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OPINION
Ashok K Mehta



FORUM
Dr. Prabin Manandhar

NEW
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FORTNIGHT



POLITICS
Left, Right, Left Right

INSIDE



NEA
Increasing Profit



NEPAL ARMY DAY
Time To Recall Glory

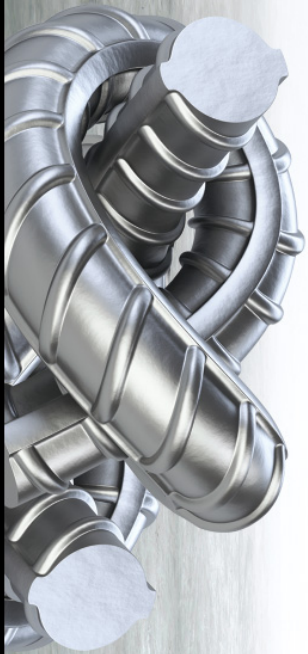


IWD 2024
Helvetas Nepal's InElam Project
Transforms Daliit Women

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Notes From The Editor



In a democracy, governments change frequently. However, for younger democracies like Nepal, political instability is a major hindrance to economic development. Political instability has been a part of Nepalese politics for a long time, whether during the period of absolute monarchy, constitutional monarchy with multi-party democracy, or the current fifteen-year-long republican setup. The rise and fall of governments is a regular phenomenon. Nepal has had a stable communist government since the 2017 general elections, but its lifespan was shortened to one year. Since the 2023 general elections, Nepal has already seen three different coalitions. During the elections, CPN-Maoist chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda formed a secret alliance with CPN-UML and two other small parties, despite previously contesting in an alliance with Nepali Congress and two other parties. However, Prachanda broke the coalition with CPN-UML within just three months. He formed a coalition government with Nepali Congress and two other parties. As is his political nature, PM Prachanda abruptly broke his alliance with Nepali Congress last week and joined forces with his arch-rival Oli. It is uncertain how long this government will last, given the nature of Nepal. We have analyzed the pros and cons of the change in leadership and its impact on the country. This week's cover story is political change. Additionally, we report on Nepal Electricity Authority's transition to a profitable public venture. We also cover other relevant issues.

Keshab Poudel

Editor

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Japan Will Continue Support Nepal For Economic Development: Ambassador Kikuta

The Japanese ambassador to Nepal, Yutaka Kikuta, stated that the success of Nepalese students in Japan is also a success for Nepal’s future development and prosperity.

During the inauguration of the Hiroshima University Scholars’ Alumni Nepal (HsUSAN) Second Annual



General Assembly and Souvenir HiSUAN Souvenir, Ambassador Kikuta expressed that Japan will continue to provide support to Nepal in the development sector and capacity building of Nepal’s technical and administrative sector.

Ambassador Kikuta prefers attending Alumnae Associations that promote cooperation among graduates in the fields of environmental conservation, socio-cultural, and economic development between Nepal and Japan. He welcomed the establishment of the new alumni association, which will foster friendly relations between Japan and Nepal.

In 2022, it was 120 years since the first eight Nepali students were sent to Japan with the mission of modernizing and developing Nepal. They traveled across the ocean to Japan to receive an education. HiUSAN members chose Hiroshima University because they believe there is still something to be learned from Japan today.

Today marks my fourth year of service in this country, and I am delighted to attend the program. Dr. R.P. Shrestha chaired the event, and Ambassador Kikuta presented and distributed appreciation letters to the contributors of the HiUSAN Souvenir. Shrestha expressed gratitude to Ambassador Kikuta for attending the program.

During his inaugural statement, Dr. S.K. Maharjan, Vice President of HiSUAN, stated that the Association aims to unite all Nepalese students returning from Japan and contribute to Nepal.

Secretary of HiSUAN, Babul Khanal, highlighted the association’s activities and annual report. Dr. Sunil Babu Shrestha, President of the Japanese University Alum-

ni Association Nepal (JUAAN), and Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, President of the JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN), highlighted the contributions of Nepalese students who returned from Japan in their message.

Additionally, Gopinath Mainali, former secretary, stated that Japanese education is highly beneficial for Nepal. Mainali shared that studying in Japan greatly improved his capacity and quality of work in various government ministries.

MCA-Nepal Board Advances 18 KM Cross-Border Segment Of The Power Transmission Line

The 40th MCA-Nepal Board has decided to advance the 18 km Nepal portion of the Butwal-Gorakhpur power transmission line on a priority basis by separating it from the larger 315km transmission line.

