

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV Amrit Mahotsav CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE



High Level Visits



Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Lumbini, Nepal on 16 May 2022, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima. Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba and Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi visited Mayadevi Temple, within which lies the birth place of Lord Buddha. Prime Minister Modi together with Prime Minister Deuba participated in the "Shilanyas" ceremony for the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage. During the visit, agreements were signed for establishments of three ICCR chairs in Nepal; cooperation between Kathmandu University and IIT. Madras: and development as well as implementation of Arun - 4 Hydropower Project.



During the visit of Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba to India from 1-3 April 2022, both Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated the 90 km long 132 KV Solu Corridor Transmission line, and also flagged off the first broad-gauge passenger railway service connecting India and Nepal in the Jayanagar-Kurtha section. The use of Indian RuPay card in Nepal was also jointly launched by the two Prime Ministers.

On the sidelines of COP26 Summit in Glasgow on 2 November 2021, Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. This was the first meeting of Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Deuba after their telephone conversation in July 2021 when Prime Minister Deuba assumed office.

Ambassador's Message

On the occasion of the 76th Independence Day of India, it is privilege to extend heartfelt greetings to my fellow Indians and friends of India in Nepal. This is a special moment for all Indians as our country achieves a significant milestone of completing 75 years as an indepen-

Indians across various parts of the world are celebrating this historic occasion through "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" which was launched by Prime Minister Modi in March 2021. The Mahotsav acknowledges the contributions made by countless Indians from all walks of life towards the progress of our country. This Independence Day is an occasion for us all to rededicate ourselves to realizing the vision of Atma-Nirbhar Bharat or a Self-reliant India which in Prime Minister Modi's words is not about looking within but about looking out for the world and that India's self-reliance is ingrained in the happiness, cooperation and peace of the world.

An embodiment of this vision is India's policy of Neighbourhood First in which Nepal, of course, enjoys a special place. Our age-old links characterized by shared cultural traditions provide the foundation of our partnership today. The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Lumbini in May 2022, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, is just a reflection of these deep-rooted people-to-people contacts of kinship and culture.

As India progresses on its transformational journey, it remains committed towards working closely with Nepal for mutual benefit and prosperity. India has been and will continue to prioritize its development partnership with Nepal. Over the course of last year, several projects have been completed and new ones have been initiated. The total cost of these projects is USD 12.7 million. I am particularly pleased that in November 2021, 50,000 houses rebuilt under grant assistance from India were handed over to the Government of Nepal. This was one of the important commitments made by India after the tragic earthquake of 2015.

Moreover, in the last one year significant progress has also been made in enhancing connectivity between the two countries. The launch of the first broad-gauge passenger railway service connecting India and Nepal through Jayanagar-Kurtha rail link, the introduction of RuPay card in Nepal, the inauguration of Solu transmission corridor transmission line and increasing exports of hydropower from Nepal highlight this development. The Joint Vision Statement on Power Corporation issued during the visit of Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba to India in April this year provides a blueprint for future collaboration and a mutually beneficial partnership.

As we work together with our partners in Nepal for a shared prosperous future, the Embassy of India in Kathmandu will continue with its efforts in strengthening and expanding the multifaceted relationship between India and Nepal

Over the next year, the Embassy intends to organize more events under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. I urge everyone to take part actively in the Mahotsav. I again extend my warm greetings to fellow Indians in Nepal on 75 years of India's Independence.

(Naveen Srivastava)

Development Partnership



Reconstruction Projects

Ground Breaking ceremony of Tribhuvan University Library Under Government of India's USD 50 million grant assistance, a foundation stone was laid for the Tribhuvan University Central Library project. The Library is being constructed at a cost of NRs 316.9 million as per earthquake-resilient reconstruction norms.

Restoration & Museum development of the historic Nepal Bhasha Parishad building

The foundation stone was laid for the Restoration & Museum development of the historic Nepal Bhasha Parishad building.

Jaynagar-Kurtha-Bijalpura Railway Line

o Jayanagar (India) - Kurtha (Nepal) rail section (34.9 kms) was inaugurated / flagged off jointly by Prime Ministers of India and Nepal from New Delhi on 2nd April 2022. The rail link is constructed as part of . Javanagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail link project at the cost of NRs 8770 million.



