

सारांश इश्वर इहव

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Historic Visit of Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Nepal.

**Celebration of
25th Anniversary
of the BP
Koirala
India-Nepal
Foundation**



**Indo-Nepal
Cooperation in
Power Sector**

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Foreword



The visit of the Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee to Nepal from 02-04 November 2016, marks a watershed in the bilateral relations between our two countries. Our President was received with immense warmth and hospitality throughout his stay in Nepal. He was warmly welcomed by the people of Kathmandu, Janakpur and Pokhara. The presentation of the keys of Kathmandu to the President as well as civic receptions held in Kathmandu and Janakpur marked the warm cordiality and friendship of our relations. The President received standing ovations from the thousands of Gorkha ex-servicemen gathered at a rally in Pokhara.

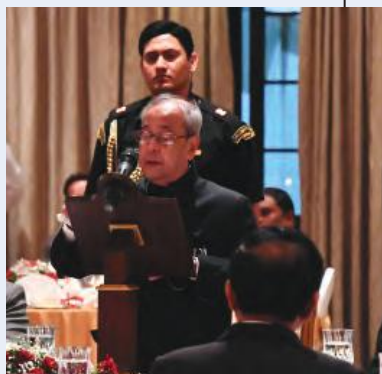
The current special issue of Saransha not only focuses on the highlights of the President's visit but also carries a special report on cooperation between India and Nepal in the power sector. With the upgradation of the Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar, Kataiya-Kusaha and Raxaul-Parwanipur Power Transmission Lines, we expect that the supply of electricity from India to Nepal would increase from the current 330-340MWs to at least 500-550 MWs in the near future. The recently announced guidelines on cross-border trade of electricity will also facilitate bilateral cooperation and development of hydropower projects.

This special issue of Saransha also pays tribute to the B.P.Koirala India-Nepal Foundation which has completed 25 years since its inception in December, 2016. Over the years, the Foundation has endeavoured to engage with diverse sections of the Nepalese society across different age-groups in areas of education, research, culture and skill development. In doing so, it has contributed to women's empowerment, child development and touched on issues of socio-political relevance in Nepal's society and its people. It is our pleasure that Rt. Hon'ble Speaker Smt. Onsari Gharti Magar attended our 25th Anniversary Celebration as the Chief Guest and congratulated the Foundation for having strengthened people to people ties between India and Nepal.

I am sure that the readers will enjoy going through this special edition of Saransha.

[Ranjit Rae]

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The GoI has been providing
financial assistance since
1951 for 544 large and small

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Visit of Hon'ble President of India Sri Pranab Mukherjee to Nepal 2-4 November, 2016

The 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. The high-level delegation included the Minister of State for Defense Dr. Subhash Bhamre, Members of Parliament Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita, Shri L. Ganesan, Shri Jagdambika Pal and Shri R. K. Singh and senior officials of Rashtrapati Bhawan and MEA. The Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal, Vice-President, Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet received

President Mukherjee at the airport. During his visit, President Mukherjee held meetings with President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, former President of Nepal, the entire cross section of the political leadership of the country as well as members of the civil society. On 2nd November, Rt. Hon'ble President Smt. Bidya Devi Bhandari hosted a State Banquet. Speaking at the Banquet, President Mukherjee reiterated India's commitment to further strengthening and expanding

India' is committed to support Nepal in its pursuit of peace, stability and development.

- Hon'ble President

ties with Nepal.

Underlining the strong cultural and religious ties that unite





India and Nepal, President Sri Mukherjee visited Pashupatinath Temple on the morning of 3rd November and offered prayers. He announced India's decision to undertake two small development projects to repair and renovate the Ghats near the Pashupatinath Temple on River Bagmati. At a special Convocation Program organized by Kathmandu University, President Sri Mukherjee was conferred an Honorary Doctorate (D.Litt). Later that day, a civic reception was held at Rashtriya Sabhagriha by the Kathmandu Metropolitan City office. During his address at the civic reception, Hon'ble President remarked that the monuments of the city of Kathmandu speak of its grand history, the pride and self-confidence of its people and their resilience in the face of adversity. President Mukherjee later addressed a seminar organized by the Neeti Anusandhan Pratishthan Nepal, Nepal Center for Contemporary Studies and India Foundation and shared his vision for advancing the existing historical and friendly relations between India and Nepal.

President Mukherjee visited Janakpur on 4th November and offered prayers at the Janaki Mandir. Later, he was accorded a civic reception by Janakpur Sub-Metropolitan City. In his address at the Civic reception, President Mukherjee announced India's assistance to construct two Dharmashalas along the Parikrama Path.

President Sri Mukherjee also visited Pension Paying Office, Pokhara and interacted with 12,000 Nepal Domiciled Gorkha Ex-Servicemen and their family members. The Hon'ble President of India was received by a 'Khada' presentation by prominent retired Ex-Servicemen and Veer Naris. Prior to this Dr S Radhakrishnan and Shri N Sanjeeva Reddy, then Hon'ble Presidents of India had addressed Ex-Servicemen



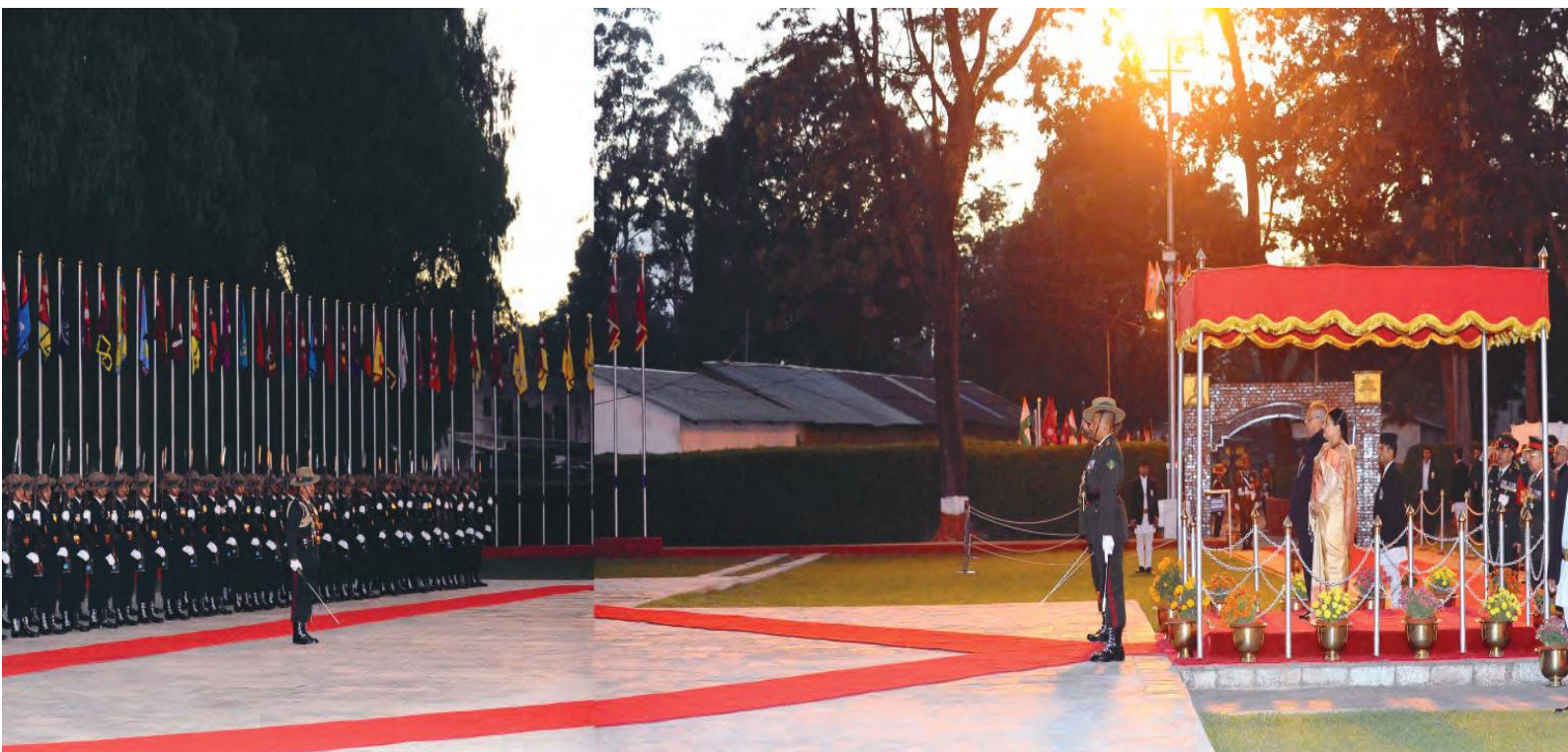
PRESIDENT VISIT



at Pokhara in Nov 1963 and in Dec 1981 respectively. The event was extremely well received, successful and appreciated by all attendees including the official delegation, as a landmark event towards enhancing the warm relations between India & Nepal, and the special role of the serving and retired persons of the Indian Armed Forces therein. The resounding standing ovation received by the President on his arrival and departure, as also during his speech and subsequent 'ho ki hoina', was a testimony to the motivation and esprit-de-corps of our Ex-Servicemen, here in Nepal. The event was hailed by all as historic, especially in view of the fact that the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of India had addressed the Ex-

Servicemen in Nepal after a gap of 35 years.