The Board meeting, which was held on 6 March, determined that expediting cross-border section will help to meet the obligations of the cross-border power trade agreement between Nepal and India.

“MCA-Nepal Board made this determination collectively owing to the critical importance of this segment to the Government of Nepal (GoN) and the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). The separation of the 18 km segment from the larger transmission line network will enable a



quicker procurement process and its implementation in order to ensure that the line is completed on time by May, 2026 to connect with the lines under construction on the Indian side of the border.” shared Mr. Nabin Raj Singh, Joint Secretary and Spokesperson at the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation post the Board meeting.

The cross-border transmission line is a critical component of the Electricity Transmission Project and will facilitate cross-border electricity trade to meet Nepal’s needs. In October 2019, both the Governments of Nepal and India agreed to the financing and ownership framework that will govern the implementation of the New Butwal – Gorakhpur cross-border transmission line.

For the remaining 297 km transmission line, MCA-Nepal continues to work to procure the services of

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design-build contractors to complete the construction of the transmission lines within the agreed timeline.

MCA-Nepal remains committed to ensuring the transmission lines are built on time, within budget, and in accordance with GoN and MCC's environmental and social standards.

SAARC Is An Important Forum To Pursue Our Common Goals: Foreign Secretary Lamsal

Foreign Secretary Sewa Lamsal underlined that South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is an important forum to pursue our common goals and hence, the need to generate new impetus within the organization.

In her remarks as Chief Guest, she said that Nepal has been giving high importance to SAARC. The Programming Committee meeting of SAARC held in Kathmandu recently.



The committee was chaired by Joint Secretary (Regional Organi-

sation Division) Ms. Rita Dhital and participating delegations are led by Joint Secretary/Director General of Foreign/External Affairs Ministry of SAARC Member States.

Bangladesh Embassy In Kathmandu Hosts A Reception On National Day

Vice President Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav attended a reception organized on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of the independence and national day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Heads and office-bearers of constitutional bodies, chiefs of diplomatic missions in Kathmandu, senior government officials, Bangladeshi citizens who are presently residing in Kathmandu, business community and media attended the reception hosted by Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury, the ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal.



Welcoming the guests to the event, the ambassador said, "Today, after five decades of independence, Bangladesh is marching ahead under

the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

towards transformation into a middle income country."

As he said, Bangladesh is deeply engaged with Nepal at bilateral, regional and multilateral platforms to promote trade, tourism, education sector cooperation, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

"We are confident to work together with our Nepalese friends to further strengthen the bilateral relations in the years ahead," he added.

China Would Like To Work With Nepal's New Government

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that China would like to work with the new government to uphold the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, deepen our traditional friendship, strengthen practical cooperation.

She also said that China would like to advance the China-Nepal strategic partnership of cooperation featuring ever-lasting friendship for development and prosperity, and deliver more benefits to the peoples of the two countries

Spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry Mao Ning said, "as a friendly neighbor and cooperation partner, China highly values its relations with Nepal. We would like to work with the new government to uphold the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, deepen our traditional friendship, strengthen practical cooperation, advance the China-Nepal strategic partnership of cooperation featuring ever-lasting friendship for development and prosperity, and deliver more benefits to the peoples of the two countries," said Mao Ning

She said that China noted that Nepal has formed a new government coalition and reshuffled the cabinet recently.

"We sincerely hope that the relevant parties of Nepal will work together in solidarity, advance the work related to the formation of the new government in a smooth manner, and realize political stability, economic growth and improvement of people's livelihood."

In her regular press meet, she was responding to a question of Global Times that it was reported that on March 4, Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" ended the partnership with the Nepali Congress party, joined forces once again with the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) to form a coalition government and reshuffled the cabinet. What is China's comment?



Women Critical Partners In Creating Sustainable Prosperity: Canadian Envoy

The Embassy of Canada, in collaboration with the Centre for Women’s Development Studies, hosted two panel discussions at an event titled “Advancing Women’s Political Empowerment,” on 5 March 2024 in New Delhi.

Eminent leaders including Dr. Toshima Karki, Member of Parliament, Rastriya Swatantra Party, Nepal and Binda Pandey, Ex-Member of Parliament, Nepal; and Dorji Choden, Former Minister for Works and Human Settlement of Bhutan spoke at one of the panels that was moderated by Colin Wetmore, First Secretary, Embassy of Canada.