Raxaul Kathmandu Rail Link

o Final Location Survey for Raxaul-Kathmandu rail link has progressed upto 50%.





Gifting of Ambulances & School Buses

o In the last one year, Government of India gifted 75 ambulances and 17 school buses. Since 1994, 940 ambulances and 184 school buses have been gifted to various beneficiary organizations spread across



High Impact Community Development Projects

14 schools built under the programme were inaugurated in Kaski, Mustang, Parbat, Kapilvastu, Doti, Taplejung, Tanahun, Nuwakot, Mahakali, Khalanga and Darchula Districts. A foundation stone was laid for construction of a new school building in Udayapur District.

Other completed projects include Theatre Complex of Arohan Gurukul in Morang; Jyapu Samaj Jestha Nagarik Ananda Niketan Bhawan in Lalitpur; Multipurpose hall, boys hostel and teachers' quarters of Nepal Police School in Kailali; Drinking Water Supply Project in Solukhumbu; Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital Building in Dingla, Bhojpur and Academic Building of Sindhuli Community Technical Institute.

Government of India has also committed to fund NRs. 70.87 million for school and health post buildings in Darchula District and Irrigation Project in Dhading District; NRs. 41.13 million for Waste Water Management Project at Solukhumbu District.

Commitment to provide LPG gas stoves, gas cylinders and accessories to underprivileged households in three districts viz. Sarlahi, Rautahat & Saptari of Madhesh Pradesh.

Continued Engagements



On the sidelines of the 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting in Colombo, Minister of External Affairs of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Dr. Narayan Khadka held bilateral meeting on 29 March 2022.

• On the sidelines of UNGA in New York, Minister of External Affairs of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Dr. Narayan Khadka held bilateral meeting on 26 September 2021.

Power Cooperation









India-Nepal Joint Vision Statement on Power Sector Cooperation for: (a) joint development of power generation projects in Nepal; development of cross-border transmission infrastructure; bi-directional power trade with appropriate access to electricity markets in both countries based on mutual benefits, market demand and applicable domestic regulations of each country; coordinated operation of the national grids; and institutional cooperation in sharing latest operational information, technology and know-how.

- Increase in export of electricity from Nepal to India.
- Three substations under the Modi-Lekhnath Transmission Line and Substations Project inaugurated.
- 132 kV Solu Corridor Transmission line inaugurated.
- Agreement on the development and implementation of Arun-IV Hydropower Project.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations



International Sanskrit Seminar on the theme "Sanskrit: Source of Eastern

International Womens Day Celebration



Kashmiri Folk Dance during Flavours of Kashmir event

Cultural performance at Pashupatinath

Temple during Sandhya Arti on the eve



Students of Hindustani Vocal Music performing during Vishwa Hindi Diwas



Celebrating International day of Yoga

Defence Cooperation



SURYA KIRAN: 15th iteration of the India-Nepal Joint Military Exercise 'Surya Kiran' was conducted in India with participation of 300 personnel each from the Indian Army and the Nepali Army.



Gifting of workshop trucks to Nepali Army.

Strengthening Trade & Commerece

of Mahashivaratri



Increase in Nepal's export to India in FY 2021-22 by 103.67% over the last FY.



Exchange of Note Verbales and Letter of Exchange of Rail Services Agreement



Launch of Rupay Card in



3rd Connect [IN] Entrepreneurship Conclave

Educational Exchanges

From January 2021 to July 2022, about 2400 scholarships were provided by the Government of India to $Ne pali students \ under \ various \ schemes. \ In \ 57 \ years \ of its \ existence, more \ than \ 2,00,000 \ people \ world-wide$ have been directly benefitted.

For study in Nepal



Under the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship Scheme (MGSS) for studying in XI & XII.

For study in India

For various Under Graduate, Post Graduate and PhD



Under Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (GJSS) for various Under- Graduate courses.

For studying in Army Public Schools in India.

Under Self Financing Scheme (SFS), Nepalese students are provided direct admission for seats in MBBS, BDS, Engineering, Architecture and Pharmacy in prestigious Medical colleges and National Institutes of Technology across India.