On conclusion of a highly successful and a historic visit, Hon'ble President recommitted India's determination to support Nepal in its pursuit of peace, stability and development. In his Departure Statement, President Sri Mukherjee stated that both sides agree that focus should now shift to implementation of ongoing bilateral development and connectivity projects as well as projects for post-earthquake reconstruction of Nepal.



Indo-Nepal Cooperation in Power Sector

India and Nepal have been engaging in cooperation in power sector over the past many years.



A TOWER BEING ERECTED NEAR KUSAHA FOR
KATAIYA-KUSAHA POWER TRANSMISSION LINE



SUB-STATION AT KUSAHA FOR KATAIYA
KUSAHA POWER LINE I

India and Nepal have been engaging in cooperation in power sector over the past many years. The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and Joint Working Group on Power (JWG) is a bilateral mechanism which meets to discuss issues on power cooperation between Indian and Nepal. Three meetings have been held at New Delhi and Kathmandu alternatively. Convenient dates for holding the fourth JSC/JWG are being worked out between the Governments of both India and Nepal.

India, through Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL), has also assisted Nepal in preparation of its electricity Master plans in short term (up to 2018-19), in medium term (up to 2021-22) and in long term (up to 2035). Accordingly, a number of high capacity cross-border interconnections are being considered between India and Nepal. These interconnections would be utilized for transfer of power from India to Nepal as well as for transfer of surplus power from Nepal to India.

From 2018-19, Nepal's power deficiency is expected to be 1000 MW but will have exportable surplus from 2021 till 2035. For 2018-19 during period of power deficiency, New Butwal-Gorakhpur 400 kV transmission line has been proposed in addition to Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar 400 kV line.

Long-term Integrated Transmission Plan has been developed for 4 time frames i.e. 2018-19, 2021-22, 2025 and 2035.

GOI assistance for Transmission Lines

During the visit of Nepalese Prime Minister, Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai to New Delhi on 21st October, 2011 the issue of supply of electricity to Nepal was discussed and thereafter it was decided to upgrade and augment the existing transmission lines.

INDO-NEPAL COOPERATION IN POWER SECTOR

In 2012, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL), through GoI Grant assistance of Rs 7.79 Crore, successfully implemented the short term augmentation of transmission line Project.

In 2013, GOI approved Rs 29 Crore as grant assistance for mid-term augmentation of the following:

- i. Kataiya-Kushaha DC Line New-15 km
- ii. Raxaul-Parwanipur DC line (new) 15 km
- iii. Tanakpur-Mahendranagar-Transformer upgrading to 50 MVA 2x50 MVA

Work on the Raxaul-Parwanipur and Kataiya-Kusaha lines is going on and both are at an advanced stage of completion. Once completed, an additional 100 MW of power can be imported through them from India.

Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar transmission line

Till recently, Nepal imported about 320 MW of electricity from India through four major transmission lines. In February 2016, the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal inaugurated the first high capacity 400kV cross-border line (initially being operated at 132kV) from Muzaffarpur in India to Dhalkebar in Nepal. The Nepal portion of the 400 kV Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar transmission line is being implemented by GoN, under a GoI - LoC of US\$ 13.5 million. From 1st January 2017, India has agreed to supply an additional 80 MW electricity through the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur cross border transmission line. With this, the total supply of electricity to Nepal from India will rise to about 400 MW.

The Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar line is planned to be charged at 220kV with the commissioning of 220kV Dhalkebar substation in Nepal by March 2017. This will facilitate

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SUB-STATION FOR KATAIYA- KUSAHA TRANSMISSION LINE AT KATAIYA



additional 150 MW of power transfer to Nepal. This would be followed by commissioning of 400 kV Substation at Dhalkebar (Nepal), which would enable operation of Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar 400 kV D/c line at its rated voltage, leading to increase in power transfer to Nepal by 300-400 MW.

Currently the cross-border transmission lines are meant for exporting power to Nepal but can equally be used to import power from Nepal in future. These cross-border transmission lines, on completion, will enhance the transmission capacity up to 1000MW.

Cooperation in Hydropower

Out of Nepal's potential of 83,000 MW, 44,000 is economically exploitable. 28 Survey licences have been issued to Indian firms for hydropower projects in Nepal with generation capacity of 8249 MW. Major among these are Arun-III (900 MW), Upper Karnali (900MW) and Upper Marsyangadi (600 MW)

The Kosi Agreement was signed between India and Nepal in 1954 (revised in 1966). As the benefits of the Kosi Barrage were limited for Nepal, India constructed 21 MW Trishuli hydroelectric project in Nepal solely for supply of energy in Nepal.

In accordance with the Gandak Agreement signed in 1959 (amended in 1964), a 15 MW powerhouse was constructed by India on the Western Main Canal (in Nepal portion) and was handed over to Nepal.

The Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Project, which is in accordance with the Mahakali Treaty of 1996, will have 5600 MW of installed capacity and create irrigation potential for 1,30,000 hectares in Nepal and 2,40,000 hectares in India. The statute for constitution of the Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) was signed in September 2014.

Sapta Kosi-Sun Kosi Multipurpose Project envisages: (i) 269 metre high dam on Kosi; (ii) a barrage downstream at Chatra for irrigation; (iii) a diversion structure on Sun Kosi; (iv) a 16 km tunnel to divert Sun Kosi water into Kamala River; (v) a dam on Kamala; and (vi) a barrage downstream on Kamala for irrigation in Nepal. The project will generate 4689 MW of power, create irrigation potential of 1.0 million hectares in India and 0.7 million hectares in Nepal, generate flood benefits to both countries and potentially open navigation channel from Kosi to Ganges.

Apart from these, rehabilitation of 15 MW Devighat Hydroelectric Plant was completed in 2011 with the assistance of USD 4 million out of the USD 100 million LoC. The project had been commissioned with Indian assistance in 1983.

India is also supporting development of 32 MW Rahughat Hydropower Project with approval of USD 67 million through the LoCs of USD 100 million and USD 250 million extended by Exim Bank, India to Government of Nepal.

Guidelines on Cross-border Trade of Electricity

On 5th December 2016, Ministry of Power, Government of India issued guidelines on cross-border trade of electricity. These guidelines have brought about transparency in the rules that would govern power trade between India and Nepal, and facilitate further development of hydel power sector in Nepal.

These guidelines would open the doors for accelerated growth of Nepalese hydel power sector. For the first time, India has loosened control and opened its market for export of power by neighbouring countries.

The policy promotes companies registered in India as well as Nepalese public sector. Promoters can now approach Government of India through the Government of Nepal for fixing price of power.

So far, India has only been selling electricity to its neighbours. The new policy has made exporting power to India easy, transparent, and predictable. Ministry of Power has designated CEA (Central Electricity Authority) as the designated authority for facilitating approvals and laying down the procedure for cross border transaction and electricity trade. Focus would remain on promoting bilateral cooperation in power sector between our two countries.

Development Partnership Wing

The Government of India has been providing financial assistance since 1951 for 544 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 544 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.



Projects undertaken by Development Partnership Wing

1. Ambassador of India Shri Ranjit Rae visited Mustang and Lo Manthang during September 23-28, 2016. During the visit, he inaugurated 5 projects- constructed with Indian financial assistance in different parts of the district. Ambassador Rae also inspected the under construction projects and discussed ways to complete these projects in a timely fashion with the district officials, contractors and the local stakeholders.

