

# सारांश इवॉल्यूटिव

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**State Visit of Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal  
Smt Bidya Devi Bhandari to India (17-21 April, 2017)**



**Visit of Minister of Railways Shri Suresh  
Prabhakar Prabhu to Kathmandu 18-20 Feb, 2017**



**Visit of Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley to  
Kathmandu 2-3 March, 2017**

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## Foreword



It is my great privilege to have taken charge as Ambassador of India to Nepal in March this year. The strength of civilizational, geographic, economic and familial ties between India and Nepal need no mention. I am happy to be in this beautiful nation and look forward to an increased and ever-diversifying engagement between the people of India and Nepal.

Relations between India and Nepal are exceptionally unique and special owing to the historicity of the ties between these two countries. Keeping up the spirit of bilateral engagements, the last six months or so have seen four visits at the Head of State or Head of Government level between India and Nepal. Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal Smt. Bidya Devi Bhandari paid a State Visit to India from 17-21 April, 2017. This was preceded by the visit of Prime Minister of Nepal in September, 2016 and later in October, 2016 for the BRICS and BIMSTEC Summit. Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State Visit to Nepal in November last year. These exchanges are a testimony to the deep bonds that exist between our countries and to the high priority that India places on this neighbouring nation.

This issue of Saransha attempts to capture information about the activities of various Wings of my Mission. In the last few months, there have been more than 30 official and Ministerial level engagements. We have also had visit of Hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Suresh P. Prabhu and Hon'ble Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley to Kathmandu in February and March 2017, respectively. In March this year, we had the ceremony to confer the Rank of Honorary General of Nepal Army by Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal Smt. Bidya Devi Bhandari on the Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army General Bipin Rawat. India remains committed to the welfare of our Bhu Puu's, Gorkha Servicemen and Ex-servicemen. Such exchanges have been extremely useful in furthering our engagements across diverse sectors such as trade, water resources, energy cooperation and in defence and security.

This Information Journal highlights the engagements and discussions held during various visits as also the development initiatives taken by various Wings. I am happy to learn that the Golden Jubilee Scholarship Day was celebrated by the Embassy in February, this year, with enthusiastic participation of large number of students. Indian Government awards more than 2000 scholarships for Nepalese students every year.

It gives me great pleasure to know that the Indian Culture Centre and the B. P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation of the Indian Embassy continue to organize events marking festivals of India and Nepal while fostering social ties between the people of the two nations.

I am confident that my Embassy's team will continue to strive to make the Saransha Journal an interface between our endeavours and the people of Nepal. We hope to be able to reach out to more and more people in Nepal to further deepen and expand our multifaceted relations.

(Manjeev Singh Puri)

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By Aditya Baral

## Visit of Rt. Hon'ble President Smt Bidya Devi Bhandari to India



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The State visit of the President of Nepal provided the opportunity to the two sides to review all aspects of bilateral relations and to reiterate their commitments to take India-Nepal partnership to a new level across diverse sectors for mutual benefit.

Rt. Hon'ble President Smt Bidya Devi Bhandari paid a 5-day State visit to India from 17-21 April, 2017 at the invitation of President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee. This is the first State visit of the President of Nepal after assuming office of the President in October 2015. The President of Nepal was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Sita Devi Yadav, Minister for Peace and Reconstruction, Members of Parliament, and other senior officials of the Government of Nepal.

President Bhandari was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 18 April. She visited Rajghat and paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. She also visited the Yamuna Bio-diversity Park, a showcase of environment conservation and protection efforts on the banks of river Yamuna.



President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held talks with the President of Nepal on 18 April. Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Minister for Home Affairs Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj, and Minister of Finance and Defense Shri Arun Jaitley, called on the Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal. An interaction with the business community was jointly hosted by the CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM in honour of the visiting dignitary. President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee hosted a state banquet in honour of the President of Nepal.

President Bhandari also visited Gujarat and Odisha. At Rajkot, President Bhandari was received by Shri Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat. She also visited Somnath and Dwarkadhish Temples and offered prayer. At Orissa, she visited Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar and Jagnath Temple in Puri and offered prayers. She also observed women empowerment initiatives of the State Government of Odisha. Shri Senayangba Chubatoshi Jamir, Governor of Odisha hosted a Banquet in honour of President Bhandari.

The State visit of the President of Nepal provided the opportunity to the two sides to review all aspects of bilateral relations and to reiterate their commitments to take India-Nepal partnership to a new level across diverse sectors for mutual benefit.

## Visit of Hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu to Kathmandu 18-20 Feb, 2017



Hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu arrived on a three-day visit to Kathmandu on February 18, 2017, at the invitation of Confederation of Nepalese Industries to participate in the Nepal Infrastructure Summit 2017. Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu had meetings with the Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal, Smt Bidhya Devi Bhandari, Nepalese business leaders, MPs, political leaders, Industry heads, and NGOs, and discussed a wide range of infrastructure development issues. The Railway Minister also interacted with the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Minister of Physical Infrastructure & Transport Mr. Ramesh Lekhak, Civil Aviation, Culture & Tourism Minister Mr. Jiwan Bahadur Shahi, Energy Minister Mr. Janardan Sharma. He also interacted with Foreign Minister Mr. Prakash Sharan Mahat. Further, he met former Prime Ministers Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba and Dr. Baburam Bhattarai. In their meeting with the Railway Minister, CNI consultants and experts shared their development aspirations and expectations from India.

The Minister of Railways had a 'Road Ahead Interaction' with young entrepreneurs of Nepal in which he commented that this was a time of great opportunities and shared his vision for a prosperous region. Minister Suresh Prabhu talked about economic development in India and stated that India's GDP would increase from \$ 2.5 trillion to 5 trillion in 7 years and to \$10 trillion in another 7 years.

During the visit, Ambassador of India Shri Ranjit Rae handed over a letter of Indian commitment of a soft loan of US\$ 340 million for one bridge and 15 road projects in Nepal, to Shri Ramesh Lekhak, Hon'ble Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Government of Nepal, in the presence of the Railway Minister.

In his keynote address at the Nepal Infrastructure Summit, Shri Prabhu said that India would create a cross border rail connectivity as soon as possible in order to establish a link between Kathmandu with two Indian cities New Delhi and Kolkata, in a bid to strengthen cross-border connectivity and facilitate movement of people between the two countries. The Minister also stated that this could happen as soon as Nepal signed the MOU for engineering surveys. Shri Prabhu also stated that India is ready to share its drones technology & experience with Nepal for project monitoring. Shri Prabhu stated that infrastructure was a pre-requisite for higher economic growth and urged the Government and the private sector of Nepal to ramp up investment in construction of physical infrastructure.

# Visit of Hon'ble Minister of Finance Sri Arun Jaitley to Kathmandu 2-3 March, 2017



At the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shri Krishna Bahadur Mahara and Industry Minister Shri Nabindra Raj Joshi, the Finance Minister of India Shri Arun Jaitley paid an official visit to Kathmandu from 2-3 March ,2017 to participate in the Nepal Investment Summit 2017.

During the visit, the Hon'ble Finance Minister addressed the investment summit and called on the Hon'ble President of Nepal Smt. Bidya Devi Bhandari and the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. He held a bilateral meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shri Krishna Bahadur Mahara who also hosted an official banquet for the

Finance Minister on 2 March 2017. Industry Minister Shri Nabindra Raj Joshi held a breakfast meeting with the Finance Minister on 3 March 2017. The Finance Minister also paid obeisance at the Pashupati Nath Temple.