Distinguished scholars, including Susan Ferguson, UN Women’s India Country Representative; Ranjana Kumari, Director of the Centre for Social Research; and Dr Rashmi Singh, Assistant Professor at O P Jindal Global University spoke at the other panel that was moderated by Dr Sanjay Kumar, Centre for Study of Developing Societies.

Speaking on the occasion, Canada’s Ambassador to Nepal Cameron MacKay said: ““Women are critical



partners in creating sustainable prosperity. Evidence and experience shows that women’s leadership in political decision-making improves development outcomes for us all. By working together,

we can create a world where everyone - regardless of gender - can thrive equally.”

Chief Of Army Staff (CoAS) Open Marathon And Run For Fun-2080 Completed

On the occasion of Mahashivratri and the 261st anniversary of the establishment of the Nepali Army, the ninth edition of the Chief of Staff Open Marathon and Run for Fun-2080 program has been completed.

The program included 42.195 km marathon open men, 21 km half marathon open women and men, 10 km marathon men and women, 5 km race men and women and 5 km walkathon.

Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) General Prabhuram Sharma, President of the Olympic Committee Jeevan Ram Shrestha, Defense Secretary Kiran Raj Sharma, Nepal Athletics Association President Rajiv Bikram Shah, General Rajendra Kshatri (Retired CoAS), Lieutenant General

Ashokraj Sigdel, Assistant Director of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Anita Shrestha MAW Rides Pvt Ltd General Manager Deepak Rauniyar distributed the awards

and certificates to the winners.

A musical performance was performed by Shree Sainik Band in the presence of former CoAS, current and retired army officers and officers, officers of the Soldiers’ Wives Association, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, Nepal, officials of various government agencies, military aides, media personnel and the general public.



Japan Hands Over The Classroom Building To Shree Himalaya Secondary School In Sankhuwasabha District

The handover ceremony of the classroom building supported by the Government of Japan to Shree Himalaya Secondary School (SHSS) in Makalu Rural Municipality, Sankhuwasabha District was held on February 28.

The new building was constructed with assistance of USD 185,971 (approximately NPR 23.2 million) under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

Amura Takahiro, Charge d’Affaires ad interim of Japan to Nepal, attended the ceremony, and he congratulated and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of all those involved in the project. He also emphasized that the result of the project will significantly improve the learning environment for both the students and teachers of the school.

SHSS was founded in 1960, and with an enrollment of approximately 400 students, has been a vital educational institution in the area and beyond. Prior to the project, the nearly-40-years-old main building was not



only outmoded and dark, but also had safety concerns, with cracks in the walls and leaks from the roof. The new building is a two-story structure with 11 classrooms and well-equipped toilets for girls and boys. The Embassy hopes that it will be a long-lasting symbol of the friendship from the people of Japan.

This project was implemented by NPO Nepal Volunteer Social Service through GGP of the Government of Japan. The organization was established by a graduate of SHSS in 2009 and has been actively working to improve education, agriculture, and health in Sankhuwasabha Dis-

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trict.

GGP was established to implement projects that directly benefit people at the grassroots level for the socio-economic development of communities. Since 1991, over 200 GGP projects have been implemented in Nepal.

JICA Nepal Felicitates Winners Of The ESRP Painting Contest 2023

JICA Nepal organized an official ceremony in Kathmandu to honor the winners from each category of painting contestant. The winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd positions) were awarded gifts and certificates from OKUBO Akimitsu, Chief Representative of JICA Nepal, Pramila Devi Shakya Bajracharya, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science & Technology and Ana Prasad Neupane, Project Director, CLPIU.

Amidst the two days event, the winners also visited Patan Secondary School and Patan Durbar Square and Radio Nepal in Singhadurbar as part of their excursion in Kathmandu.



After the earthquake of April 2015, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) initiated the Emergency School Reconstruction Project (ESRP) to rebuild schools damaged by the disaster which were expected to serve as potential regional hubs for improving the quality of education.

Total 274 schools with 765 Blocks and over 4700 rooms were built under ESRP to support the reconstruction of disaster resilient schools in Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot, Makwanpur, Rasuwa and Lalitpur Districts, based on the earthquake-resistant type design guidelines under the principle of “Build Back Better (BBB)”.

The Project was implemented by Central Level Project Implementation Unit (CLPIU)/ Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST). The construction of all 274 schools was completed in April 2023.

Foreign Secretary Lamsal Paid A Courtesy Call On Indian External Affairs Minister Of India Dr. S. Jaishankar

Foreign Secretary Seva Lamsal, who is on a visit to India, had a courtesy call on External Affairs Minister Of India Dr. S Jaishankar.