At Tukuche, Kagbeni and Jharkot, 3 Indian grant projects were inaugurated by Ambassador Rae on September 23, 2016. These included construction of a two storied building for Shree Yogendra Higher Secondary School at Tukuche, River Training WorkS on Kali Gandaki River at Kagbeni and a renovated Community Hall at Jharkot, Muktinath. During the visit, Ambassador also visited historical village of Marpha and site of salt trading market at Tukuche. The locals informed Ambassador that the popular Mustang apple was introduced by the erstwhile Indian Cooperation Mission to the District.

On September 24, 2016, Ambassador inaugurated the Purangaun drinking water supply project at Muktinath. On September 25, 2016, Ambassador Rae reached Lo Manthang and inaugurated newly constructed staff residential building & dining hall for Shree Monchoe Dragkar Thegchen Ling Gumpa there. On his way, Ambassador stopped at Chhuksang and Tsarang VDCs and interacted with the villagers who apprised him about the living conditions, economic activities and the condition of infrastructure in the region. Ambassador Rae was warmly welcomed at all the places he visited and he was impressed by the cleanliness and resilience shown by the people in braving the harsh geography and weather conditions.

2. On October 18, Shri Gyanveer Singh, Second Secretary signed two Memoranda of Understanding with concerned District Development Committees and local stakeholders for construction of school building for Shree Shivbhari Secondary School in Kapilvastu

district and construction of Science block for Mahendra Morang Multiple Campus in Morang district. A total commitment of NR 77.3 million has been made by the Government of India for these two projects with an aim to empower poor and underprivileged, improving education facilities in the Kapilvastu and Morang district.

3. The 1st Meeting of the Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) with regard to construction of Pashupati Dharamshala in Kathmandu was held on October 27, 2016 at the project site at Pashupati area, Tilganga, Kathmandu. The meeting was attended by representatives of Pashupati Area Development Trust (PADT); the Consultant, Building Design Authority Pvt. Ltd; the Contractor, Lama-Raman JV; and Shri Gyanveer Singh, Second Secretary (DP) represented the Embassy of India in the aforesaid meeting. The meeting took stock of the work progress and discussed various issues for speedy implementation of the Project.
4. On November 25, Shri Gyanveer Singh, Second Secretary signed Memorandum of Understanding with District Development Committee, Gorkha and local stakeholder for construction of school building for Shree Himalaya Secondary School, Gorkha. The School would be built with the financial assistance of NR 43.3 million provided by the Government of India with an aim to enhance the education infrastructure in the district to improve education facilities in Gorkha district.
5. The 7th Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for development of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) along the Indo-Nepal border was held at Kathmandu on 15 December 2016. The meeting was co-chaired by Shri Deependra Nath Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Government of Nepal (GoN) and Smt. Sanjeevanee Kutty, Secretary, Border Management (BM), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India. The two sides agreed to facilitate completion of Integrated Check Post at Birgunj at the earliest and take necessary measures to ensure smooth execution of Integrated Check Post at Biratnagar

Commerce Wing



1ST MEETING OF THE OVERSIGHT MECHANISM - KATHMANDU, 29 NOVEMBER, 2016

1. Fourth Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Commission

The fourth meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on 27 October 2016. The session was co-chaired by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, Shri M. J. Akbar, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, H.E. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat.

The two delegations included Foreign Secretary of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Foreign Secretary of Nepal, Mr. Shankar Das Bairagi, and other senior officials from the two sides. The meeting of the Joint Commission was preceded by a preparatory meeting at the senior official's level on 26 October 2016. The Joint Commission reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral partnership as well as exchanged views on sub-regional, regional and international issues of mutual interests.

2. First meeting of the Oversight Mechanism

As provided for in the 4th Meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Commission in New Delhi on 26-27 October, 2016, the first meeting of the Oversight Mechanism was held at Kathmandu on 29th November 2016:

The meeting was well attended by officials from the Government of Nepal, Officials from the Embassy of India and various contractors and consultants of various projects. The meeting was jointly led by Ambassador of India to Nepal, Shri Ranjit Rae

and Foreign Secretary, Government of Nepal, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi.

The main issues discussed during the meeting were :

- Cross-border rail projects
- Integrated Check Posts
- Cross border Transmission Lines
- Upper Karnali Project
- Arun III Project
- Pancheshwar Development Authority
- Terai Roads Project
- Mahakali bridges
- Post earthquake reconstruction projects
- Projects under Lines of Credit.

The meeting identified measures to be taken for timely execution of projects and identify any difficulties faced for project implementation. It emphasized on early completion of all bilateral economic and development co-operation projects, which are mostly delayed due to problems of land acquisition, Right of Way, necessary customs clearance, etc. on the Nepalese side.

Political Wing

1. Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal Shri Puspa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' visited India leading a 17-member delegation to participate at the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit in Goa on 15-17 October 2016. The delegation included Foreign Minister Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi, and Secretary at Prime Minister's Office Tanka Mani Sharma. On the sideline of the event, Prime Minister Prachanda met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and reviewed entire gamut of bilateral issues.
2. The 4th India-Nepal Joint Commission meeting (JCM) was held in New Delhi on 26-27 October. The meeting was co-chaired by Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal, Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat and Mr. M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India. The meeting made a comprehensive review on all aspects of Nepal-India relations under five broad clusters namely political, security and boundary; economic cooperation and infrastructure; trade and transit; power and water resources; culture and education.
4. Free Youth Democratic Front in association with the Embassy of India, organized "Nepal Bharat Maitri Karyakram" in Dhading Besi, Dhading district on 9th December, 2016. At the program, the organization distributed stationaries including 24,000 copies of Notebooks for 1460 students belonging to 14 schools in Dhading district. It also provided one month ration and woolen clothes for 65 students of a primary school for Deaf and Dumb in Dhading district. Mr. P.D. Shering, Counsellor, Indian Embassy was the Chief Guest. Indian Embassy was the Chief Guest.

Education Wing



CELEBRATION OF ITEC DAY 2016 ALONG WITH 128TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAULANA ABDUL KALAM AZAD. PHOTO: AMBASSADOR RANJIT RAE WELCOMING MR. DHANIRAM PAUDEL, HON'BLE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION.

1. **Celebration of ITEC Day**

The joint celebration of Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day 2016, along with the 128th Birth Anniversary of Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, was held in Kathmandu on November 11, 2016. The event was graced by Mr. Dhaniram Paudel, Hon'ble Minister for Education of Nepal, as Chief Guest, and by the Ambassador of India to Nepal Shri Ranjit Rae. Vice-Chancellors and Registrar from Tribhuvan University and Kathmandu University, Chairman of UGC of Nepal Prof. Dr. Parasar Prasad Koirala, concerned Joint Secretaries from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education, Principals from CBSE schools in Kathmandu, and large number of ITEC alumni attended the programme. Members from Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) performed at the event. The students of Indian Cultural Centre showcased their skills in Classical Hindustani Vocal Music, Tabla, Bharatanatyam and Nepali folk dances.

2. **Nepalese Customs Officers' Training at NACEN, Mumbai**

The first batch of Nepalese customs officers' training has been organized by the Government of India from November 7-11, 2016 at National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotics (NACEN), Mumbai. The first batch comprised of thirty-four junior level customs officers from the Government of Nepal.



Celebration of 25th Anniversary of the BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation

Embassy of India, Kathmandu celebrated the 25th Anniversary of B.P Koirala India-Nepal Foundation on 17th December 2016 organizing an event at Rashtriya Sabha Griha, Kathmandu.





Embassy of India-Nepal Foundation BP Koirala has endeavored to foster intellectual discourse and cultural exchange between the two nations. The foundation functions through the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi. The 25th anniversary was celebrated by the Music Association of Nepal & Sadhana Kala Kendra. A book exhibition was also shown. Rt. Hon'ble Speaker of the House of Representatives Speaking at the occasion expressed gratitude to the Government of India. She also expressed that the foundation has been a great blessing for Nepal. Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Mr. Anand Kumar, also spoke at the occasion. More than 500 eminent personalities participated in the celebration of the 25th anniversary.



India, Kathmandu celebrated the 25th Anniversary of B.P Koirala India-Nepal Foundation on 17th December 2016 organizing an event at Rashtriya Sabha Griha, Kathmandu. The India-Nepal Foundation was established in December 1991 under a MoU signed between the Government of Nepal and Government of India. Over the past 25 years, the Foundation has endeavored to promote cultural linkages between India and Nepal by fostering art, literature, and a host of multi-dimensional aspects pertaining to the culture and livelihood of people.

Through its two secretariats co-located with Embassy of India in Kathmandu and New Delhi.

