

CELEBRATING THE 80TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



It is my distinct honour to extend warm greetings to my fellow Indian citizens and Friends of India in Nepal on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day of India.

In the last one year, there have been significant developments here in Nepal as you are well aware. The elections earlier this year have led to a majority Government led by Rastriya Swatantra Party. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji congratulated the new leadership of Nepal soon after the elections, and underlined that as a close friend and neighbour, India is committed to working closely with the people of Nepal and their new government to scale new heights of shared peace, progress and mutual prosperity. This commitment was also reaffirmed at the leadership level during the recent visits of the Foreign Minister of Nepal and the President of the Rastriya Swatantra Party to India in June 2026.

The resilient and multifaceted nature of India and Nepal's partnership was reflected in India's support to the conduct of elections in Nepal in March

2026, including through the provision of logistical assistance. India has also maintained uninterrupted supply of fuel and other essential commodities to Nepal despite global disruptions.

Our bilateral ties continue to move forward in areas of traditional strength such as trade and commerce, investments, energy, development cooperation, education, disaster response and mitigation, and culture.

The construction of roads, bridges and rail-links has eased the movement of people; the commencement of cargo shipments by rail to Nepal Customs Yard, Biratnagar will facilitate more efficient, cost-effective trade and transit between India and Nepal; the launch of peer-to-peer digital payments between India and Nepal will facilitate the speedier transfer of remittances by a large number of Nepali citizens working in India to their families in Nepal; cooperation in the energy sector through trade in power, development of new hydropower projects and inauguration of new transmission lines helps with sustainable energy growth on both sides.

The virtual inauguration and handing-over of 72 health facilities and 12 cultural heritage sector projects under

India's 'Earthquake Reconstruction Assistance' to Nepal, following the 2015 earthquake, during the recent visit of the Foreign Minister of Nepal to New Delhi is an example of India's steadfast development cooperation with Nepal.

Growing synergies and stronger connectivity between India and Nepal are now helping foster greater interaction in newer domains such as start-ups, AI, Information Technology, renewable energy and many others.

We are working with our Nepali friends to further expand our cooperation in areas such as agriculture, health, space and sports particularly cricket.

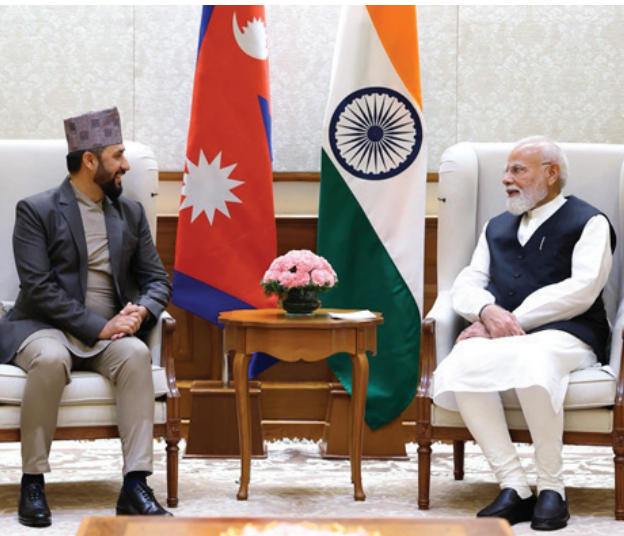
The Indian community in Nepal has played a vital and commendable role in this endeavor. I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to the community for its unwavering support of the Embassy's initiatives aimed at deepening the bonds between our two nations.

I extend my heartfelt wishes to you all for a joyous and memorable 80th Independence Day.

Jai Hind, Jay Nepal.

(Naveen Srivastava)

STRENGTHENING INDIA-NEPAL RELATIONSHIP



Mr. Rabi Lamichhane, Chairman of the Rastriya Swatantra Party, visited India from 1-5 June 2026. During the visit, he met Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, and Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.



Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Mr. Shisir Khanal, undertook an official visit to India from 5-7 June 2026. During the visit, he held a delegation-level meeting with Hon'ble EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar. 84 projects, comprising 72 health facilities and 12 monasteries in Nepal, built through India's post-earthquake reconstruction grant, were handed over by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar to Foreign Minister Mr. Shisir Khanal.

DEFENCE COOPERATION



1st edition of Exercise PRAGATI was conducted by Indian Army from 18 to 31 May 2026 at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Shillong). A 38 member contingent of Nepali Army participated in the exercise along with troops of 11 countries.

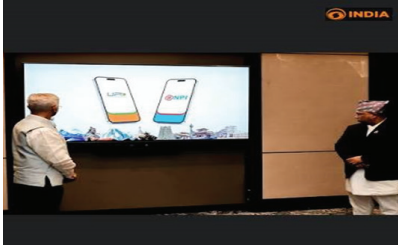


A 10-member Nepali Army team participated in the International Military Adventure Challenge Cup (IMACC-2026), conducted by the Indian Army in the North-Eastern Region of India from 12-28 February 2026.