“Happy to receive Foreign Secretary Sewa Lamsal of Nepal today in Delhi. Pleased to hear from her about progress in various aspects of our bilateral relations,” writes

Minister Dr. Jaishankar in his X. “Pleased to hear from her about progress in various aspects of our bilateral relations.”

During the meeting, the various aspects of Nepal-India relations as well as the progress of the project being run in Nepal with the support of the Indian government were discussed, according to the Indian Embassy in Nepal.



Nepali Embassy In Canberra A Program On Investment Promotion In Nepal

Embassy of Nepal, Canberra organized a program in Sydney entitled ‘Investment Promotion Program in the Context of Third Nepal Investment Summit 2024’. The objective of was promoting investment in Nepal as well as sensitizing on the third Nepal Investment Summit which is being held on 28-29 April 2024. The NRNA, Australia assisted the Embassy in organizing the event.

Around a hundred established as well as potential investors were present in the program.

Ambassador Kailash Raj Pokharel underscored that Nepal is one of the best destinations for profitable investment and highlighted various promising sectors for investment in Nepal. While informing that the Government of Nepal has undertaken several initiatives for policy reforms creating further conducive investment-friendly environment, he also encouraged the participants to attend in the Third Nepal Investment Summit.

Addressing to the program, Anil Pokhrel, President of NRNA of Australia underlined many reasons to invest in Nepal and also suggested for further policy reform in line with hassle-free repatriation of investment returns.

First Secretary of the Embassy Bhogendra Lingden displayed a comprehensive presentation on upcoming third Nepal investment summit as well as overall policy, procedures and structural arrangements regarding



the investment in Nepal. He also presented some potential projects for investment which are under study in Investment Board of Nepal.

Japan Hands Over The New Classroom Building To Shree Praja Pragati Basic Secondary School In Makwanpur District

The Embassy of Japan in Nepal handed over the new classroom building supported by the Government of Japan to the Shree Praja Pragati Basic Secondary School on February 29.

Under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) of the Government of Japan, the Project for the Construction of Classrooms for Shree Praja Pragati Basic School in Makwanpur District was supported with USD 92,171 (approximately NPR 10 million).

This school is a public school established in 1980 and offers education from the early childhood development level to the 8th grade. The students come from indigenous communities, and more than 50 percent of them are from



Chepong community. The previous facilities were severely deteriorated and not earthquake resistant, and the communities needed assistance to remedy the situation. The

new classroom building constructed by the project provides a better educational environment for the children of the communities who did not have proper facilities.

The Embassy of Japan believes that more children will be able to receive a more effective and appropriate education in the new classrooms, and that the support will contribute to a better future for children, and further strengthening the friendship between the people of Japan and Nepal.

Toni Hagen’s Photographs Of Western Nepal In The 1950s In Patan

Katryn Hagen, daughter of Swiss geologist Toni Hagen, has inaugurated an exhibition of photographs of western Nepal in the 1950s.

The exhibition features photographs taken by the late Dr. Tony Hagen during his geological expedition in far western Nepal from 1950 to 1957.

Dr. Hagen’s experiences of those early days, his geological findings and his view of the society and economy of Nepal have been documented in Nepal (first published in 1962 by Kummerli, Switzerland, last published

in 2008 by Himal Books Kathmandu).

Organized by Nepal Heritage Society, the exhibition of Western Nepal in the 1950s of Nepal taken by Dr. Toni Hagen is the first of its kind with all the rare photographs of Nepal.



Displayed at the gallery of Yala Maya Kendra, the photographs are the testimony to show why Nepal was known as Shangri-La. Organized by Nepal Heritage Foundation in collaboration with Yala Maya Kendra and Patan Museum, the photographs displayed in the exhibition have been provided by Dr. Katrin Hagen, daughter of Toni Hagen.

It will be on display until March 2. After that it will be displayed in Patan Museum from March 4 to 13.

The photographs displayed at the Kendra are the testimony to show why Nepal was known as Shangri-La.

In his inaugural speech, heritage lover and rights activist Kanak Mani Dixit highlighted the personality of Dr. Hagen and his contribution to Nepal. Dixit said that Tony Hagen was the first photographer to introduce not only Nepal but also the Himalayas and the mountain geology of Nepal to the world.

Dixit said that Hagen’s color photographs in his book revealed for the first time the social diversity and varied landscape of Nepal. Some of them are here in the exhibition.

He also said that Toni Hagen’s contribution to Nepal will be remembered forever.

