

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

INDIA@75

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. This Mahotsav is dedicated to the people of India who have been instrumental in bringing India thus far and have the vision to make a new India fuelled by the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat.



Atmanirbhar Bharat - a flagship initiative of Government - is aimed at making the country self-reliant.



Launched in 2014, the Make in India initiative by Government has transformed India into a global manufacturing and innovation hub.



India is focused on doubling farmers' income by 2022 using seven pronged strategy focused on better irrigation, better quality seeds and post harvest loss reduction.



Yoga - an invaluable gift of ancient India - has turned into a global celebration with the UN recognizing 21 June as International Day of Yoga.



India is breaking new barriers in space science and technology and innovation at a competitive cost that encourages accessibility globally. India became the first country in the world to send a Mission to Mars in its maiden attempt.



Young India is making its mark in the sporting arena winning medals at international events including Olympics.



India - 'Pharmacy of the World' - is making available affordable and quality medicine as well as medical equipment during Covid-19 pandemic globally.



India is a net security provider and first responder. Its defence capabilities stand for preserving national security and promoting global peace.

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

On the august occasion of the 75th year of India's Independence, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to fellow Indians and to friends of India in Nepal. India is commemorating its independence within and outside India with ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations that began this year and will continue till 2023.



The Mahotsav is dedicated to the indomitable spirit and the remarkable progress in all human endeavours that has defined the journey of modern India. As we navigate an unprecedented pandemic, India draws inspiration from the resilience, will power, and courage of the valiant sons and daughters of India who came before us, particularly our freedom fighters and martyrs who gained us our independence and have fought hard to defend it since then. The 1.3 billion citizens of India are collectively moving towards realizing the vision of 'Atma Nirbharta' - a self-reliant Bharat that will also be a positive force for international development and security.

As we observe this occasion, we cannot forget the contribution of the Nepali people who stood with us in solidarity and supported our struggle against colonial rule. This in many ways epitomizes the abiding bonds of friendship and history between our two people. On this foundation of friendship, both countries have continuously nurtured our bilateral relationship in new directions and to even higher levels. India's commitment to Nepal's progress and all round development is steadfast. It is, among other things, reflected in the wide spectrum of our developmental partnership, grant assistance and Lines of Credit across a range of sectors including construction of roads, power projects, rail connectivity to education, health and restoration of cultural monuments.

Up-gradation of roads in the Terai and the start of construction of ICP at Nepalgunj last year will give further fillip to enhancing people-to-people flows.

Nepal was the first country to benefit from India's recently unveiled guidelines in cross-border power trade. We are also connected by South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline, a project finished and operationalized in 2019. The recent signing of a letter of exchange between India and Nepal has given a major boost to liberalizing trade and transit in rail; All cargo train operators can now utilize the Indian railway network to carry all containers bound for Nepal, both bilateral and third country freight from Indian ports. Similarly, our cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic has continued on a strong footing. Such cooperation has extended to medical supplies, vaccines, life-saving equipment and capacity building capsules.

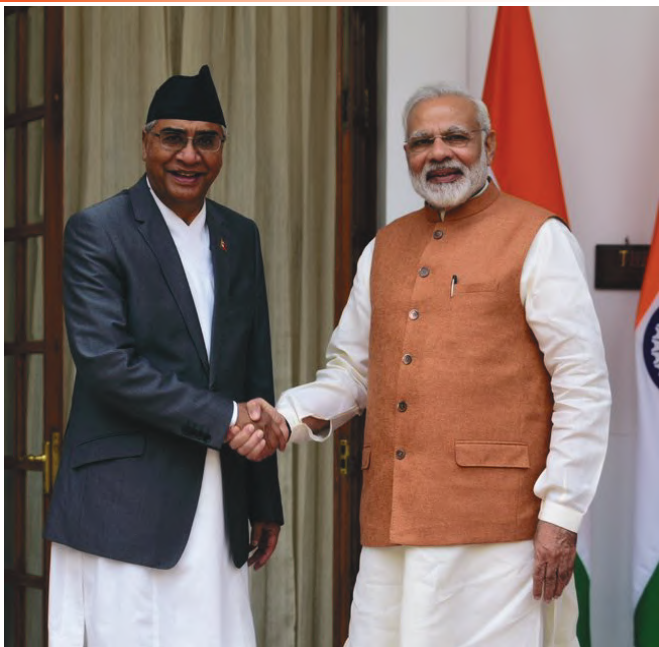
The Embassy of India, Kathmandu is planning a series of events for our 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and I take this opportunity to encourage everyone to take part actively in the celebrations.