The event was celebrated with dance, musical and theatrical performances by renowned groups: Kathmandu Varanasi Sangitik Sandhya, Sur Sudha, Gurukul Sangeet Academy, Aesthetic Dance Studio, Theatre Village etc. The output of BPKF's art & craft workshops, researches and publications were also displayed. Presentations on activities of BPKF's secretariats in India and Nepal were made.

At the Parliament, Smt. Onsari Gharti Magar graced the occasion as Chief Guest. She, Mrs. Gharti Magar congratulated the Foundation on completing 25 years and Ambassador Rae for showing respect to Nepal, its people, its languages and cultures. The relation between India & Nepal is deepening due to the BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation. Ambassador to Nepal, Shri Ranjit Rae expressed his happiness at the activities undertaken over the years. He called the foundation a pillar of friendship between India and Nepal. Several poets, artists, writers, diplomats, intellectuals and media persons participated in the Anniversary of BPKF.



MESSAGE



It is a matter of great pride that the B.P.Koirala India-Nepal Foundation, which was established in December 1991, is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year. Established in the name of the great statesman, litterateur and intellectual of Nepal Shri Bisheshwar Prasad Koirala, the Foundation is a driver of the strong cultural ties that exist between the people

of India and Nepal.

The Kathmandu Secretariat of the Foundation co-located with the Indian Embassy in Nepal has endeavored to promote people-to-people relations between both the countries. Through its activities, the Foundation has encouraged and fostered engagements at multiple levels with extensive cooperation in the fields of academics, literature, art, music, theatre, environment and social development. The programmes, both big and small, have been designed in a manner to reach out to the people throughout the country.

I am happy to know that the Foundation has successfully run '*Culture Nagari*' a platform to present local culture at different locations in Nepal. The last three programmes in Jomsom, Biratnagar and Pokhara showcased the varied forms of music, dance, poetry and theatre of local communities. Through the series of its Conversations, Voices, Poemandu and Cinemandu programmes, the Foundation has engaged in several literary activities while also encouraging intellectual debate amongst the youth in Nepal. Talk Programmes on socially relevant issues like Federalism, Constitution, Women Empowerment and preservation of Traditional Art Forms have been organised. To take forward the Sister-City twinning arrangements between Kathmandu-Varanasi, danakpur-Ayodhya and Lombini-Bodhgaya, the Foundation continues to play an important role. The Kathmandu-Varanasi Sangitik Sandhya saw a wonderful response from a 700 strong audience to the enthralling musical performances by Nepalese bands and Indian musicians of the Banaras Gharana.

The Ramayana Circuit Art Workshop organized in Janakpur marked the deep rooted historical ties that exist between Janakpur and Ayodhya

In a recently concluded programme, the Foundation successfully trained nearly 900 women in public speaking skills and radio journalism at Pokhara. The Foundation also supported a project on preservation and promotion of Basketry Skills of Tharu women. An Artist Residency Camp was also concluded in Varanasi which saw participation from eminent Nepalese artists. The Foundation also recently started two new programmes under the banner 'Kidmandu' and 'Heritage Walks' attempting to reach out to children and young people in Nepal.

The B. P.Koirala India-Nepal Foundation today has emerged as an important pillar of India-Nepal cooperation. I wish the Foundation team good luck as its endeavours to reach out to more and more people across Nepal. I sincerely hope that the Foundation would continue to foster and promote the cultural ties that so happily exist between the people of India and Nepal.

(Ranjit Rae)



Defence Wing

Visit of Gen Dalbir Singh, Chief of Army Staff, Indian Army to Nepal

Welfare Branch

1. General Dalbir Singh, Chief Of Army Staff, Indian Army visited Nepal from 10 to 13 Nov 2016, for witnessing the Indo – Nepal Joint Exercise ‘SURYA KIRAN – X’, at Saljhandi, Rupandehi district.
2. During his visit, the COAS called-on the Rt. Hon’ble President of Nepal Smt. Bidya Devi Bhandari, Rt. Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Puspa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and General Rajendra Chhetri, COAS, Nepalese Army. Issues regarding welfare of Bhu Puus in terms of Customs Exemptions, Permission for duty free import of their Two Wheelers, extension of CSD Canteen facilities to ESM in Nepal, additional land for establishment of PPO Butwal and extension of lease of land of PPOs Pokhara, Dharan and DSB Butwal were also discussed, wherein positive responses were received. The COAS also had an informal meeting with a few of our Bhu Puus to gain a firsthand account of various current issues pertaining to welfare of ESM residing in Nepal. He presented a cheque of IRs. 8,00,000/- for procurement of two TATA Magic vehicles for ESMs’ conveyance in Nepal.
3. On 11 Nov 2016, the COAS witnessed ‘Ex SURYA KIRAN – X’ along with the COAS, Nepalese Army. During his address to participants from both the Nations, he stressed upon the importance of mutual learning from each other’s Armies. On return from Saljhandi, the COAS called on Mr Bal Krishna Khand, Defence Minister of Nepal, at Pokhara. Col Man Raj Singh Mann, Defence Attache, accompanied the COAS, during the entire visit.



COAS WITH RT. HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF NEPAL



COAS WITH RT. HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL



COAS OF BOTH NATIONS

ECHS BRANCH

Functioning under the Defence Wing, Embassy of India, the ECHS Branch looks after the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS). The total number of ECHS beneficiaries registered with the polyclinics as on date is 33,996 and is increasing on daily basis, and total amount of NRs 3.07 Crores has been spent on medical related expenditure in the past year.

The Memorandum of Agreement with three hospitals viz. Manipal Hospital, Pokhara; BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan and College of Medical Sciences, Bharatpur have been renewed while others are in the process of extension, as and when due.

Pension Branch

1. During the months of October & November 2016 Seasonal Pension Paying Camps (SPPCs) were conducted at Dang, Palpa, Diktel, Okhaldhunga, Gulmi, Baglung, Taplejung, Illam and Bhojpur. Pension was also continuously disbursed through the three PPOs. A total of NRs 717 Crores has been distributed in these two months.
2. Government Notification on 7th Central Pay Commission as also Circular from PCDA (P) Allahabad has been received. Simultaneously implementation of 7th CPC Pensions has commenced w.e.f. September 2016 for Civil Pensioners and December 2016 for Defence Pensioners.



RECORD OFFICE

A sum of NRs 3.5 Crores has been distributed to the beneficiaries as Army Group Insurance during September to November 2016. In addition, a sum of NRs 54 Lakhs has been distributed to the beneficiaries during the period as Other than Pension (OTP) payment.



AWARD OF AGIF GRANTS BY DA



AMA(R) INVESTIGATING FAMILY PENSION CASES



Indian Council for Cultural Relations Indian Cultural Centre



1. Diwali Mela 2016

29th October 2016, Venue: Amrapali Banquet Hall

The Indian Cultural Centre, Embassy of India in Kathmandu organized Diwali Mela 2016 on October 29, 2016 at Amrapali Banquet, Bhatbhateni, Kathmandu. It was a Cultural Evening filled with lots of fun, decoration, music, cultural performance, traditional and experimental foods, games, magic show and gifts. Diwali is one of the well-known Indian festivals, it signifies the renewal of life; it heralds the approach of winter and the beginning of the sowing season. In Nepal this festival is celebrated as Deepawali or Tihar – meaning festival of Lights.

During Diwali Mela 2016, a cultural performance was put together by Indian Cultural Centre where more than 110 Nepali students trained at ICC performed dance items. In addition, the ICC's Vocal and Tabla students performed popular Diwali songs, Jugalbandi, Bhajans and popular old Bollywood numbers that kept the audience enthralled. Different fete stalls showcased regional Indian cuisine, experimental foods; traditional handicrafts, clothing, books, beverages, games, magic show etc.



More flavor was added to the event by children from Maiti Nepal, an NGO working in the upliftment of women. Popular Western Folk Dance troupe from Nepal also put together cultural performances. Children from the age groups of 6-14 participated at the Art Competition..

Hon'ble Shri Jiwan Bahadur Shahi, Minister of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation, Government of Nepal, along with Ambassador Shri Ranjit Rae, jointly inaugurated the function. The function was attended by various dignitaries of Nepal, including resident Ambassadors as well as representatives of Diplomatic missions, government officials, socialites, and Indian community.

2. Master Class on Bharatanatyam Dance

18th October, 2016, Venue: ICC

Ms. K. Bhavya, Bharatanatyam Dance Teacher at Indian Cultural Centre conducted a Master Class to professional dancers and students of ICC on 18th October 2016 at the ICC premises. She presented an overview of Bharatanatyam Dance styles.