Senior Vice President of Nepal Heritage Foundation Pratima Pande expressed her happiness to be a part of the exhibition showcasing Nepal of 1950s.

Speaking at the inaugural program, Senior Vice President of Nepal Heritage Society highlighted the role played by Hagen in the overall development of Nepal.

Chief Of Army Staff (CoAS) General Sharma And US Admiral John C. Aquilino Discuss Various Issues

Admiral John C. Aquilino, the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, paid a courtesy call on CoAS General Prabhuram Sharma at the Nepal Army Headquarters.

During the meeting held at the office of CoAS General Sharma, they discussed matters of mutual interest, including the Shanti Prayas 4 multinational exercise being conducted at the Birendra Peace Training Center, Panchkhaal.

Admiral John C. Aquilino, who arrived in Nepal

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on February 24 on a three-day visit, was received by CoAS General Sharma. A unit of the Nepal Army paid tribute to him.

With the help of the Global Peace Operation Initiative (GPOI), the fourth edition of the multinational peacekeeping exercise Shanti Prayas is being conducted at the Birendra Peacekeeping Training Center in collaboration with the Nepal Army and the US Army for a period of two weeks from February 20. Admiral Aquilino observed the exercise on February 25, in which soldiers from 19 countries participated.

US Indo-Pacific Commander Aquilino Calls On PM Prachanda

Visiting Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, John Aquilino, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.

In the meeting held at the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers in Singha Durbar, they discussed a wide range of matters related to bilateral relations between Nepal and the USA.

PM Prachanda, on the occasion, asserted that he had been attaching high importance to Nepal-USA relations. Stating that America's support to Nepal's economic development was significant, the PM extended his gratitude towards the American support to Nepal.

Similarly, Commander Aquilino congratulated Nepal for being the largest troops contributing country to the UN peacekeeping missions.

He lauded the role played by Nepal in peacekeeping efforts through the peacekeeping troop. The American



commander is currently in Nepal since February 20 to observe the multinational peacekeeping exercise-Shanti Prayas IV.

Present in the meeting were PM Prachanda's Foreign Affairs Advisor, Dr Rupak Sapkota, American Ambassador to Nepal, Dean R Thompson, and high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Japan, Nepal's Partner For Reliable Development: President Paudel

President Ramchandra Paudel has said Japan is very indeed a good friend of Nepal and a reliable partner for fostering sustainable development.

In his address to the opening ceremony of the golden jubilee of Nepal JICA Alumni Association (JAAN) here today, the President said Nepal always highly acknowledged Japan's contributions to the production of technical workforce and the development of hydropower, education, health, communications, road connectivity, agricultural and infrastructure sectors in Nepal.

"There has been progress in the country's socio-economic, cultural and other sectors of development in the aftermath of political transformations in the country. In this connection, the support and cooperation from the Government of Japan will remain significant in the future as in the past," he said.

Stating that Nepal and Japan have enjoyed cordial relations since the tradition, the President commended the achievements of Japan, a prosperous democratic



nation of the Asia continent, in science and technology, socio-economic and the entire human development. Such developments are exemplary, the President added.

He also acknowledged the contributions of the Association in expanding the Nepal-Japan relations to the people's level and bringing Japanese skills, knowledge and technology to the country.

Government Chief Secretary Dr Baikuntha Aryal, Japan's ambassador to Nepal, Yutaka Kikuta, JICA Nepal's Chief Akimitsu Okubo, Japan Nepal Society President Mitsuaki Kozima and JAAN President Dr Ram Chandra Bhushal highlighted the dimensions of Nepal-Japan relations. (RSS)

Nepal Investment Mega Bank Opens A New Branch In Panipokhari

Nepal Investment Mega Bank Limited has expanded a new branch in Panipokhari, Kathmandu. Bank Kathmandu Metropolitan City Ward no 3.



The Panipokhari branch has been put into operation since Monday . With this branch, the number of branches of the bank has reached 270. All banking services have started from Monday from the new branch.

J y o t i
Prakash Pandey, Chief Executive Officer of the Bank,

inaugurated the new branches. In the inaugural program, CEO Pandey said that the new branches will provide excellent banking services and facilities to the customers.

Currently, the bank has 270 branch offices, 63 extension counters, 113 branchless banking and 268 ATMs.

FNCCI President Dhakal Has Requested Prime Minister Prachanda To Fully Operate The Korola Border

A demand has been made before the Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’ to fully operationalize the Korala border crossing of Mustang connecting Nepal-China.

The attention of the government has been drawn to start the initiative for the regular operation of the northern border for the promotion of international trade and tourism.