In his address at the Nepal Investment Summit, the Finance Minister shared India's experience in reforming its economy and attracting foreign direct investment. He stated that India and Nepal share deep-rooted historical, cultural and religious ties which have enabled the two countries to cooperate extensively in trade and economic fields. The two countries have open border and grant national treatment to each other's citizens. Millions of Nepali citizens live and work in India. India is Nepal's largest partner in trade and investment: more than 2/3rd of Nepal's trade is with India and India accounts for nearly 40% of total FDI in Nepal. With this wide ranging engagement, Nepal is well poised to attract further FDI from India by creation of a conducive legal and regulatory framework. Nepal has several important sectors such as hydropower, transmission lines, road and rail networks, health, education, tourism, irrigation, etc. in which it can attract significant Indian investments. Of particular interest in this context are projects of Kathmandu-Nijgadh fast track road, second international airport at Nijgadh, Koshi High barn, etc. in which India is ready to invest.

The Nepali leaders thanked Shri Jaitley for India's development assistance and highly appreciated India's assistance for post-earthquake reconstruction of Nepal. Deputy PM Shri Mahara in particular thanked the Government of India for facilitating export of nearly 380 MW of electricity throughout this winter which has enabled several regions of Nepal become free of load-shedding. The two countries now have transmission lines for trade of nearly 500 MW of electricity, which would increase to over 750 MW by mid-2017.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister's visit highlighted the importance that India attaches to its relations with Nepal. The meetings were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, which traditionally characterise the relations between India and Nepal.



# Visit of Chief of the Army Staff, Indian Army General Bipin Rawat to Kathmandu 28-31 March, 2017



General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff, Indian Army, visited Nepal from 28 to 31 March 2017, and was conferred the title of 'Honorary General of the Nepalese Army' by Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal Smt Bidhya Devi Bhandari,



on 29 March 2017. During the visit, the COAS called on Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal Sri Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Defence Minister Sri Bal Krishna Khand. COAS General Rawat visited various Nepal Army Establishments and also held meetings with General Rajendra Chhetri, COAS, Nepal Army.

COAS General Rawat also handed over one Stallion, two Broodmares, two male horses for riding and two donkey stallions to the Nepalese Army on 29 March 2017.

# Political Wing



Ambassador Shri Manjeev Singh Puri presented his credentials to the Rt. Hon'ble President on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

## 1. Presentation of Credentials

Ambassador Shri Manjeev Singh Puri presented his credentials to the Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal, Smt Bidya Devi Bhandari on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017. After presentation of credential, Ambassador Puri separately called on Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Bimalendra Nidhi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Federal Affairs and Local Development Mr. Kamal Thapa, Foreign Minister Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport Mr. Ramesh Lekhak, Defence Minister Mr. Bal Krishna Khand, Opposition Leader Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba and Foreign Secretary Shankar Das Bairagi.

## 2. Visit of Rt. Hon'ble Speaker to India

Rt. Hon'ble Onsari Gharti Magar, Speaker of the Legislature Parliament of Nepal, visited India from 17-20 February to participate in the 2017-South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development of the Parliament Secretariat. The Summit deliberated on the role of Parliament in the implementation of SDGs.

## 3. Visit of Hon'ble Home Minister to India

Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Mr. Bimalendra Nidhi visited India from 14-17 March to participate at the Counter Terrorism Conference – 2017 held in New Delhi organized by India Foundation, a New Delhi based think tank. During his visit to Delhi, Mr. Bimalendra Nidhi called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, and had separate meetings with Shri Rajnath Singh, Minister of Home Affairs, National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval and Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs.

## 4. Third Meeting of Eminent Persons Group held

The Third Meeting of the Nepal-India Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India Relations was held in Kathmandu on 5-6 April. The EPG discussed on the wide gamut of bilateral relations including the 1950 Peace and Friendship Treaty, open border, border security, trade & transit and water resources.

# Defence Wing

## 1. NCC Youth Exchange Programme

Lt Gen Vinod Vashisht, Director General, National Cadet Corps (NCC), alongwith 12 NCC Cadets (Six Boys & Six Girls) from India, visited Nepal from 23 to 26 February 2017 and 15 to 26 February 2017, respectively, to witness Nepalese Army Day-2017, under Youth Exchange Programme.

## 2. Indian Navy's Second Everest Expedition

The Indian Navy has launched its second expedition to Mount Everest with 24 Naval climbers. An interaction programme was organized at the Indian Embassy premises on 03 April 2017. The Indian Navy team comprising 12 Officers, four Junior Commissioned Officers and eight Other Ranks, led by Commander Sanjay K Kulkarni, departed from Kathmandu for the Base Camp on 04 April 2017. In 1965, the first successful Indian Expedition to Mount Everest was undertaken under the leadership of Captain MS Kohli of Indian Navy.

## 3. Defence Attache visits DSB Surkhet

Col Man Raj Singh Mann, Defence Attaché visited District Soldier Board Surkhet camp location on 14 Mar 2017, wherein he briefed the pensioners on various issues and the yeoman service being done by the Defence Wing in reaching out to them in their old age, by going to remote areas and conducting SPPCs for welfare of BhuPuus.



Defence attache obtaining first hand feedback & presenting carriage grant to family pensioner.

## 4. Hon'ble Minister of Forest & Soil Conservation visits DSB, Butwal



Shri Shankar Bhandari, Hon'ble Minister of Forest and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal visited the District Soldier Board Butwal Camp location on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and met the BhuPuus.

## DEFENCE WING

### ECHS Branch

Seven Major hospitals of Nepal have been empanelled as part of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS). A QCI Team from India has recently inspected the Nepal Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Lalitpur and the same will soon be empanelled with ECHS Nepal. The total number of ECHS beneficiaries registered with the polyclinics as on date is **36,103** and is increasing on a daily basis. A total amount of NRs **1.30 Crores** has been spent on medical treatment related expenditure in the past one month.

### Pension Branch

During the months of February & March 2017, Seasonal Pension Paying Camp (SPPC) was conducted at Walling, Butwal, Bhojpur, Tehrathum, Gorkha, Turture, Besisahar, Surkhet & Kohalpur. Pension was also continuously disbursed through the three PPOs. A total of NRs 1110 Crores has been distributed in these two months. The Government Notification on 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission as also Circular from PCDA (P) Allahabad has already been received and its implementation has commenced w.e.f. September 2016 for Civil Pensioners and December 2016 for Defence Pensioners. A total of NRs 256 Crores has been distributed as 7<sup>th</sup> CPC arrears till 31 March, 2017 and its full implementation is expected to be completed by May, 2017. The payment of 2<sup>nd</sup> Installment of OROP to Nepal Domiciled Gorkha Service Pensioners of Nepal drawing their pension from three Pension Paying Offices (PPOs) at Kathmandu, Pokhara and Dharan has already been completed and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Installment has already commenced w.e.f. Feb 2017.



HE Shri Mnjeev Singh Puri, Ambassador of India to Nepal Presenting a cheque worth NRs. 60,92,772.80 on account of AGI Death Benefits to SMT Chandri Shrees, Mother of RFN (Late) Sandesh Shrees, Ex. 3/5 Gorkha Rifles, Indian Army.