3. **The Himalayan Times International Food Festival 2016** **November 12, 2016 Venue: Gokarna Forest Resort**

Indian Cultural Centre, Embassy of India (Kathmandu) participated at the annual “The Himalayan Times International Food Festival 2016” in collaboration with Hotel Shangri-La Kathmandu. The primary objective was aimed to showcase and promote popular Indian cuisines to foodies from Nepal. Deputy Chief of the Mission Mr. Vinay Kumar participated in the Food Fest and prepared Ajwani Mahi Tikka and Paneer Tiranga. Director of the Indian Cultural Centre Mr. Roshan Lepcha also actively involved in preparing Indian delicacies with Chef Surya Prakash Jyoti.



The members of Indian Women’s Club and Chefs from Hotel Shangri-la showcased their culinary expertise. Other cuisines include Galoti Kebab, BBQ Fruit Kebab, Makai Malai Kebab, Lushni Macchi, Mugh-e-Buransh, etc. In order to make the event more meaningful, the members of the Indian Women’s Club of Embassy of India in Kathmandu showcased their culinary expertise offering exotic Chaats, Rabri and mouthwatering Jalebi.

Thousands of people thronged at the Fest enjoyed Indian dishes. The event was held at the lush green golf course of Gokarna Forest Resort on November 12, 2016.

4. **A talk program to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Ambedkar**

November 25, 2016 Venue: Hotel Shangri-La

The Embassy of India, Kathmandu, in association with BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation [BPKF] and the Indian Cultural Centre [ICC], organized a talk program on ‘The Indian Constitution’ on 25th November 2016 at Shangrila Hotel, Lazimpat to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mr. Ajay Shankar Nayak graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Key Note Speaker.



The talk program witnessed more than 165 participants representing all walks of life including cultural experts, politicians, bureaucrats, scholars, academicians, lawyers, social organizations and media persons. To mark this important and historic event, well known Nepalese speakers/constitutional experts Rt. Justice Shri Girish Chandra Lal, Prof. Surya Dhungel and Shri Nischalnath Pandey; and the Indian Ambassador to Nepal Shri Ranjit Rae shared their thoughts and delivered speeches on key features of the Indian Constitution and its correlation with other constitutions from the world. The speakers also shed lights on far-sightedness and contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

5. **Suranjali**

December 09, 2016, Venue: Nepal Music School

The Indian Cultural Centre in association with Samir Sangeet Samaj proposes to put together a Classical Hindustani Vocal Music Concert “Suraanjali” based on Dhrupad Dhamar style of singing. Dhrupad is accepted to be the oldest existing form of North Indian classical music.

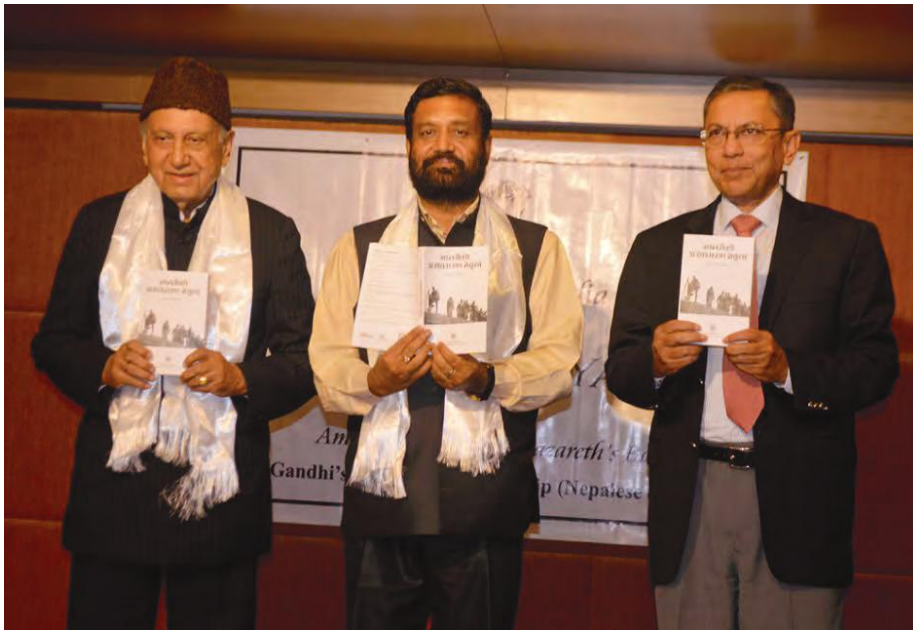
Renowned Nepali Tabla player Manoj Gautam and a celebrated Dhrupad singer Bishnu Prasad Acharya performed as Guest artistes along with the students of ICC who performed Sitar and Tabla jugalbandi. The event was organized at the auditorium of Nepal Music Centre (Nepal Sangeet Vidyalaya), Pingalasthan on December 09, 2016.



B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation (BPKF)



1. Launching of the Book “Gandhi’s Outstanding Leadership” written by Ambassador P. Alan Nazareth



PA NAZARETH BOOK LAUNCH

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Hon’ble Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Bimalendra Nidhi launched the Nepalese edition of the book, “Gandhi’s Outstanding Leadership” written by former Indian Ambassador Sri P. Alan Nazareth on 2nd October 2016. The book release program was attended by Nepalese writers, artists, intellectuals and media persons.

Speaking at the program, Ambassador Nazareth spoke about his book and how it captures the role of Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom struggle of India. Hon’ble Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Bimalendra Nidhi, Chief Guest at the event, spoke about the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi’s teachings to modern day

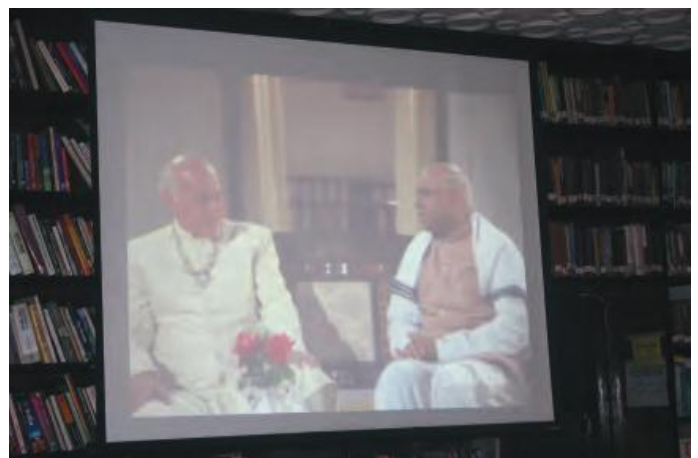
Nepal also. He stressed on how the principle of ahimsa had the power to bring stability in administration and society of a country.

Ambassador of India to Nepal, Sri Ranjit Rae jointly released the book along with Home Minister Nidhi. Also displayed at the program was a photographic exhibition of some rare photographs from the life of Mahatma Gandhi.

2. Screening of the movie 'Sardar' in 28th series of 'Cinemandu'

As part of the ‘Cinemandu’ series, BPKF featured the film ‘Sardar’ on 28th October 2016 at Nepal-Bharat Library to commemorate 141st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The film titled ‘Sardar’ is a 1993 Indian biopic on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, one of India’s greatest freedom fighters, directed by Ketan Mehta and written by noted playwright Vijay Tendulkar.