COMMERCE COOPERATION



The 2nd cohort of 25 Nepali startups, spanning AI, fintech, biotechnology, cleantech, agritech, IoT and SaaS, concluded a 8-week training programme at IIT Madras Pravartak, on 31 July 2026, under IN-SPAN (India-Nepal Startup Partnership Network), a fully funded training program at IIT Madras, developed in collaboration with IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation.



India and Nepal launched a Cross-Border Remittance Mechanism to Strengthen bilateral financial connectivity. The UPI-NPI linkage represents a major advancement in financial inclusion, fostering stronger economic and digital ties between India and Nepal.



The Embassy of India in Nepal, in association with the Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NICCI), jointly organized a seminar on "India-Nepal Partnership in Emerging Technologies: Exploring Bilateral Opportunities for AI Collaboration." The programme brought together representatives from business, government, academia, and startups to discuss prospects for cooperation in artificial intelligence between the two countries.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP



The prestigious 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award of Merit for Cultural Heritage Conservation was conferred on Jestha Varna Mahavihar, Lalitpur. The plaque and certificate were handed over by UNESCO Representative in Nepal Mr. Jaco Du Toit to the Jestha Varna Mahavihar User Committee and Indian PMC INTACH, in the presence of Lalitpur Metropolitan City Mayor Shri Chiri Babu Maharjan, on 2 July 2026.



Following the signing of the Letter of Exchange amending the Protocol to the India-Nepal Treaty of Transit in November 2025, which inter alia expanded the definition of rail-based freight, a cargo train from Kolkata Port arrived at the Nepal Customs Yard, Biratnagar, on 20 July 2026 via the Indian Customs Yard in Jogbani.

CULTURAL CONNECT & SPORTS



Embassy of India, Kathmandu celebrated Buddha Jayanti in Lumbini in collaboration with the Lumbini Development Trust and Lumbini Buddhist University on 30 April 2026. The highlights included a painting exhibition by school students, chanting of prayers by monks from India & Nepal, and a vibrant cultural evening.



Embassy of India in Nepal and Consulate General of India, Birgunj, organised 22 yoga events across 11 cities, attracting over 13,000 participants, in connection with International Day of Yoga celebrations. The main event on 21 June 2026 at Pokhara Rangasala drew over 8,000 yoga enthusiasts.



The Embassy of India, Kathmandu celebrated Asadh Purnima on 29 July 2026. The event witnessed participation by monks and scholars from the Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana traditions from monasteries across Nepal. The sacred chants and prayers by the monks, honoured Lord Buddha's first sermon delivered at Sarnath.



Embassy of India Kathmandu organised The 2nd Indian Ambassador's Cricket Tournament from 26-28 June 2026, with participation of 8 teams at TU Cricket Ground and Mulpani Cricket Stadium. At the concluding ceremony of the event, Ambassador Shri Naveen Srivastava presented professional cricket kits to three promising Nepali U-19 women cricketers.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION



Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Exchange of Pre-arrival Information of Export of goods for trade facilitation and Customs control between India and Nepal was signed on 21 January 2026 in New Delhi. Pre-arrival information exchange enables customs authorities to assess risks and process consignments in advance, ensuring faster and more secure border clearance. It strengthens trade facilitation while enhancing security, transparency and overall efficiency in cross-border movements.

EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

500	Seats under the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship Scheme (MGSS) for studying in XI & XII in Nepal in 2025.
200	Seats under Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (GJSS) for various undergraduate courses in Nepal in 2025.

700	Seats for various Undergraduate, Postgraduate and PhD courses in India in 2025.
28	Seats for studying in Army Public Schools in India in 2025.



In 2025, about 1500 scholarships were provided by India for Nepali nationals for various courses in India as well in Nepal.



In 2025, 417 Nepalese officials and professionals underwent training in 82 different courses in various institutes of India including IITs, IIMs, PRIDE, NSG, RRU, GSV, PGIMER etc, under ITEC programme of Government of India.

POWER CONNECT



The 13th meeting of the Joint Steering Committee on Power Sector Cooperation (JSC), co-chaired by Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Power, GoI, and Ms. Sarita Dawadi, Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, GoN, was held in Pokhara on 15 July 2026. It followed the 13th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on 14 July, co-chaired by Shri Pankaj Kumar, JS (Transmission), GoI, and Mr. Sandip Kumar Dev, JS, GoN. The meetings reviewed bilateral power cooperation, including hydropower development, power trade and transmission infrastructure.