### Welfare Office

During the last two months, 449 BhuPuus have been benefitted from Earthquake Relief Grant amounting NRs 1.44 Crore. Educational Assistance to wards Ex-Servicemen amounting NRs 7.27 lakhs has been disbursed to 34 Beneficiaries. A sum of NRs 47 lakhs has been distributed during last two months to 127 beneficiaries as various welfare grants that include Funeral, Education, Medical, Old age and Natural Calamities (Earthquake) to various Assam Rifles Ex-Servicemen.

# Development Partnership Wing

The Government of India has been providing financial assistance since 1951 for 551 large and small development projects completed or being implemented in almost all the districts of Nepal.

The Development Partnership Wing of the Embassy of India looks after the Indian assistance to Nepal in the field of development as part of the Nepal-India Economic Cooperation Programme. The Government of India has been providing financial assistance since 1951 for 551 large and small development projects completed or being implemented in almost all the districts of Nepal. These development projects, mainly in the sectors of education, health and infrastructure development, have been undertaken in response to local needs and in partnership with the Government of Nepal.

## 1. Training of firemen in Nepal



It is hoped that the addition of these fire tenders and training of firemen would enhance fire-fighting capacity of municipal administration in different parts of Nepal.

M/s. United Manufacturing Co (UMC), Haryana, India organized a two days' workshop training for 60 firemen of Nepal Fire Brigade at Kathmandu and Pokhara on 20th March and 22nd March, 2017 respectively. The Government of India had gifted 17 fire tenders, procured at a total cost of NRs 70.2 million to the Government of Nepal during a public function held at the National Convention Centre, Kathmandu in August, 2016. These fire tenders were distributed to different Municipalities across the country.

The training included various aspects of safe and efficient operation of fire equipment and components of the fire tenders like Pump, Monitor and water tank. The training also included hands-on training on the vehicle in an open field by running the pump, throwing the water through monitor and refilling the water tank from the water pond.



## **2. Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism Meeting**

The third meeting of the Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism was held in Kathmandu on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. The meeting was co-chaired by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi on the Nepali side and Ambassador of India to Nepal, Shri Manjeev Singh Puri on the Indian side. The Nepali delegation for the meeting included officials of the agencies responsible for implementation of respective projects while the Indian delegation included officials of the Embassy of India and project implementing agencies.

The meeting undertook a comprehensive review of the progress made in bilateral economic and development cooperation projects such as Cross-border rail projects, Integrated Check Posts, Terai Roads project, Cross-border transmission lines, Upper Karnali project, Arun-III project and Pancheshwar Development project etc. The meeting also identified the measures to be undertaken by the respective Governments or entities to ensure the timely and successful implementation of the projects. The next meeting of the Mechanism was agreed to be held in mid-June 2017.

# Commerce Wing

## 1. 5<sup>th</sup> Bilateral Line of Credit Review Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2017

### Main issues Discussed

- Progress made on the projects under the Lines of Credit for US\$100 million (LoC-I) and US\$ 250 million (LoC II)
- Projects approved for implementation or under process by the Government of Nepal, under Line of Credit for US\$ 550 million (LoC III)
- Modalities for implementation of the Line of Credit for US\$ 750 million (LoC IV) pledged by Government of India for the post-earthquake reconstruction of Nepal.



## 2. Symposium on Sharing Experiences in FDI in Nepal was held on March 27, 2017.

### Some aspects of discussion at the event are:

- Hurdles and bottlenecks in functioning were identified by investors/businessmen.
- Panelists from the Government of Nepal stressed on the need to improve the business climate and ease of functioning in Nepal.
- Government of Nepal has planned initiatives like One Window FDI clearance/registration facilities, new trademarks and copy rights laws for improving business climate in Nepal.
- Industry Minister Mr. Nabindra Raj Joshi stated that Nepal is going through a phase of second generation reforms and Government of Nepal is working hard to bring about reforms to facilitate economic development.
- CEO of IBN, Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari said India was the highest investor in Nepal. He committed to resolve the hurdles, particularly for land acquisition, faced by hydropower developers.
- Ambassador of India, Shri Manjeev Singh Puri highlighted the recent investment of US\$ 900 million in the Arun-III project which would create nearly 3,000 jobs as well as earn revenue for Nepal by exporting surplus power to India.





# BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation



## Celebration of International Women's Day 2017



To mark the occasion of International Women's Day, the BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation organized a three-day celebration from 6<sup>th</sup> March to 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

The 3-day celebration commenced with a talk programme with Padma Shri awardee Ms. Anuradha Koirala was held at National Law College, Lalitpur. More than a 100 students of law background participated in the talk programme. Ms. Koirala not only discussed about issues of girls' trafficking, but also elaborated laws pertaining to trafficking.

A talk programme followed on 7<sup>th</sup> March with Member of Human Rights Commission Hon'ble Mohna Ansari at Nepal-Bharat Library. More than 100 persons involved in women's rights activism participated the talk programme. Ms Ansari highlighted the need for more participation from men than women in these celebrations. On the occasion a documentary on Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) was also screened.



## Kidmandu: A Painting Workshop with Mr. SC Suman

B.P Koirala India-Nepal Foundation organized a 'Painting Workshop' in its series of 'Kidmandu' programme on 18th February at Nepal Bharat Library.



Around 50 children from Grade 6 to Grade 10 participated in the workshop. Eminent Mithila Artist Mr. SC Suman taught the children about the basics of Mithila paintings. Techniques of Mithila Art including drawing sketches and filling colors were taught during the workshop. Children participated enthusiastically in learning painting techniques from Mr. SC Suman.

## Celebration of International Women's Day



On 8<sup>th</sup> March, three street plays were staged in Hanuman Dhoka Durbar Square. The street play titled 'Sikri' was staged in collaboration with the Sarobar Theatre Organisation headed by Ms. Tulsi Sarobar. The message on women and children's rights was conveyed to the crowds at all the places it was staged.

# onal Women's Day 2017



ere staged at Patan Durbar Square, and Durbar Marg. The street play ration with Women Empowerment si Poudel. The artists of Sumeru street play, giving an empowering rights. The play gathered huge ed.

## Commemoration of Begum Hazrat Mahal's Death Anniversary

To commemorate Begum Hazrat Mahal's death anniversary, Embassy of India in Kathmandu organized a wreath laying ceremony on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Jame Masjid, Kathmandu.

Ambassador Sri Manjeev Singh Puri laid the wreath at the tomb of Begum Hazrat Mahal. Ambassador Sri Puri spoke about the contribution of Begum Hazrat Mahal in the freedom struggle of India. The family of Begum Hazrat Mahal flew in from India to be a part of the occasion. Her great great grand daughter Dr. Talat Fatima and Ms. Manjilat Fatima also laid a 'chaddar' at the tomb. The programme was attended by members of the Muslim community of Nepal, media persons and officers of the Indian embassy.

After the wreath laying ceremony, the B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation screened a documentary on life of Begum Hazrat Mahal at Nepal-Bharat Library, New Road. Family members, Dr. Talat Fatima and Ms. Manjilat Fatima spoke at the occasion remembering the contribution of the brave Begum Hazrat Mahal in the freedom struggle of India. Begum Hazrat Mahal was one of the



earliest female freedom fighters during the First War of Indian Independence. She was the first wife of Nawab Wajid Shah and fought against the British East India Company during the Mutiny of 1857. The British attacked Awadh repeatedly and forced her to retreat. She refused to accept any kind of favors and allowances offered by the British rulers. Finally, she sought asylum in Nepal, where she died in 1879. She was among major leaders never to surrender to the British, and she maintained her opposition through twenty years of exile in Nepal until her death. Her tomb is established in the central part of Kathmandu near Jame Masjid.