SCREENING OF SARDAR FILM



BOOK LAUNCH- JAWED ASHRAF

3. **Launch of Sri Jawed Ashraf's book 'A Day in the Life of Kathmandu'**

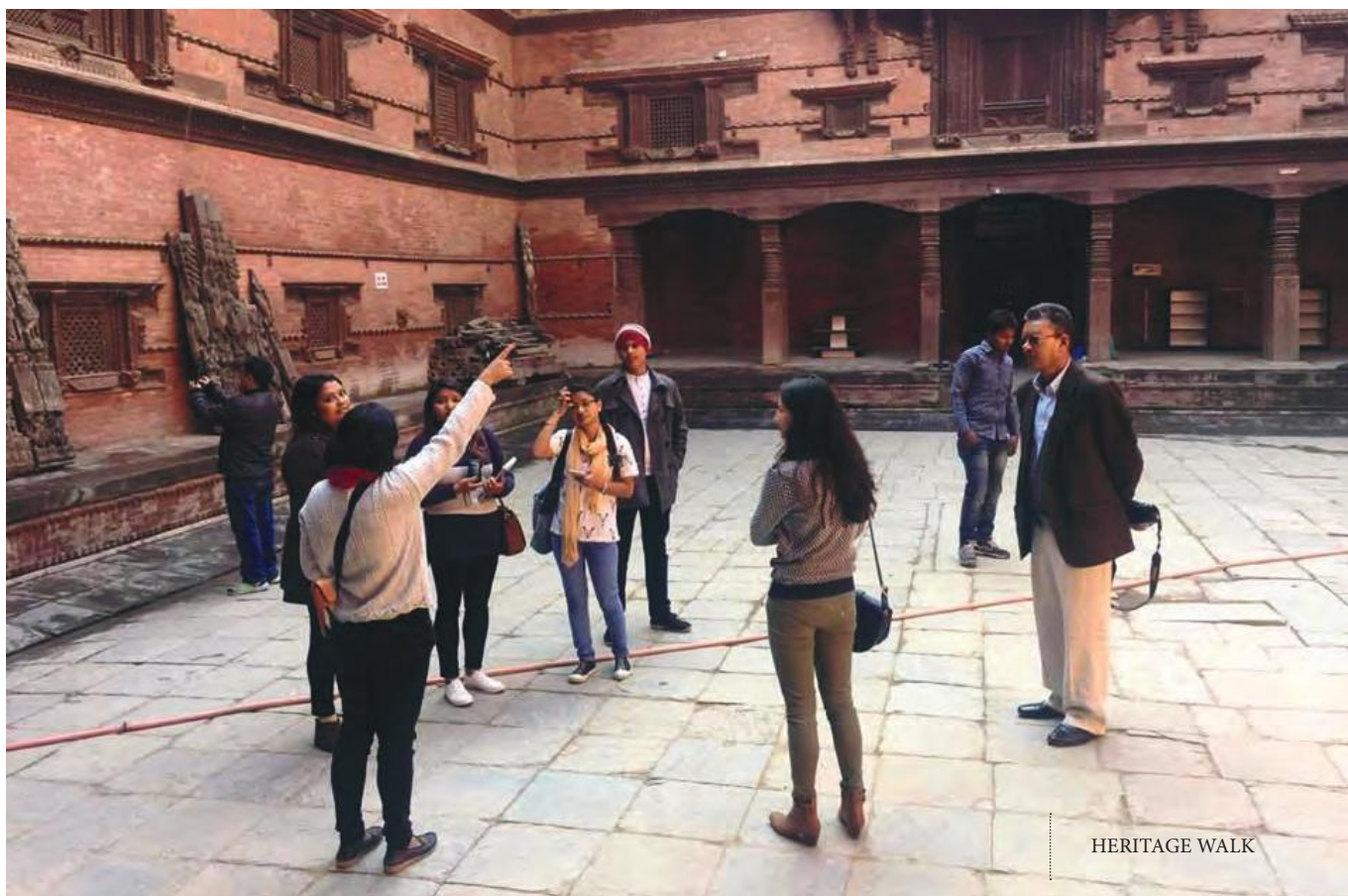
The famous Coffee Table Book 'A Day in the Life of Kathmandu', a compilation of photographs by Shri Jawed Ashraf, was launched by Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat and Ambassador Sri Ranjit Rae on 24th October 2016. Around 200 persons from all walks of life attended this book release ceremony.

The book is a dedication to the survivors of the earthquake that hit Nepal in April, 2015. The book was conceived by Sri Ashraf after the earthquake as a tribute to the city and the people of Kathmandu.

4. **Heritage walk with Mr. Kiran Chitrakar**

BPKF organized the first in series of 'Heritage Walk' at Kathmandu Durbar Square on 12th November 2016 with renowned Nepalese photographer, Mr. Kiran Chitrakar.

Both Indian and Nepalese nationals joined the walk led by Mr. Chitrakar. The participants explored the location gaining historical information about the place. More than twenty people joined the walk. The one hour walk ended with a visit to Mr. Chitrakar's gallery where the participants could see the collection of some very old photographs of Kathmandu Durbar Square.



HERITAGE WALK

5. 141st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel celebrated at Nepal Bharat Library

Embassy of India celebrated 141st Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel by organizing a Screening of a Documentary of Sardar Patel's life and a talk programme on November 16, 2016 at Nepal-Bharat Library, Kathmandu. Prof. (Dr.) Krishna Hachhethu, a renowned political analyst and Professor of Political Science in Tribhuvan University was the key-note speaker at the event.

The Documentary showed the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in laying the foundation of an independent and unified India. It also threw light on Sardar Patel's journey of life. Professor (Dr.) Krishna Hachhethu talked about the outstanding contribution made by Sardar Patel in State building and Governance building in India.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Shri Ranjit Rae talked about the contribution of Sardar Patel in Governance building, especially in the development of Indian bureaucracy to its present stage.

141st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel celebrated at Nepal Bharat Library



Consular Wing

1. The facility for issuing OCI Cards to persons of Indian Origin has been launched during October 2016. Earlier only PIO Cards were being issued from the Consular Division, Embassy of India, Kathmandu. Now, with this facility the fresh OCI cards are being issued and old PIO Cards are being converted into OCI Cards.
2. Registration Camp for Indian Nationals was held at University College of Medical Sciences, Bhairwah; Lumbini Medical College, Palpa; and Butwal from 12.11.2016 to 15.11.2016 to register Indian students and teachers studying/working in the above mentioned colleges. Besides, Indian citizens working and staying at Bhairwah, Palpa, and Butwal were also registered. The Registration Camp was necessitated because the Indian Nationals were facing problems like opening of bank account etc. in the absence of Registration Certificate from Indian Embassy, Kathmandu. Overall, around 750 Indian Nationals were registered during the camp held at the above places.

सम्माननीय भारतीय राष्ट्रपति श्री प्रणव मुखर्जीको नेपाल भ्रमण कात्तिक १७-१८

सम्माननीय भारतीय राष्ट्रपति श्री प्रणव मुखर्जीले कात्तिक १७ - १९ गतेसम्म नेपालको राजकिय भ्रमण गर्नुभयो । यो भारतीय राष्ट्र प्रमुखबाट भएको सन् १९९८ पछिको पहिलो भ्रमण थियो । भ्रमणको उच्च तह प्रतिनिधि मण्डलमा रक्षा राज्यमन्त्री डा. सुभाष भाम्रे, संसदका सदस्य श्री भुवनेश्वर कलिता, श्री एल गणेशन, श्री जगदम्बिका पल र श्री आर.के. सिंह र राष्ट्रपति भवन तथा विदेश मन्त्रालयका वरिष्ठ अधिकारीहरू समाविष्ट हुनुहुन्थ्यो । नेपालका सम्माननीय राष्ट्रपति, उपराष्ट्रपति, प्रधानमन्त्री र संसदका सदस्यहरूले राष्ट्रपति मुखर्जीलाई विमानस्थलमा स्वागत गर्नुभयो । भ्रमणका क्रममा राष्ट्रपति मुखर्जीले नेपालका राष्ट्रपति, उपराष्ट्रपति, प्रधानमन्त्री, पूर्वराष्ट्रपति, विभिन्न राजनीतिक नेताहरू र नागरिक समाजका सदस्यहरूलाई समेत भेट्नुभयो । १७ कात्तिकमा राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती विद्यादेवी भण्डारीले स्टेट ब्याङ्केटको आयोजना गर्नुभयो । ब्याङ्केटमा बोल्दै राष्ट्रपति मुखर्जीले नेपालसँगको सम्बन्ध थप सुदृढ र विस्तार गर्ने भारतको प्रतिबद्धतामा जोड दिनुभयो ।

भारत र नेपालको बलियो सांस्कृतिक र धार्मिक सम्बन्धमा जोड दिँदै राष्ट्रपति श्री मुखर्जीले १८ कात्तिकमा पशुपतिनाथ मन्दिरको भ्रमण गरी प्रार्थना गर्नुभयो । सो अवसरमा उहाँले पशुपतिनाथ