President of Federation of Nepalese Chamber Of Commerce And Industry Chandra Prasad Dhakal requested Prime Minister Dahal, who participated in the ‘Anantashree Brahmandiya Mahayagya’ held today at Sarvassiddhidham Panchkot in Baglung, that the Korala border should be brought into regular operation for the development and prosperity of the country.

He expressed his gratitude for the initiative taken by the Prime Minister in the operation of the northern border crossing with Nepal, including Korola, during his visit to China some time ago, and expressed confidence that the Korala border crossing will be fully operational soon.

“If the Kaligandaki Corridor and Madhyapahari Lokmarg project can be completed on time, the Korala crossing can be put into operation actively and smoothly, we believe that the prime minister and the government will pay special attention to this,” President Dhakal said.

He asked the Prime Minister to give high priority to the construction of the road connecting Korola Naka from Panchkot to Muktinath. President Dhakal said that Muktinath is the center of faith of Sanatan followers of the world and that area should be developed as a cultural, natural and religious heritage site.

He said that the support of the government is expected for the completion of Vishwashanti Kalash, whose con-

struction has started in Panchkot. Swami Kamalanayanacharya, the convener of Sarvassiddhidham Panchkot, said that if the Corolla crossing connecting China can be operational, it will greatly help the prosperity of the country.

If a situation can be created where people can travel through the Muktinath area, the country can benefit greatly through religious tourism, let the government pay attention to this through the Prime Minister,” he said.

Swami Kamalanayanacharya said that if the road connecting Korola Naka is equipped with facilities, the development of the entire Mukti Kshetra will accelerate. He said that Panchkot got a new look with the help and support of the people and the government sector.

He opined that the support of government agencies is necessary in the management of proper roads, water supply and parking lot.

Prime Minister Dahal promised to give priority in the upcoming policies and programs of the government for the upgrading of the road connecting Korala Naka in Mustang via Baglung, Myagdi.

“As the Prime Minister, my attention has been paid to the regular operation of the Corolla crossing and the construction of roads there. This issue will also be covered with

priority in the policies and programs and budget of the next government,” he said. Prime Minister Dahal said that religious tourism is an important basis for the country’s economic prosperity. He expressed his belief that there will

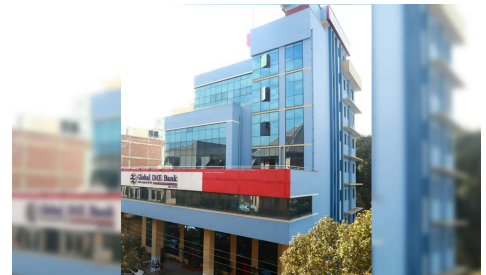


be a significant increase in tourism traffic along with economic activity when the Corolla Canal comes into operation.

Prime Minister Dahal opined that if spiritual thinking cannot be developed in the current world which is running towards material development, there will be no permanent peace in the society. He emphasized on practical education with sanskar.

Global IME Bank Conducted F literacy Program, More Than 4 Thousand Participants

Global IME Bank has conducted a financial literacy program in all seven provinces under its corporate social responsibility. The bank has identified various target groups that are out of financial reach and conducted a financial literacy program simulta-



BUSINESS BRIEF

neously through 35 branches.

More than 4,000 people were informed about savings, loans, remittances, digital banking, insurance, investment, additional banking services, financial fraud and financial discipline in the program conducted at 35 locations in different districts, the bank said in a press release on Wednesday.

Similarly, Dhorpatan, Jaimini and Baglung Municipalities of Baglung, Kushma of Parbat, Pokhara Metropolitan Municipality, Kapilvastu of Kapilvastu, Banganga Rashivaraj, Ghorahi of Dang, Resunga of Gulmi and Bardghat of Isma Navalparasi, Tansen of Palpa, Pyuthan Municipality of Pyuthan, Parintar and Sunilsmriti Village of Rolpa, Sainamaina of Rupandehi, Boot wall And the program was done in Tilottama.

The bank said that the program was also held in Di-payal Si Lagadhi of Doti, Bogtan Fudsil and Purvi Chowki, Madhyamalika of Bajur, Dasharathchand and Patan of Baitadi, Ajaymeru of Dadeldhura, Bhimdatta of Kanchanpur and Dhangadhi of Kailali. Farmers, micro, small and medium entrepreneurs, laborers, students and others participated in the program.