## 31<sup>st</sup> Edition of Poemandu



B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation organized its 31<sup>st</sup> edition of 'Poemandu' on Sunday, 27th March 2017 at Nepal Bharat Library, Nepal Airlines Building, New Road, Kathmandu.

In this edition of Poemandu, 16 poets recited their compositions in nine languages. The programme was attended by various literary figures, poets and general audience. Poems were recited in Hindi, Nepali, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Kewarat, Tamang, Newari, Oranw and Kumal languages.

## A Two-Day Odissi Dance Workshop

A two-day Dance workshop on 'Odissi' form was organized on 7th -8th April, 2017, at Aesthetic Dance Studio, Kathmandu.

Odissi is traditionally a dance-drama genre of performance art, where the artist(s) and musicians play out a mythical story, a spiritual message or devotional poem from the Vaidic texts, using symbolic costumes, body movement, abhinaya (expressions) and mudras (gestures and sign language) set out in ancient Sanskrit literature.

The workshop was conducted by eminent Indian dancer Ms. Paulami Guha. Ms. Guha is an expert of Odissi dance. Around 50 youths participated enthusiastically in the workshop. Ms. Guha trained them with basics of 'Odissi'.



# Education Wing

Golden Jubilee Day celebrated



Former Ambassador Sri Ranjit Rae welcomes Hon'ble Minister for Education Dhaniram Paudel, on the occasion of the celebration of Golden Jubilee Day, February 22, 2017.

The Golden Jubilee Day was celebrated by the Indian Embassy on February 22, 2017. The Government of India, through the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, awards 200 scholarships under the Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (GJSS) for graduate courses to Nepali students, besides awarding 2000 scholarships under the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship Scheme (MGSS) in high school, every year in Nepal. Certificates for the Golden Jubilee Scholarships are handed over to the awardees at the felicitation function. This year, Hon'ble Minister for Education Dhaniram Paudel graced the event as the Guest of Honour.

The Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme was launched by Government of India in 2002 to commemorate 50 years of Economic Cooperation between India and Nepal.

Two Foreign Service Officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal, Mr. Ambika Joshi and Mr. Vijay Raj Tandukar attended the 63<sup>rd</sup> Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) organized by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), New Delhi, from March 29 to April 28, 2017.



# Indian Council for Cultural Relations Indian Cultural Centre Embassy of India (Kathmandu)



Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) in Kathmandu continued with regular classes on Hindustani Classical Vocal Music, Tabla, Bharatnatyam Dance and Yoga. The Teachers and students of the ICC also participated in the events organized by local institutions during the period under review. The present enrollments of students who attend various classes at the ICC is over 600. In addition, there are several beginners and enthusiasts who are not enrolled as regular students but have been attending Yoga camps & Master Classes organized by the ICC.



## I. Mahashivaratri – Celebration of Shivratri

The ICC, in association with ISKCON Nepal, organized a cultural evening on the occasion of Mahashivaratri at Hotel Soaltee Crown Plaza February 23-24, 2017. The ICC students presented Bharatanatyam Dance recitals at the event which received huge rounds of applause from audiences representing different walks of life.

## 2. Yoga for Dancers

The ICC organised an in-house Workshop on “Yoga for Dancers” on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March targeting regular ICC Bharatnatyam dance students as well as other enthusiasts. The workshop was conducted by Shri Malay Sinha, Yoga Teacher-cum-Performer at the ICC premises. Shri Sinha presented an overview of techniques and styles on the various yoga postures and relaxation techniques that would help enhancing endurance, balance and postures of dancers.



## 3. Arunachal Festival

The ICC, in association with Nepal India Human Development & Friendship Association, organized at BhrikutiMandap on 17<sup>th</sup> May ‘Arunachal Festival’ as a Cultural exchange program with support of the Counterpart India-Nepal Human Development & Friendship Association (Arunachal Pradesh) India. Students of the Indian Cultural Centre performed Nepali masked dances and Folk dance at the event. The event was inaugurated by ShriVinay Kumar, Chargé d’ Affaires of the Embassy of India in Kathmandu.



Students of Indian Cultural Centre performing traditional Nepali dance



Students of Indian Cultural Centre performing Nepali Folk Dance

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## ICC RELATIONS EMBASSY OF INDIA (KATHMANDU)

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The visiting troupe from Arunachal Pradesh, India, performed renditions of Towang music and dance, which is popular among the Manpa tribes of Arunachal, and Bardochham Nritya, a Buddhist dance form, Sinha Nritya, and BhalepothiNritya.

### 4. Colors of the Northern & Southern States of India

The ICC celebrated Baisakhi and the Nepali New Year by organising a cultural performance at Rastriya Sabha Griha titled "Colours of the Northern and Southern States of India" which was presented by a 12-member ICCR-New Delhi sponsored cultural troupe led by Mr. Kuljeet Singh. Students of the ICC also performed Classical Bharatanatyam Dance recitals alongside the visiting Indian troupe. The event was inaugurated by Ambassador Shri Manjeev Singh Puri. Hon'ble State Minister for Labor and Employment Shri Dilip Gachhadhar was also present at the event along with several Member of Parliaments, academicians and renowned artists as well as local people.



Another performance of the Bhangra and Giddha troupe was organised at the Gurdwara Guru Nanak Satsang, Kupandole, Lalitpur on April 13, 2017. The event was graced by General Rajendra Chhetri, Chief of Nepalese Army. The event witnessed huge participation of the local people and members of the Sikh community living in Nepal.

### 5. Dhaba - a festival of Punjab

The ICC, in association with Hotel Soaltee Crown Plaza and Nepal SBI Bank, together organised a food festival titled Dhaba - a festival of Punjab. The event was inaugurated by H.E. Shri Manjeev Singh Puri, Ambassador of India to Nepal. The food festival witnessed food stalls serving popular mouth-watering Punjabi delicacies.



The event was inaugurated by H.E. Shri Manjeev Singh Puri,  
Ambassador of India to Nepal.

# Future Tourism Dynamics



By Aditya Baral

Tourism is a difficult phenomenon to describe. Gone are the days, when white skin only used to be considered as Tourists. But this dynamic is changing with the change in time. In terms of tourism volume to Nepal, India and China seize to exist in higher numbers of tourists coming to Nepal. A total tourist arrival to Nepal has hit the target of around 8 lakh and India's share to that figure hinges up to 30 percent to the maximum. In view of the easy access by land and air, there is immense potential of tapping this market. Indian statistics say there is a potential of altogether 50 million outbound prospect from India by 2020 and Nepal being a most proximate tourist destination can seize the opportunity for increasing the volume of incoming traffic.

The 3 M leverage, viz-Free movement, Free market and Free money available to Indian tourists has stood as a big bonanza to allure potential tourists from India. Even with these privileges available, the size of the cake could not balloon. However, with few policy revisions in Air service, driving provisions, Leave Travel Concession facilities (LTC) for government officials from India to Nepal can certainly enhance the volume of traffic to Nepal. The other potential sector can be incentive travel (Meeting, Incentive, Conference, Exhibition) in view of the proximity and climatic privileges between the two countries.