मन्दिर नजिकैको बागमती नदीमा अवस्थित दुईवटा घाटहरूको मर्मत र जिर्णोद्धार गर्न भारतले दुईवटा साना आयोजनामा काम गर्ने निर्णयको घोषणा गर्नुभयो । काठमाडौं विश्वविद्यालयले आयोजना गरेको एक विशेष दिक्षान्त समारोहमा राष्ट्रपति श्री मुखर्जीलाई विद्यावारिधि उपाधि प्रदान गरियो । सोही दिन राष्ट्रिय सभागृहमा काठमाडौं महानगरपालिकाले राष्ट्रपति मुखर्जीको नागरिक अभिनन्दन कार्यक्रमको पनि आयोजना गरेको थियो । उक्त कार्यक्रमलाई सम्बोधन गर्दै राष्ट्रपति मुखर्जीले शहरमा रहेका स्मारकहरूले काठमाडौंको विशिष्ट इतिहासको वर्णन गर्ने तथा यहाँका जनताको गौरव र आत्मविश्वास र उनीहरूको अष्टेरो परिस्थितिबाट उठ्नसक्ने क्षमताको बारेमा पनि टिप्पणी गर्नुभयो । राष्ट्रपति मुखर्जीले नीति अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान नेपाल, नेपाल सेन्टर फर कन्टेम्पोररी स्टडिज र इण्डिया फाउण्डेसनले आयोजना गरेको सेमिनारमा पनि सम्बोधन गर्नुभयो र भारत र नेपालको ऐतिहासिक तथा मित्रतापूर्ण सम्बन्धलाई अझ अगाडि बढाउन आफ्नो दृष्टिकोण व्यक्त गर्नुभयो ।

राष्ट्रपति मुखर्जीले १९ कात्तिकमा जनकपुरको भ्रमण गरी जानकी मन्दिरमा प्रार्थना गर्नुभयो । जनकपुर उपमहानगरपालिकाले उहाँलाई नागरिक अभिनन्दन प्रदान गर्‍यो । उक्त नागरिक अभिनन्दन कार्यक्रमलाई सम्बोधन गर्ने क्रममा





राष्ट्रपति मुखर्जीले दुईवटा धर्मशाला र परिक्रमापथ निर्माण गर्न भारतले सहयोग गर्ने घोषणा गर्नुभयो । राष्ट्रपति श्री मुखर्जीले पोखराको पेन्सन कार्यालयको पनि भ्रमण गर्नुभयो र १२,००० भूतपूर्व गोरखा सैनिक र उनीहरूका परिवारसँग अन्तर्क्रिया गर्नुभयो । भूतपूर्व सैनिक र वीरनारीहरूले राष्ट्रपति मुखर्जीलाई खादा प्रदान गरी स्वागत गरेको थिए । योभन्दा पहिला सम्माननीय भारतीय पूर्व राष्ट्रपतिहरू डा. एस. राधाकृष्णन र श्री एन सच्चिव रेड्डिले भूतपूर्व सैनिकहरूलाई क्रमशः सन् १९६३ नोभेम्बर र १९८१ डिसेम्बरमा सम्बोधन गर्नुभएको थियो । उक्त

कार्यक्रमलाई भव्यरूपमा स्वागत गरिएको थियो जसलाई आधिकारिक प्रतिनिधि लगायतका सहभागीहरूले भारत र नेपालबीचको न्यानो सम्बन्ध अगाडि बढाउने कोशेढुंगाको रूपमा प्रशंसा गर्नुभएको थियो । उहाँहरूले भारतीय सशस्त्र बलमा सेवा गरिरहेका र अवकाश प्राप्त व्यक्तिहरूको विशेष भूमिकाको पनि प्रशंसा गर्नुभयो । उक्त कार्यक्रम, विशेष गरी भारतीय सशस्त्र बलका कमाण्डरले नेपालका भूतपूर्व सैनिकहरूलाई ३५ वर्षको अन्तरालपछि गरेको सम्बोधनलाई सबैले एक ऐतिहासिक क्षण भएको भनि प्रशंसा गर्नुभयो । राष्ट्रपतिको आगमन, बिदाइ साथै उहाँको मन्तव्य लगायतका क्रममा देखाइएको आत्मिय सम्मानले नेपालमा भूतपूर्व सैनिकको मनोबल उजागर गरेको छ ।

एक सफल एवं ऐतिहासिक भ्रमणको निष्कर्षमा सम्माननीय राष्ट्रपतिले नेपालको शान्ति, स्थायित्व र विकासको लागि समर्थन गर्ने भारतीय प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त गर्नुभयो । भारत प्रस्थान गर्नुपूर्व दिनुभएको अन्तिम वक्तव्यमा राष्ट्रपति श्री मुखर्जीले दुबैपक्षले द्वीपक्षिय विकास र आयोजनाहरूको कार्यान्वयन र भूकम्प पश्चातको पुनर्निर्माण जस्ता कुरामा ध्यान केन्द्रित गर्नुपर्नेमा जोड दिनुभयो ।



विद्युत क्षेत्रमा भारत-नेपाल सहकार्य

विगत धेरै वर्ष अघिदेखि नेपाल र भारतबीच
विद्युत क्षेत्रमा सहकार्य हुँदैआएको छ

सव-स्टेसन कुशाह: कटैया-कुशाह पावर स्टेसन लाइन



सव-स्टेसन कुशाह: कटैया-कुशाह पावर स्टेसन लाइन

विगत धेरै वर्ष अघिदेखि नेपाल र भारतबीच विद्युत क्षेत्रमा सहकार्य हुँदैआएको छ। जेएससी र जेडब्लूजी नेपाल र भारतबीच विद्युत सहकार्यसँग सम्बन्धित विषयहरूमा छलफल गर्ने द्विपक्षीय संयन्त्र हुन। नयाँदिल्ली र काठमाडौँमा तीनओटा बैठक पालैपालो भइसकेका छन्। दुबै देशका सरकारबीच चौथो बैठक आयोजना गर्न उपयुक्त मिति तय गर्ने विषयमा आपसी छलफल भइरहेको छ।

भारतको विद्युत प्राधिकरण पावर ग्रिड कर्पोरेशन अफ इण्डिया लिमिटेड (पीजीसीआईएल) ले नेपालको विद्युत गुरुयोजनाको अल्पकालीन (२०१८-१९), मध्यकालीन (२०२१-२२) र दीर्घकालीन (२०३५ सम्म) योजना बनाउन पनि सहयोग गरेको छ। सोहीअनुरूप, उच्च क्षमताका क्रसबोर्डर इन्टरकने

क्सनहरू पनि भारत र नेपालबीच विचाराधीन रहेका छन्। यी इन्टरकनेक्सनहरू भारतबाट नेपालतर्फ विद्युत प्रसारण गर्न तथा नेपालमा बचेको बिजुली भारत लैजान उपयोगी हुनेछन्।

२०१८-१९ बाट नेपालमा १००० मेघावाट विद्युत अभाव हुने भएता पनि २०२१ देखि २०३५ सम्म निर्यातोन्मुख बचत हुनेछ। अभाव हुने २०१८-१९ को अवधिमा ४०० केभी को मुजफरपुरदेखि ढल्केबरसम्मको प्रसारण लाइनको अलावा अर्को नयाँ ४०० केभीको बुटवल-गोरखपुर प्रसारण लाइनको प्रस्ताव गरिएको छ।

२०१८-१९, २०२१-२२, २०२५ र २०३५ गरी ४ चरणमा दीर्घकालीन एकीकृत प्रसारण लाइन विकास गरिने भएको छ।

प्रशारण लाइनको लागि भारतीय सहयोग

नेपालका तत्कालीन प्रधानमन्त्री डा. बाबुराम भट्टराईले २१ अक्टोबर २०११ मा गर्नुभएको भारत भ्रमणका क्रममा नेपालमा जलविद्युत आपूर्ति गरिने विषयमा छलफल भएको र सो पछि विद्यमान प्रशारण लाइनको स्तरोन्नति तथा क्षमता अभिवृद्धि गरिने निर्णय गरियो ।

पावर ग्रिड कर्पोरेशन अफ इण्डिया लिमिटेडले २०१२ मा भारत सरकारको ने.रु. ७.७९ करोड लागतमा अल्पकालिन प्रशारण लाइन विस्तार परियोजना सफलतापूर्वक सम्पन्न गर्‍यो ।

२०१३ मा भारत सरकारले तपसिलका मध्यकालिन परियो

जना विस्तारको लागि रु. २९ करोड अनुदान सहयोग स्वीकृत गरेको छ :

क. कटैया-कुशाह डीसी लाइन नयाँ- १५ किमि

ख. रक्सौल-परवानीपुर डीसी लाइन (नयाँ) १५ किमि

ग. टनकपुर-महेन्द्रनगर- ५० एमभीए २ ओटा ट्रान्सफर्मर

स्तरोन्नति

रक्सौल-परवानीपुर र कटैया-कुशाह लाइनमा कार्य सुचारु छ भने दुबैमा कार्य समापन हुने चरणमा छन् । सम्पन्न भएपछि भारतबाट थप १०० मेघावाट विद्युत आपूर्ति गर्न सकिने छ ।