Wish you a Happy Independence Day! Jai Hind!

15th August 2021

(Vinay Kwatra)

INDIA-NEPAL: PARTNERS IN PROGRESS



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi conveyed congratulations and best wishes to Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba over telephone on 19 July 2021 for his appointment as the Prime Minister of Nepal.

RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS

Housing Sector



o 48500 houses have been built so far for beneficiaries of Gorkha and Nuwakot, out of 50000 houses under grant assistance of USD 100mn from India.

Education Sector



o 14 out of 70 schools have been built under post-earthquake reconstruction grant of USD 50mn from India. Tribhuvan University Central Library is also being reconstructed under this grant.

Health Sector



o 147 health facilities in 10 districts of Nepal are to be reconstructed under post-earthquake reconstruction grant of USD 50mn from India; work has started in 128 projects.

Cultural Heritage Sector



o Conservation/restoration of 28 cultural heritage projects is being done under post-earthquake reconstruction grant of USD 50mn from India.

Integrated Check Post (ICP) - Birgunj, Biratnagar & Nepalgunj

- o Ground breaking ceremony of ICP Nepalgunj was held in November 2020.
- o ICP Birgunj operationalized in April 2018 and ICP Biratnagar in January 2020,
- o Helping create modern infrastructure for enhanced trade and seamless cargo movement.



Motihari - Amlekhgunj Petroleum Pipeline

- o First of its kind cross-border pipeline in South Asia; creating energy links for shared prosperity,
- o Project completed in half the contract period (15 months) at a cost of over NRs 5.2 billion,
- o Drastically reduced traffic at Raxaul- Birgunj crossing; also saving billions of Rupees.



Jaynagar-Kurtha Cross-border Rail link

- o Built with Indian assistance of NRs 8.77 billion, Jaynagar-Kurtha rail is ready for operation,
- o Indian Railways completed trial at 110kmph on July 20, 2021,
- o Kurtha-Bijalpura in final stages of completion, Jogbani-Biratnagar rail link is at advance stage of completion under Indian assistance of NRs. 5.984 billion.



Supply of train sets to Nepal

- o Two DEMU sets procured by Government of Nepal from Konkan Railways on 18th September 2020,
- o Two Trains with 2 driving cars, 2 AC and 4 regular trailers are ready for operating on Jaynagar-Kurtha completed track.



Indo-Nepal cross border transmission line

- o A first of its kind project, linking India (Muzaffarpur) and Nepal (Dhalkebar) for cross border trade of surplus power,
- o A high capacity electrical highway for bulk power exchange between the two countries,
- o Comprises about 90 km in India and 40 km in Nepal, with a designed capacity of 1,000 MW.



Terai Roads inaugurated

- o Two lane motorable roads, connecting villages in 7 districts of Terai region to Mahendra Raja Marg,
- o 13 out of 14 road sections have already been completed and inaugurated; 1 is nearing completion,
- o Built with Indian assistance of NRs 8 billion.

HIGH IMPACT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



- o More than 454 projects have been completed at a cost of over NRs 9.13 billion by India boosting infrastructure in health, education, drinking water, micro-hydro power plants, road and solarisation,
- o Directly benefitting students, patients and people in all 77 districts of Nepal including remote villages.

GIFTING OF AMBULANCES & SCHOOL BUSES



- o 862 ambulances and 166 school buses gifted so far; covers all 77 districts of Nepal, including remote villages
- o Helps in emergency medical treatment of vulnerable cases; facilitates safe travel of school children between school-home

DEFENCE COOPERATION



- o Medical equipment and supplies including ambulances, ICU ventilators, ICU beds, PPE kits, PCR test kits, vaccines etc. were provided by the Indian Army to Nepali Army to fight against Covid-19 pandemic.

EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIP

India's contribution to the development of human resources in Nepal has been one of the major aspects of India-Nepal cooperation. Around 3000 scholarships/seats are provided every year by Government of India.



For Study in India

- o 1000 scholarships are provided every year to Nepalese students to study in various Under Graduate, Post Graduate and PhD courses under various scholarship schemes such as COMPLEX Scholarship Scheme, General Scholarship Scheme, Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme, Homi Jahangir Bhabha Scholarship Scheme and AYUSH Scholarship Scheme.

- o 31 scholarships are provided every year to Nepalese students for studying in Army Public Schools in India.

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

For Study in Nepal

- o 2000 scholarships are awarded every year under the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship Scheme for studying in XI & XII.

- o 200 scholarships under the Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme for studying in various under-graduate courses.