Besides the natural attractions, Nepal possesses a plethora of cultural and religious attractions. Temple of Pashupatinath and Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha are two iconic religious heritages that attract a large number of Hindu and Buddhist pilgrims respectively. In addition, there are numerous shrines and sites in Nepal that are equally revered by Hindu and Buddhist people. In an informal survey conducted by this author showed that there are more than 14 lakh tourists from India who traveled by land using vehicles of their choice in 2014 and 2015 (however, due to the devastating earthquake and border blockade, this number decreased marginally in 2015).

Likewise, if regional private and other forums (SASEC, SAARC, BIMSTEC etc.) are activated, there are immense chances of increasing and alluring tourists from India. And, the sky is the limit if two countries delve in detail for joint promotion of the common products. But today's tourists are more demanding and less forgiving. Thus, we must understand the dynamics of tourism prior dealing towards its pros and cons.

What will tourism be like in the twenty-first century? There is only one thing that is certain; it will be very different. Tourism at present is greater in size and scope than it has been. The winds of change are blowing strong and shape of tourism will be much different in the future. Externally, volatile politics and the emergence of capricious politician in the opulent countries vis a vis Nepal's newly created federalism's demand of seven

**The shifts in economic power among the peoples of different continents, the globalization of tourism, the deregulation and removal of barriers (immigration laws, currency rules, etc.) of travel and tourism, the increasing sophistication and expectation of travelers, the creation of new tourism partnerships, commission "capping" and the impacts of new technologies are the variables of future change.**

provinces competing to showcase their precious products in the international marketplace pose greater challenges while devising policies and programs of "co-optation" (collaboration amongst the competitors). Creation of national and provincial tourism branding would be another gigantic task that should be shouldered while devolving authorities and responsibilities of the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) in the post election realm. So that NTB penetrates its activities as per the need of the newly created province and market prospect witnessed in nearby markets of India.

Tourism entrepreneurs have turned euphoric with news of procuring two wide body jets by our national carrier. This will certainly be a trailblazer in some of the potential competitive sectors with high pent up demand. The National carrier has pivotal importance mainly in the times of emergency and pressing domestic need. During these times, the law of necessity prevails over costs and benefits. The country has to garner managerial acumen either by indigenously producing or by importing from overseas to run the businesses. We have ample examples

of squandering our national industries established by our friendly nations at the cost of a privatization spree in post democratic era. The country has to refurbish its brand image in order to run the businesses. The Civil aviation embargo imposed by European union bars our airlines to enter unions of Europe. As long as these hindrances are not sorted out, immigration facilities are not attuned to modernization, pro-active assertions to counter prevailing no frill airlines' offers are not thrown at the cut throat markets and substantive offers are not synthesized with high value additions, it would be nearly impossible to transform potential consumers to tourists.

Nepal did not have fleets of planes and the network as of today when Nepalese had established their their native brands in the international marketplace and used to receive sizeable numbers of tourists. In those days, the country was perceived as an enchanting destination renowned for its stability, diversity, calm, quiet and mesmerizing hospitality. Therefore, irrespective we are becoming richer with hydro power or human power, tourist would acknowledge merely the hospitality power in the course of realizing the tourism potential of this country and that would only create snowball effects on increasing the number of tourists and enhancing our airline businesses. Mere lip service from our bunch of politicians or Ministers do not hold water anymore in developing a positive psyche towards Nepal as running political stalemate on every political issue has already diminished our brand status.

We have experienced over the years that politics is proving as a driving force to propel other sectors. Hagglng over the constitution amendment bill and creating a furor by polarizing the sentiments of marginalized communities have inculcated fear psychosis amongst the Nepalese, leave alone foreigners coming here to experience our rich diversity. Thus, enticements offered by nation merely work when the nation is in a stable position. Who would dare to go to Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria or Yemen even with value filled offers at this juncture (I certainly do not intend to correlate our nation's status with them, however, simply cited them for drawing an analogy for better comprehension).

The Indian Prime Minister Modi's drive of demonetization and ephemeral adverse travel advisories issued against Nepal by few other countries had cascading effect on tourist arrival. Indians were in the highest number in the total composition of incoming tourists, so were their indulgence or contribution in the tourism revenue (casino, temples, shopping, restaurants other recreations). Now, with their absence, there is a high chance of domino effect on all the footfall realms. Baring the few restaurants and food stalls in Thamel or Pokhara, a sizeable number of hotels and restaurants are surviving at the mercy of

Nepalese revelers. This trend is also not bad in terms of self sustenance, however, this is surely not what we had mooted for. As a result, cosmopolitan service offers of our vendors are gradually declining to match a local level.

The latest drive of Nepal Tourism Board to celebrate Visit Nepal Year 2018 in Europe is commendable, but, it should not try to go alone paying no heed to aviation embargo. As in the past, it has to endeavor to rope in the efforts of all the national and international government and non government entities. Tourism is the only trade where private sectors have a good hold. In third world countries, general revelers do not attach immense importance to the announcement of the government and the parties, rather entrust faith in private entrepreneurs particularly for soliciting tourism information. Therefore, combining airlines, hotel and travel industry together and devising a niche promotional campaign with an aim of hitting segmented market can only help to generate results.

The decelerating trend of tourist and protracted political transition have become the two sides of a same coin. If we unfold the history, the political episode has attributed to retard the growth of all sectors. Tourism is a most vulnerable and contagious trade, it inherently imbibes more syndrome of sensitivity. When people of this nation are sick and tired, polarized and disgusted, the feeling of nationalism is at its lowest ebb, awarding enough room for other countries to play, triggers disrespect notion towards the foreigners and gradually pushes people forgetting the culture of hospitality. And, this is the danger of present trends.

Nepal is a landlocked country sharing its geographical territories and cultural affinities primarily with India. The special and unique relations between India and Nepal permit open borders and free flow of visitors across the borders.

Therefore, besides air route, a large number of Indian nationals enter Nepal overland for various purposes, such as holiday making, religious, business, social and cultural. Some policy tunings/ revisions in land movement, infrastructure development, Leave travel provisions, joint promotion initiatives, etc. are some areas where the two countries should intervene in order to propel mutual tourism prospects to remain in win-win situations.

Lastly, this scribe has reiterated in many articles and public forums that the day Nepalese forgets treating foreigners as part of their culture and tradition, tourism would be a far cry for us irrespective of our government's thrusts or million dollar promotions.

(Mr. Baral is associated with Tourism)

**The challenge in tourism marketing is unique and different from those of traditional product marketing. Tourism is a combination of personal services and certain physical facilities and products. An intangible experience is offered, not a physical good that can be inspected before it is bought. Because tourism is a service business, production and consumption take place at the same time. Tourism supply can not be stored.**

## सम्माननीय राष्ट्रपति विद्या देवी भण्डारीको भारत भ्रमण



राष्ट्रपतिको यो भ्रमणले दुवै पक्षलाई नेपाल-भारत साभेदारीलाई आपसी हितका लागि नयाँ उचाइमा पुऱ्याउन द्विपक्षीय सम्बन्धका पक्षहरूलाई समिक्षा गर्न र दुई देश बीच भएका प्रतिबद्धताहरूमा जोड दिन एउटा अवसरको सृजना गरेको छ ।