I Will Work To Increase Export To Canada: Envoy Paudyal

Newly appointed Nepali Ambassador to Canada Bharat Raj Paudyal has expressed his commitment to continuing cooperation with the private sector of Nepal to promote the export of Nepali goods to Canada.



In a programme organised by the Nepal-Canada Chamber of Commerce and Industry to congratulate Ambassador Paudyal in Kathmandu on Thursday, Ambassador Paudyal said, “I aim to do something to increase the export

of Nepali goods in Canada. For that, I will continue cooperating with the private sector here.”

He said that he would focus on increasing the interaction between Nepali and Canadian businessmen through the Business-to-business (B2B) approach.

“B2B interaction is one of the primary topics on my agenda for the promotion of trade and business between the two countries,” said Paudyal.

He said that the delegation would take initiatives for the participation of Nepali businessmen in the big trade fairs organised in Canada, and expressed that correspondence would be done institutionally.

Ambassador Paudyal requested the businessmen’s representatives to provide him with the digital promotional materials of the items that have the potential to be exported to Canada.

He said that such promotional materials would be

displayed in the programmes organised by the mission there. He suggested to pay attention to quality while preparing promotional materials.

President of Nepal-Canada Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ratan Lal Kedia said that the association would work for the promotion of bilateral trade, tourism and investment as it was established with the aim of taking the business relationship between Nepal and Canada to a new height.

He said that Nepal should immediately discuss with the Canadian government to extend the period of duty-free entry facilities that Nepali goods are getting in the Canadian market beyond 2026.

Kedia expressed his hope that the ambassador would take the initiative to facilitate Nepal’s private sector’s access to the Canadian market and investors.

He requested to take the initiative for the participation of Nepali businessmen in trade fairs and other events in Canada and to provide information about the needs and structure of the Canadian market.

World Bank Supports Fiscal And Growth Reforms And Better Provincial And Local Roads In Nepal

The World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors today approved \$200 million in new financing for two projects in Nepal to support the country’s transition toward Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development (GRID) and help improve the development and maintenance of Nepal’s provincial and local road network.

“The World Bank is committed to supporting Nepal’s green, resilient, and inclusive development. Through the new projects financed by the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA), we continue to focus our assistance on improving people’s lives including through infrastructure and services,” said Faris Hadad-Zervos, World Bank Country Director for Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The \$100 million Second Fiscal Policy for Growth, Recovery and Resilience Development Policy Credit aims to strengthen revenue collection, reduce fragmentation of debt management, and increase debt transparency. It also supports reforms to enhance climate-resilient infrastructure spending, lower Nepal’s minimum foreign direct investment (FDI) threshold to promote FDI inflows and facilitate automation to streamline the process of FDI.

“This operation will help strengthen the regulatory and institutional framework to support sustainable business growth, and enhance systems to protect the most vulnerable in Nepal” stated Sibel Kulaksiz, World Bank’s Task Team Leader for the program.

The \$100 million credit for the Provincial and Local Roads Improvement Program will support the implementation of a comprehensive



program for the development and maintenance of Nepal’s provincial and local road network. It will help improve the efficiency of service delivery, strengthen the resilience of selected provincial roads and bridges, and ensure communities have safe access to markets and services.

This first of a three-phased series of programs will be implemented in Madhesh, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim provinces and local levels with the potential to scale up in the future.

“The project will strengthen the institutional, management, and implementation capacity of the subnational governments over the long term to improve inclusive connectivity and promote efficiency through reduced travel time and costs,” said Reenu Aneja, Senior Transport Specialist and Task Team Leader.

NIMB Opens New Branches At Thali And Kamalvinayak

Nepal Investment Mega Bank (NIMB) Limited has expanded 2 new branches in Thali and Kamalvinayak.



Bank Kageshwari Manohara Municipality Ward no. Thali branch on 19 February and Bhaktapur municipality ward no. Kamalvinayak branch was brought into operation on 24th.

Jyoti Prakash Pandey, Chief Executive Officer of the Bank, inaugurated the new branches.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Pandey said that the new branches will provide excellent banking services and facilities to the customers.

The bank is currently providing services through 270 branches, 63 extension counters, 113 branchless banking and 264 ATMs across the country.

Bheri-Babai Diversion To Be Completed By 2084/85

The Bheri-Babai Diversion Multipurpose Project has achieved 66 per cent physical progress so far. This project, which started from the financial year 2071-72 B.S., should be completed by the fiscal year 2084-85 B.S.

According to the project contractor, about 66 per cent construction work of the project has been completed till date. The national pride project, which will be built at a total cost of Rs. 33.19 billion, has also achieved 57.78 per cent financial progress. This is 33.37 per cent more than the annual target during the first seven months of the current fiscal year 2023/24.

