our societies in the 21st century is elimination of poverty and rapid economic advancement. Our 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the slogan of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' energize our foreign policy. As in the past India will work with Nepal hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder to achieve our common goal of eliminating poverty.

The visit of the President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Nepal in November 2016 marked a watershed in our bilateral relations. Our ties are now poised for a quantum jump in diverse sectors including energy, infrastructure development, investment, trade, academic and cultural cooperation. We particularly value the strong people to people contacts between our two countries.

To mark our Republic Day this year, we have endeavoured to share a glimpse of the great cultural diversity of India through our ongoing cultural festivals 'Namaste Nepal' that showcases North East India and 'Uttar Pradesh Festival' which offers a glimpse into the rich Awadhi tradition.

On this very special day when India celebrates her Constitution, I also extend my best wishes to the Government and the people of Nepal as they seek to implement their own Constitution.

Jai Hind

*Ranjit Rae*

Ranjit Rae

26 January, 2017