भारतीय राष्ट्रपति श्री प्रणव मुखर्जीको निमन्त्रणामा सम्माननीय राष्ट्रपति विद्या देवी भण्डारीले वैशाख ४ देखि ८ गतेसम्म भारतको पाँच दिने राजकीय भ्रमण गर्नुभएको छ । २०७२ कार्तिकमा राष्ट्रपतिको कार्यभार सम्हालेपछिको यो उनको पहिलो राजकीय भ्रमण हो । राष्ट्रपति भण्डारीको साथमा उच्चस्तरीय प्रतिनिधि टोलीको सहभागिता थियो । टोलीमा परराष्ट्रमन्त्री डा. प्रकाशशरण महत, शान्ति तथा पुनर्निर्माणमन्त्री सीता देवी यादव, संसदका प्रतिनिधिहरू तथा अन्य सरकारको वरिष्ठ कर्मचारीहरू रहेका छन् ।

वैशाख ५ गते राष्ट्रपति भण्डारीलाई राष्ट्रपति भवन अगाडि औपचारिक सम्मान दिइएको थियो । उँहाले राजघाट भ्रमण गर्नुका साथै महात्मा गान्धी प्रति सम्मान व्यक्त गर्नुभयो । त्यस्तै उहाँले यमुना जैविक विविधता पार्क पनि भ्रमण गर्नुभयो जहाँ वातावरण संरक्षण तथा सुरक्षामा भएका प्रयासहरूको अवलोकन गर्नुभयो ।



वैसाख ५ गते भारतीय राष्ट्रपति प्रणव मुखर्जी र प्रधानमन्त्री नरेन्द्र मोदीले नेपालका राष्ट्रपति विद्या देवी भण्डारीसँग भेटवार्ता गर्नुभयो । भारतीय उप-राष्ट्रपति मोहम्मद हमिद अन्सारी, गृहमन्त्री रन्जित सिंह, परराष्ट्रमन्त्री शुस्मा स्वराज तथा अर्थ तथा रक्षामन्त्री अरूण जेटलीले पनि नेपालका सम्माननीय राष्ट्रपतिसँग भेट गर्नुभयो । सम्माननीय राष्ट्रपतिको सम्मानमा CII, FICICI र ASSOCHAM ले संयुक्त व्यापार समुदायसँग एक अन्तर्क्रिया कार्यक्रमको आयोजना गरेको थियो । त्यस्तै गरी भारतीय राष्ट्रपति प्रणव मुखर्जीद्वारा राष्ट्रपति भण्डारीको सम्मानमा रात्रिभोजको आयोजना गरिएको थियो ।

राष्ट्रपति भण्डारीले गुजरात र उडीसाको पनि भ्रमण गर्नुभयो । राजकोटमा गुजरातको मुख्यमन्त्री विजय रूपनीले राष्ट्रपतिको स्वागत गर्नुभएको थियो । राष्ट्रपति भण्डारीले सोमनाथ र द्वार्काधिेश मन्दिरको भ्रमण साथै पुजा गर्नुभयो । उडीसाको भ्रमणको क्रममा उहाले भुवनेश्वर स्थित लिंगराज मन्दिर तथा पुरी स्थित जगन्नाथ मन्दिरमा पुजा गर्नुभयो । उडीसा राज्यमा भएका महिला शशक्तिकरणका प्रयासहरूको पनि स्वलोकन गर्नुभयो । राष्ट्रपतिको सम्मानमा श्री शेनायांग्वा चुवातोशी जमिरद्वारा आयोजित भोजमा राष्ट्रपति भण्डारी सरिक हुनुभएको थियो ।

राष्ट्रपतिको यो भ्रमणले दुवै पक्षलाई नेपाल-भारत साभेदारीलाई आपसी हितका लागि नयाँ उचाइमा पुऱ्याउन द्विपक्षीय सम्बन्धका पक्षहरूलाई समिक्षा गर्न र दुई देश बीच भएका प्रतिबद्धताहरूमा जोड दिन एउटा अवसरको सृजना गरेको छ ।

# माननीय रेलमन्त्री श्री सुरेश प्रभाकर प्रभुको फाल्गुण ७-८, २०७३ मा भएको काठमाडौँ भ्रमण



नेपाल उद्योग परिसंघको निमन्त्रणामा नेपाल पूर्वाधार शिखर सम्मेलन २०१७ मा भाग लिन माननीय रेलमन्त्री सुरेश प्रभाकर प्रभु फाल्गुण ७ गते नेपालको तीन दिने भ्रमणका लागि काठमाडौँ आउनुभयो । प्रभाकर प्रभुले राष्ट्रपति विद्या देवी भण्डारी, नेपाली उद्योगी, संसद प्रतिनिधि, राजनीतिक दलका नेता, उद्योगपति तथा गैरसरकारी संस्थाका प्रतिनिधिहरूसँग पूर्वाधार विकासका बारेमा विस्तृत छलफल गर्नुभयो ।

रेलमन्त्री प्रभाकर प्रभुले सम्माननीय प्रधानमन्त्री पुष्प कमल दाहाल 'प्रचण्ड', भौतिक पूर्वाधार तथा यातायातमन्त्री रमेश लेखक, नागरिक उड्डयन, पर्यटन तथा संस्कृतिमन्त्री जीवन बहादुर साही, ऊर्जामन्त्री जनार्दन शर्मासँग अन्तर्क्रिया गर्नुभयो । उहाँले परराष्ट्रमन्त्री प्रकाशशरण महतसँग पनि छलफल गर्नुभयो । त्यस्तै उहाँले भूतपूर्व प्रधानमन्त्री शेरबहादुर देउवा तथा बाबुराम भट्टराईसँग पनि भेटवार्ता गर्नुभयो । रेलमन्त्री प्रभुसँगको बैठकमा नेपाल उद्योग परिसंघका सल्लाहकार तथा विज्ञहरूले भारतबाट हुने विकासको आकर्षण र अपेक्षा बारे धारणा व्यक्त गरे ।

रेलमन्त्री प्रभुले 'रोड अहेड' अन्तर्क्रियामा नेपालका युवा उद्यमीहरूसँग अहिलेको समय बृहत् अवसरको समय भएको र सम्मृद्ध क्षेत्रका लागि आफ्ना अवधारण पेस गर्नुभयो । मन्त्री प्रभुले भारतको आर्थिक विकासका बारेमा बोल्दै भारतको कुल विकास उत्पादन (GDP) अबको ७ वर्षमा २.५ खर्ब अमेरिकी डलरदेखि ५ खर्ब र अर्को ७ वर्षमा १० खर्ब अमेरिकी डलर पुग्ने जानकारी दिनुभयो ।

भ्रमणका क्रममा राजदूत रन्जित रायले एक पुल र १५ वटा सडक परियोजनाको लागि ३४० करोड अमेरिकी डलर सहूलियत ऋणको प्रतिबद्धता पत्र भौतिक पूर्वाधार तथा यातायातमन्त्रीलाई हस्तान्तरण गर्नुभयो ।

नेपाल पूर्वाधार शिखर सम्मेलनको सम्बोधनको क्रममा प्रभुले भारतले काठमाडौँलाई नयाँ दिल्ली र कोलकतासँग जोड्न यथाशक्य चाँडो रेल नेटवर्क सञ्चालन गर्ने बताउनुभयो । सो विकासबाट सिमा सम्बन्ध सुदृढ हुने र दुवै देशका नागरिकलाई आवतजावतमा सुविधा हुने बताउनुभयो । उहाँले नेपालले इन्जेनियरिङ सर्भेको लागि MOU मा हस्ताक्षर गर्ने बित्तिकै यो काम शुरू हुने बताउनुभयो । उहाँले भारत आफ्नो ड्रोन प्रविधि तथा अनुभव बाँड्न चाहेको बताउनुभयो । प्रभुले पूर्वाधार उच्च आर्थिक वृद्धिको लागि आधार रहेको बताउँदै सरकार र निजी क्षेत्रलाई भौतिक पूर्वाधारको निर्माणमा लगानी वृद्धि गर्न आह्वान गर्नुभयो ।