सब-स्टेशन कुशाह: कटैया-कुशाह पावर स्टेशन लाइन

मुजफरपुरदेखि ढल्केबरसम्मको प्रसारण लाइन

हालसम्म चार मुख्य प्रसारण लाइनमार्फत नेपालले ३२० मेघावाट विद्युत भारतबाट आयात गरेको छ । २०१६ को फरबरीमा नेपाल र भारतका प्रधानमन्त्रीले भारतको मुजफरपुरदेखि नेपालको ढल्केबरसम्म ४०० केभी उच्च क्षमताको पहिलो सीमापार ट्रान्समिसन लाइन उद्घाटन गर्नुभयो । सुरुमा यो १३२ केभीमा सुचारु थियो । मुजफरपुरदेखि ढल्केबरसम्मको ४०० केभीको नेपालतर्फको प्रसारण लाइन नेपाल सरकारले भारत सरकारको अमेरिकी डलर १३.५ मिलियन सहूलियत ऋण सहयोगमा कार्यान्वयन गर्दैछ । २०१७ जनवरी १ देखि भारतले थप ८० मेघावाट विद्युत ढल्केबर-मुजफरपुर सीमापार प्रसारण लाइनमार्फत आपूर्ति गराउने सहमति गरेको छ । यो सहित भारतले नेपाललाई प्रदान गर्ने कुल विद्युत आपूर्ति ४०० मेघावाट भएको छ ।

मार्च २०१७ सम्ममा २२० केभी ढल्केबर सबस्टेशन सञ्चालनसँगै मुजफरपुर-ढल्केबर लाइनलाई २२० केभी चार्ज गर्ने योजना छ । यसले गर्दा थप १५० मेघावाट विद्युत नेपालतर्फ आपूर्ति गर्न सहज हुनेछ । यो कार्य नेपालतर्फ ढल्केबरमा ४०० केभी सब-स्टेशन सुरुवातपछि गरिनेछ जसले गर्दा मुजफरपुरदेखि ढल्केबरसम्म ४०० केभी डीसी लाइनलाई निर्धारित भोल्टेजमा सुचारु गरी नेपालतर्फ ३००-४०० मेघावाट विद्युत आपूर्ति थप हुनेछ ।

हाल सीमापार प्रसारण लाइन भन्नाले नेपालतर्फ विद्युत आपूर्ति गरिने माध्यम भन्ने भएता पनि भविष्यमा नेपालबाट निर्यात गर्न समेत यसैको प्रयोग हुनेछ । यी सीमापार प्रसारण लाइनका निर्माणसँगै प्रसारण क्षमता १००० मेघावाटसम्म अभिवृद्धि हुनेछ ।

जलविद्युतमा सहकार्य

नेपालको सम्भावित ८३००० मेघावाट क्षमतामध्ये ४४ हजार मेघावाट आर्थिकरूपले उत्पादनयोग्य छ । नेपालमा ८२४९ मेघावाट क्षमताका जलविद्युत परियोजनाको लागि २८ ओटा भारतीय कम्पनीहरूलाई सर्वेक्षण इजाजत प्रदान गरिएको छ । ती मध्ये ९०० मेघावाटको अरुण तेस्रो, ९०० मेघावाटको माथिल्लो कर्णाली र ६०० मेघावाटको माथिल्लो मर्स्याङ्दी प्रमुख हुन् ।

नेपाल र भारतबीच कोशी सम्झौता १९५४ (१९६६ मा परिमार्जन) मा गरिएको थियो । कोशी बाँधका फाइदाहरू नेपालका लागि सीमित भएकाले भारतले नेपालको मात्र प्रयोजनको लागि २१ मेघावाटको त्रिशुली जलविद्युत परियोजना निर्माण गरिदियो ।

१९५९ मा हस्ताक्षरित (१९६४ मा परिमार्जित) गण्डक सम्झौतानुरूप भारतले पश्चिम मुख्य नहरमा (नेपालतर्फ) १५ मेघावाटको विद्युतगृह निर्माण गरी नेपाल सरकारलाई हस्तान्तरण गरिदियो ।

१९९६ को महाकाली सन्धिअनुसारको पञ्चेश्वर बहुउद्देश्यीय परियोजनाको जडित क्षमता ५६०० मेघावाट छ भने यसले नेपालमा १ लाख ३० हजार हेक्टर तथा भारतमा २ लाख ४० हजार हेक्टर जमिनमा संचाइ सुविधा प्रदान गर्न सक्दछ । पञ्चेश्वर विकास परियोजना निर्माणको विधानमा

सेप्टेम्बर २०१४ मा हस्ताक्षर गरियो ।

सप्तकोशी-सुनकोशी बहुउद्देश्यीय परियोजनाले (क) कोशीमा २६९ मिटर अग्लो बाँध निर्माण, (ख) तल्लो तटीय सिंचाइको लागि चतरामा बाँध, (ग) सुनकोशीमा डाइभर्सन संरचना, (घ) सुनकोशीको पानीलाई कमला नदीमा तर्काउन १६ किमि लामो नहर, (ङ) कमलामा बाँध, र (च) नेपालमा सिंचाइको लागि कमलाको तल्लो भागमा बाँध निर्माण गर्ने परिकल्पना गरेको छ । यस परियोजनाले ४६८९ मेघावाट जलविद्युत उत्पादन गर्नुको साथै भारतमा दशलाख हेक्टर तथा नेपालमा ७ लाख हेक्टर जमिनमा सिंचाइ सुविधा प्रदान गर्न सक्दछ । यसको साथै दुवै देशलाई बाढीबाट जोगाउनुको साथै कोशीदेखि गंगा नदीसम्म जलमार्ग विस्तार गर्न सकिन्छ ।

यी बाहेक, २०११ मा अमेरिकी डलर १०० मिलियन सहूलियत ऋणमध्ये ४ मिलियन डलरमा १५ मेघावाट क्षमताको देवीघाट जलविद्युत गृहको पुनर्वास सम्पन्न गरिएको थियो । यो परियोजना भारतीय सहयोगमा १९८३ मा सुरु गरिएको हो ।

भारतको एक्जिम बैंकले नेपाल सरकारलाई सहूलियत ऋणस्वरूप प्रदान गरेको अमेरिकी डलर १०० मिलियन र २५० मिलियनमध्ये ६७ मिलियन डलर ३२ मेघावाट क्षमताको राहुघाट जलविद्युत परियोजना विकासको लागि स्वीकृत गरी भारतले नेपालको जलविद्युत विकासमा सहयोग गरेको छ ।

सीमापार विद्युत व्यापार निर्देशिका

भारत सरकारको उर्जामन्त्रालयले ५ डिसेम्बर २०१६ मा सीमापार विद्युत व्यापार निर्देशिका जारी गरेको छ। यस निर्देशिकाले नेपाल र भारतबीच हुने विद्युत व्यापार नियमलाई पारदर्शी तथा स्पष्ट गराउने काम गरेको छ। यसले नेपालमा जलविद्युतको आगामी विकासमा समेत सहयोग पुग्नेछ।

नेपाली जलविद्युत क्षेत्रको शीघ्र विकासमा यो निर्देशिका कोशेढुंगा सावित हुनेछ। भारतले पहिलो पटक नियन्त्रण खुकुलो गरी छिमेकी देशबाट उर्जा निर्यात गर्ने बजार खुलाएको हो।

यस नीतिले भारतमा दर्ता भएका तथा नेपालका सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रका कम्पनीलाई प्रवर्द्धन गर्दछ। अब प्रवर्द्धकले विद्युत मूल्य निर्धारणको लागि नेपाल सरकारमार्फत भारत सरकारलाई अवगत गराउनु पर्दछ।

हालसम्म भारतले उसका छिमेकीहरुलाई मात्र विद्युत बिक्री गरिरहेकोमा नयाँ नीतिले भारतमा समेत सजिलै, पारदर्शी र घोषितरूपले विद्युत निर्यात गर्ने आधार तय गरेको छ। उर्जामन्त्रालयले केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरणलाई सीमापार विद्युत कारोबार तथा व्यापार सहजिकरणको प्राधिकार दिएको छ। दुई देशबीच उर्जा क्षेत्रमा आपसी सहकार्य अभिवृद्धि गर्ने प्रयास जारी रहने छ।

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