

CELEBRATING 72nd REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

#VaccineMaitri

VACCINE IN NEPAL

1 Million doses of Indian Vaccine : Gift from People of India to People of Nepal



INDIA REMAINS COMMITTED TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL IN FIGHTING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THE VACCINES BEING MADE IN INDIA WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GLOBAL EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE PANDEMIC.

-NARENDRA MODI



Ambassador of India to Nepal HE Vinay Mohan Kwatra handed over 1 million doses of Indian vaccines to Rt. Hon. PM of Nepal Mr. KP Sharma Oli on 21 Jan 2021 as a testimony to India's abiding friendship and commitment towards people. It is hoped that this would mark the beginning of the end of Covid-19 in Nepal.

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

On the august occasion of the 72nd Republic Day of India, I extend my heartfelt greetings to fellow Indians in Nepal and to the friendly people of Nepal.

India was challenged over the last year by the unprecedented pandemic, as was the rest of South Asia. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India mounted a vigorous national response that has recently entered a decisive stage with launch of the world's largest vaccination drive, enabled by our success in developing two Made in India vaccines.

As in the past when we were collectively tested as communities and countries, the true strength and resilience of our people-centered friendship with Nepal came to the fore during this difficult time. Both countries cooperated closely with each other to minimise the suffering of our people, by making particular effort to keeping trade and commerce flows open, by facilitating cross-border movement of people and by providing Nepal with essential medicines and other equipment to fight the virus. Significantly, under 'vaccinemaitri', Nepal became among the first recipients of the Made in India vaccines only days after our own domestic roll out. Despite the adverse impact of COVID, we succeeded in maintaining the bilateral momentum and celebrating shared milestones in our mutual interaction. The commencement of construction of the third India-assisted Integrated Check Post at Nepalgunj, the completion of work on passenger railway line between Jaynagar and Kurtha via Janakpur and the supply of DEMU sets to Nepal by Konkan Railways are notable areas of progress. Both countries also exchanged high-level visits that provided further impetus to our deep multidimensional ties. The visit of Honourable Foreign Affairs Minister of Nepal H.E. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali to India for the 6th Joint Commission Meeting this month, and the separate visits of India's Chief of Army Staff Gen. Mukund Naravane and Indian Foreign Secretary Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla to Nepal, in November 2020, along with other exchanges will give a fillip to our on-going engagement.

On this special day when India celebrates the founding of our Republic, I want to congratulate each and every Indian in Nepal. I also wish to reaffirm that India will continue to nurture and expand our mutually beneficial partnership with Nepal and open new vistas of opportunity for our two people.

Jai Hind!

NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST

- Within a week of launching the world's largest Covid-19 vaccine drive on 16 January, 2021, 1 million doses of Indian vaccines were supplied to Nepal as part of 'Neighbourhood First' policy.
- The gratis supply of vaccines to Nepal fulfills the solemn promise made by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi to use India's vaccine production and delivery capacity to help all of humanity fight this pandemic.

FIGHTING COVID-19 PANDEMIC TOGETHER

- On 22 April 2020, Ambassador HE VM Kwatra, on behalf of the Government of India, handed over 23 tonnes of medicines (including Paracetamol and Hydroxychloroquine) to Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal.
- On 17 May 2020, Ambassador HE VM Kwatra, on behalf of the Government of India, handed over Pathodetect Covid-19 Qualitative RT PCR Test Kits to Ministry of Health and Population.
- On 09 August 2020, Ambassador HE VM Kwatra, on behalf of the Indian Army, handed over 10 ICU ventilators to Nepali COAS General Purna Chandra Thapa. The ICU ventilators were gifted by Indian Army to the Nepali Army.
- On 15 September 2020, Ambassador HE VM Kwatra, on behalf of the Government of India, handed over 2000 vials of Remdesivir injections to Hon. Foreign Minister of Nepal Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.
- On 05 November 2020, COAS General MM Naravane gifted several medical equipments including ICU ventilators, ambulances etc for two field hospitals of the Nepali Army during his visit to Nepal.
- On 26 November 2020, Foreign Secretary Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla handed over additional 2000 vials of Remdesivir injections to Hon. Foreign Minister of Nepal Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.

DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES



DELIVERY OF DEMU TRAIN SETS BY INDIA TO NEPAL

- Nepal procured two DEMU train sets from India at a cost of NRs 839 million
- Train sets were delivered by Konkan Railways in September 2020 at Janakpur
- Will operate on Jaynagar-Kurtha-Bijalpura railway line built under India's assistance



INTEGRATED CHECK POST AT NEPALGUNJ

- Work on ICP started on 12 November 2020
- This will have quarantine, customs, immigration, warehouse, cold storage, parking and other essential facilities
- The approved cost of the project is NRs 2352 million

'MAILE BUJHEKO GANDHI'

Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari released special anthology on Gandhiji titled 'Maile Bujheko Gandhi' at Shital Niwas in the presence of Ambassador of India to Nepal HE Vinay Mohan Kwatra. 25 High level dignitaries of Nepal have contributed to the anthology reflecting Nepali perspectives on Gandhiji. The book marks the culmination of Gandhi@150 celebrations.



RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- 18 FEB 2020** The Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, India organised a workshop on post-earthquake reconstruction of schools and other educational facilities in Nepal.
- 08 MAR 2020** The 3rd JPMC Meeting of India funded Terai Roads was held. It noted the completion of 7 of the 14 road packages. These roads will strengthen the Terai Road network in Nepal and boost movement of people and economic activities in the region.
- 08 JUN 2020** Embassy of India and CLPIU, Education, Nepal signed 7 MOUs to rebuild 56 Earthquake Resilient Higher Secondary Schools in Gorkha, Nuwakot, Dhading, Dolakha, Kavrepalanchowk, Ramechhap and Sindhupalchok Districts of Nepal with grant of NRs 2.95 billion.
- 15 JUN 2020** India extends financial assistance of NRs. 37.23 million for the construction of Sanitation Facility at Pashupati Area Temple Complex, Kathmandu, Nepal.



HIGH LEVEL ENGAGEMENTS

CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF IN NEPAL	FOREIGN SECRETARY IN NEPAL	INDIA-NEPAL JOINT COMMISSION MEETING
<p>Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General MM Naravane visited Nepal from 04-06 November 2020. He was conferred with the Honorary Rank of General of the Nepali Army by Rt. Hon. President of Nepal Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari. During the visit, General Naravane called on Rt. Hon. President, Prime Minister and his Nepali counterpart General Purna Chandra Thapa. During the visit, Gen Naravane also presented a welfare grant to Havildar Dil Bahadur Chhetri (Retired), a winner of Maha Vir Chakra, the second highest gallantry award of India.</p>	<p>Foreign Secretary Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla visited Nepal from 26-27 November 2020. During the visit, he called on Rt. Hon. President, Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and his Nepali counterpart. Mr. Shringla visited Gorkha district to inaugurate three schools reconstructed with Indian assistance. Also, India-assisted cultural project 'Tashop (Tare) Gompa' Monastery in Manang District was inaugurated virtually during his visit.</p>	<p>The sixth meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission was co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali in New Delhi on 15 January 2021. Both sides discussed several areas of cooperation including in the areas of connectivity, economy and trade, power, oil and gas, water resources, political and security issues, border management, development partnership, tourism, culture, education and capacity building.</p>

NEPAL-INDIA FRANCHISE INVESTMENT EXPO AND CONCLAVE

<p>Embassy of India along with Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce & Industry and nepalfranchise.com organized the second edition of Nepal-India Franchise Investment Expo and Conclave from 02-04 November 2020. This 3-day Summit was hosted on a customized 3-D technology enabled virtual platform which had participation of 100 leading Indian brands and 25 leading Nepali brands and over 3,500 franchise seekers from both countries. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies of Nepal Mr. Lekhraj Bhatta.</p>

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

FOR STUDY IN INDIA

- 1000 scholarships are provided every year to Nepalese students to study in various Under Graduate (UG), Post Graduate (PG) and PhD courses under the ambit of various scholarship schemes such as COMPEX Scholarship Scheme, General Scholarship Scheme, Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme, Homi Jahangir Bhabha Scholarship Scheme and AYUSH Scholarship Scheme.
- 31 scholarships are provided every year to Nepalese students for studying in Army Public Schools (APS) in India.
- Under Self Financing Scheme (SFS), Nepalese students are provided direct admission for seats in MBBS, BDS, Engineering, Architecture and Pharmacy in prestigious Medical colleges and National Institutes of Technology across India.

FOR STUDY IN NEPAL

- 2000 scholarships are awarded every year under the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship Scheme (MGSS) for studying in XI & XII.
- 200 scholarships under the Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (GJSS) for studying in various under-graduate courses.

INDIAN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ITEC) PROGRAMME

A total of 2 hundred 90 Nepalese candidates underwent training in different regular and e-ITEC courses conducted by Ministry of External Affairs in 41 different courses held at twenty nine premier institutes of India, which included 15 different courses through online webinar.