# माननीय अर्थमन्त्री श्री अरूण जेटलीको २-३ मार्च, २०१७ मा भएको काठमाडौं भ्रमण



उपप्रधानमन्त्री तथा अर्थमन्त्री श्री कृष्णबहादुर महारा र उद्योगमन्त्री श्री नवीन्द्रराज जोशीको आमन्त्रणामा भारतका अर्थमन्त्री श्री अरूण जेटलीले नेपाल लगानी सम्मेलन २०१७ मा सहभागी हुनका लागि २-३ मार्च, २०१७ मा काठमाडौंको औपचारिक भ्रमण गर्नुभयो । भ्रमणका क्रममा माननीय अर्थमन्त्रीले लगानी सम्मेलनलाई सम्बोधन गर्नुका साथै नेपालकी सम्माननिय राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती विद्यादेवी भण्डारी र सम्माननिय प्रधानमन्त्री श्री पुष्पकमल दाहाल 'प्रचण्ड' सँग भेट पनि गर्नुभयो । उहाँले उपप्रधान तथा अर्थमन्त्री श्री कृष्णबहादुर

महारासँग द्विपक्षीय भेटघाट पनि गर्नुभयो । अर्थमन्त्री महाराले भारतीय अर्थमन्त्री जेटलीको लागि २ मार्चमा औपचारिक भोजको आयोजना गर्नुभयो । उद्योगमन्त्री श्री नवीन्द्रराज जोशीले अर्थमन्त्रीसँग ३ मार्च २०१७ मा ब्रेकफास्ट बैठक आयोजना गर्नुभयो । अर्थमन्त्रीले पशुपतिनाथको मन्दिरमा ढोग पनि गर्नुभयो ।

नेपाल लगानी सम्मेलनमा गरेको सम्बोधनमा अर्थमन्त्रीले भारतको अर्थतन्त्रको सुधार र प्रत्यक्ष वैदेशिक लगानीका बारेमा अनुभव बाँड्नुभयो । उहाँले भन्नुभयो कि भारत र नेपालबीच गहिरो ऐतिहासिक, साँस्कृतिक र धार्मिक सम्बन्ध रहिआएको छ, जसले यी दुई देशलाई व्यापार र आर्थिक क्षेत्रमा विस्तृत रूपमा सहकार्य गर्न समर्थ तुल्याएको छ । यी दुई देशहरूबीच खुला सिमाना रहिआएको छ, र एक-अर्काका नागरिकलाई राष्ट्रिय व्यवहार गर्छन् । लाखौं नेपाली नागरिक भारतमा बस्छन् र काम गर्छन् । भारत नेपालको सबैभन्दा ठूलो व्यापारिक र लगानी साझेदार हो: नेपालको कुल व्यापारको दुई तिहाइ हिस्सा भारतसँग हुने गर्दछ र नेपालको कुल प्रत्यक्ष वैदेशिक लगानीको ४० प्रतिशत हिस्सा भारतबाट प्रवाह हुन्छ । यस्ता विविध सम्बन्धसँगै नेपाल अनुकूल कानुनी तथा नियमन रूपरेखाको सृजना गरेर भारतबाट थप प्रत्यक्ष वैदेशिक लगानी आकर्षित गर्नसक्ने अवस्थामा रहेको छ । नेपालमा जलविद्युत, प्रसारण लाइन, सडक र रेल सञ्जाल, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, पर्यटन, सिँचाई लगायतका केही महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रहरू रहेका छन् जसमा उसले उल्लेखनीय भारतीय लगानी आकर्षित गर्न सक्छ । यस सन्दर्भमा विशेष चासोको आयोजना भनेको काठमाडौं-निजगढ द्रुतमार्ग, निजगढमा निर्माणाधिन द्वितीय अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय विमानस्थल, कोशीमा उच्च बाँध, इत्यादि रहेका छन् जसमा लगानी गर्न भारत तत्पर रहेको छ ।

नेपाली नेताहरूले श्री जेटलीलाई विकासमा भारतको सहयोगको लागि धन्यवाद दिनुभयो र भूकम्प पश्चातको पुनर्निर्माणका लागि प्राप्त भएको भारतीय सहयोगको सराहना गर्नुभयो । उपप्रधानमन्त्री श्री महाराले शरद ऋतुमा भारत सरकारले नेपालमा ३८० मेगावाट विद्युत निर्यात गर्न गरेको सहजीकरणका लागि विशेष धन्यवाद ज्ञापन गर्नुभयो जसले नेपालका केही क्षेत्रहरूलाई लोडसेडिङ मुक्त बनाउन सहयोग गरेको थियो । अब यी दुई देशहरूमा भण्डै ५०० मेगावाट विद्युतको व्यापार गर्नका लागि प्रसारण लाइन रहेको छ, जसमध्ये २०१७ मा ७५० मेगावाटभन्दा पनि बढी क्षमताका हुनेछन् । माननीय अर्थमन्त्रीको भ्रमणले भारतले नेपाललाई दिने महत्व भुल्काएको छ । बैठकहरू न्यानो र मैत्रीपूर्ण वातावरणमा आयोजना गरिएको थिए जसले भारत र नेपालबीचको सम्बन्धलाई चित्रित गर्दछ ।



# विकास साभेदारी प्रभाग

भारतीय दूतावासस्थित विकास साभेदार विभागले नेपाल-भारत आर्थिक सहकार्य कार्यक्रम अन्तर्गत नेपालको विकासको क्षेत्रमा भएको भारतीय सहयोगलाई हेर्ने गरेको छ । भारत सरकारले सन् १९५१ देखि नेपालका प्रायः सबै जिल्लाहरूमा ५५१ वटा साना तथा ठूला सम्पन्न भएका र कार्यान्वयन हुँदै गरेका विकास परियोजनाहरूमा सहयोग गर्दै आएको छ । विशेष गरी शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य र पूर्वाधार विकासका विकास परियोजना स्थानीय र नेपाल सरकारको सहकार्यमा भइरहेको छ ।

## १. नेपालमा अग्नी नियन्त्रकको तालिम



थपिएको दमकल र नेपाली अग्निनियन्त्रकलाई दिइएको तालिमले नेपालको विभिन्न नगरप्रशासनहरूको अग्नीनियन्त्रण क्षमतामा वृद्धि हुने आशा गरिएको छ ।

भारत हरियाणाको युएमसी नामक एक संस्थाले क्रमसः काठमाडौं र पोखरामा वैशाख ७ देखि ९ गते सम्म कार्यशाला तालिम आयोजना गरेको थियो । उक्त तालिममा ६० जना नेपाल दमकल दलका अग्नि नियन्त्रकहरूलाई तालिम दिइएको थियो । भारत सरकारले कूल ७०.२ करोड बराबरको १७ वटा दमकल नेपाल सरकारलाई गत सालको श्रावण महिनामा राष्ट्रिय सभा गृहमा भएको एक सार्वजनिक कार्यक्रममा प्रदान गरेको थियो । यी दमकलहरू देशभरका विभिन्न नगर पालिकाहरूमा वितरण गरिएको छ । अग्नी उपकरणको सुरक्षित र भरपर्दो प्रयोग तथा वारुणयन्त्रका पम्प, मनिटर, पानी ट्यांकी जस्ता पक्षहरूमा तालिम दिइएको थियो । उक्त तालिममा पम्पबाट पानी प्रवाह गर्ने, मनिटरबाट पानी फाल्ने तथा जलासयबाट पानी ट्यांकीमा पुनः पानी भर्ने जस्ता दमकल सम्बन्धी व्यवहारिक तालिम दिइएको थियो ।



## २. नेपाल-भारत निरीक्षण संयन्त्र बैठक

नेपाल-भारत निरीक्षण संयन्त्रको तेस्रो बैठक चैत्र ३० गते राजधानीमा सम्पन्न भएको छ । बैठकमा नेपालको तर्फबाट परराष्ट्र सचिव शंकरदास बैरागी र भारतको तर्फबाट भारतीय राजदूत मंजिव सिंह पुरीले गरेका थिए । बैठकमा नेपाली प्रतिनिधि टोलीमा सम्बन्धित परियोजना कार्यान्वयन निकायका अधिकारीहरू र भारतीय दूतावासका समकक्षीहरूको सहभागिता थियो । बैठकमा वारपार रेल्वे परियोजना, एकीकृत सुरक्षा जाँच, तराई सडक परियोजना, सिमा वारपार विद्युत् प्रसारण लाईन, माथिल्लो कर्णाली परियोजना, अरुण तेस्रो परियोजना र पञ्चेश्वर विकास परियोजना जस्ता द्विपक्षीय आर्थिक तथा विकास सहकार्य परियोजनामा भएका प्रगतिबारे विस्तृत समिक्षा भएको थियो । बैठकले सम्बन्धित सरकारी निकाय तथा एकाइहरूले परियोजनाको समयमै सफल कार्यान्वयनका लागि अपनाउनुपर्ने उपायहरूको पहिचान गरेको छ । उक्त संयन्त्रको अर्को बैठक असारको पहिलो सातामा हुने निर्णय गरिएको छ ।

## वाणिज्य प्रभाग

२७ मार्च, २०१७ मा प्रत्यक्ष वैदेशिक लगानी सम्बन्धी अनुभव साटासाट गर्ने गोष्ठी आयोजना गरिएको

गोष्ठीमा गरिएका छलफलका केही पक्षहरू निम्नानुसार रहेका छन् :

१. पूर्वाधार सम्मेलनमा भाग लिनका लागि भारतीय रेलमन्त्री सुरेश प्रभाकर प्रभुद्वारा फाल्गुण ७ देखि ९ गतेसम्म नेपाल भ्रमण
  - नेपालका युवा उद्यमीहरूसँगको अन्तरक्रियामा उहाँले अहिलेको समय बृहत् अवसरको समय भएको टिप्पणी गर्नुभयो साथै समृद्ध क्षेत्रका लागि आफ्ना अवधारणा पेस गर्नुभयो ।
  - सम्मेलनमा सम्बोधन गर्दै प्रभाकर प्रभुले भारतले काठमाडौं, नयाँदिल्ली र कोलकाता बीच सिमा वारपार रेल सेवा निर्माण गर्ने बताउनुभयो ।
  - प्रभाकर प्रभुले आयोजनाको निरीक्षणका लागि भारत आफ्नो ड्रोन प्रविधि र अनुभव बाँट्न तयार रहेको बताउनुभएको छ ।



## राजनीतिक प्रभाग



राजदुत श्री मञ्जिव सिंह पुरी मार्च २६ मा सम्माननीय राष्ट्रपति समक्ष आफ्नो ओहदाको प्रमाणपत्र प्रस्तुत गर्दै ।

### १. ओहदाको प्रमाणपत्र प्रस्तुत गरिएको

राजदुत श्री मञ्जिव सिंह पुरीले मार्च २६ मा सम्माननिय राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती विद्यादेवी भण्डारी समक्ष आफ्नो ओहदाको प्रमाणपत्र प्रस्तुत गर्नुभयो । तत्पश्चात राजदुत पुरीले उपराष्ट्रपति नन्द बहादुर पुन, प्रधानमन्त्री पुष्पकमल दाहाल प्रचण्ड, उपप्रधानमन्त्री तथा गृहमन्त्री विमलेन्द्र निधी, उपप्रधानमन्त्री तथा संधिय मामिला तथा स्थानिय विकासमन्त्री कमल थापा, परराष्ट्रमन्त्री डा. प्रकाशशरण महत, भौतिक पूर्वाधार तथा यातायातमन्त्री रमेश लेखक, रक्षामन्त्री बालकृष्ण खाँड, प्रतिपक्षि नेता केपी शर्मा ओली, नेपाली कांग्रेसका सभापति शेरबहादुर देउवा र परराष्ट्र सचिव शंकरदास वैरागीसँग पनि छुट्टाछुट्टै भेट गर्नुभयो ।

### २. सम्माननीय सभामुखको भारत भ्रमण

नेपालको व्यवस्थापिका संसदको सभामुख सम्माननीय ओनसरी घर्तीमगरले १७-२० फेब्रुअरीमा संसद सचिवालयको दिगो विकास प्राप्ति सम्बन्धी दक्षिण एसियाली सभामुख संसदको सम्मेलन-२०१७ मा सहभागी हुनको लागि भारतको भ्रमण गर्नुभयो । उक्त सम्मेलनले दिगो विकासका लक्ष्यहरु लागू गर्नको लागि संसदको भूमिकाको बारेमा विचार विमर्श गरेको थियो ।

### ३. माननीय गृहमन्त्रीको भारत भ्रमण

उपप्रधानमन्त्री तथा गृहमन्त्री श्री विमलेन्द्र निधीले १४-१७ मार्च सम्म इण्डिया फाउण्डेसनले आयोजना गरेको प्रतिआतंकवाद सम्मेलन-२०१७ मा सहभागी हुन भारतको भ्रमण गर्नुभयो । आफ्नो भारत भ्रमणको क्रममा निधीले प्रधानमन्त्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदीसँग भेट गर्नुका साथै गृहमन्त्री श्री राजनाथ सिंह, राष्ट्रिय सुरक्षा सल्लाहकार श्री अजित डोभल र विदेश मन्त्री श्रीमती सुष्मा स्वराजसँग पनि छुट्टाछुट्टै भेट गर्नुभयो ।

### ४. प्रबुद्ध समूहको तेस्रो बैठक सम्पन्न

५-६ अप्रिल मा नेपाल-भारत प्रबुद्ध समूहको तेस्रो बैठक काठमाडौँमा आयोजना गरियो । उक्त समूहले शान्ति तथा मैत्री सन्धि १९५०, खुला सिमा, सिमा सुरक्षा, व्यापार तथा पारवहन र जलस्रोत लगायत द्विपक्षिय सम्बन्धका समस्त क्षेत्रका बारे मा छलफल गर्‍यो ।

# INDIA-NEPAL SECTORS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION

01

India is Nepal's largest trading partner

02

Imports to India are:- Polyester yarn, Textiles, Jute goods, Threads, Zinc sheet, Packaged juice, Cardamom, G.I. pipe, Copper wire, Shoes & sandals, Stones & sand

03

Exports from India are: - Petroleum products, Motor vehicles & spare parts, Machinery & spares, Medicines, Hot rolled sheets, Wires, Coal, Cement, Threads & Chemicals



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