Around Rs. 15.50 billion has been spent so far out of the total estimated cost Rs. 33.19 billion. Looking at the state of annual budget and expenditure, around Rs. 497.1 million has been spent by mid-February out of the total budget of Rs. 1.59 billion allocated in the current fiscal year 2023/24.

The construction of a 12.20-km-long tunnel has been

completed in the first phase of the Bheri-Babai project, which has been advanced as a multipurpose diversion project funded by the government.

According to the concept of using Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) for the first time in Nepal and only after the successful use of this technology, construction of dam and powerhouse as well as connection and construction of hydro-mechanical and electromechanical, the master plan with an estimated cost of Rs. 16.43 billion was approved and the work was carried forward.

According to the project, after the completion of the first phase of tunnel construction, the second phase of dam and powerhouse construction, as well as hydro-mechanical and electromechanical connection and construction are currently being carried out in full swing. For that, around Rs. 36.80 billion has been ensured.

Of the total, there is a budget of Rs. 33.19 billion for the Bheri-Babai Diversion Multipurpose Project and Rs. 3.6 billion for the Bheri Corridor Irrigation Development Project. On May 2, 2023, according to the decision of the council of ministers, an office was established at Botechaur in Surkhet for Bheri Corridor Irrigation and River Management.

Under the project, the goal of the project is to release 40 cubic metres of water per second into the Babai River through a 12.2 km long tunnel with a diameter of 4.20 metres and a desalting basin with a 120-meter-long barrage in the Bheriganga Municipality-11 of Surkhet.

Out of the total three turbines of 23.4 megawatts capacity, one additional turbine will be used only during maintenance and the remaining two turbines will be used for regular operation.

According to Senior Divisional Engineer Pawan Adhikari, about 400 gigawatt hours of electricity will be produced annually.



After the completion of the project, around 51,000 hectares of land of Bardiya and Banke district will be irrigated round the year.

It is expected that this project, which is the first time in Nepal to successfully construct a tunnel using TBM, will lead to the study, research and implementation of other projects of a similar nature, which will be a great leap forward in technology development in Nepal as a whole.

As a result, the Sunkoshi-Marin Diversion Multipurpose Project has been implemented.

Prachanda Is The Right Choice For India In Nepal

For Delhi, Prachanda Is The Right Horse To Back While Keeping Deuba In The Stable.



BY: ASHOK K MEHTA

Prachanda's adept balancing act and strategic positioning continue to shape the trajectory of Nepal's political future, with implications that extend beyond its borders

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) has completed 13 months of his third term, by far the most successful in leading Nepal with the Maoist party with just 32 seats. A seasoned and balanced Nepali journalist billed Prachanda's tenure as 'firm, polished, and people-oriented'. About the power-sharing formula that has become a staple in coalition politics, his assessment was different from that of a senior Nepali Congress parliamentarian who, out of the three options – two-one-two; two and a half and two and a half; and Prachanda doing full five years – while not favouring the first option, was hugely critical of it. So was the journalist.

The figures indicate the number of years of premiership. The first set relates to Prachanda and Deuba doing two years each while Madhav Nepal would get one year. The second is minus Madhav Nepal. The parliamentarian said on any major coalition issues, the Big 3 were former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba (NC, 89 seats) and Prachanda and former PM Madhav Nepal of the United Socialist (with only ten seats and not recognised as a national party) ignoring Janata Samajwadi (National) Party with 14 seats. He went on to suggest that both Nepal and Yadav should share a year term, however wobbly the arrangement. The wily former Prime Minister

KP Oli (CPN UML 80 seats) who did not honour power-sharing with Prachanda is determined to ensure Madhav Nepal does not become PM for even a day. Incidentally, Prachanda and Deuba have happily shared power earlier.

Astutely, Prachanda, while firing salvos at NC, indicating their alliance has not been rewarding for his party, is also suggesting that the option is open of returning to the CPN (UML) fold, a homecoming for which Chinese leaders will give their right arm and a contingency India will dread. This warning keeps alive the Prachanda premiership for five years. But nothing is done till everything is done. Prachanda's scorecard shows the right boxes are ticked: corruption, the people's biggest concern, has been emphatically addressed with top guns or their wards in jail or on bail. Also being investigated is the Pokhara International Airport which involves China trying to inveigle Nepal into its BRI debt trap. It will turn out to be another white elephant like Matale Airport or Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka.

China's bullying of Nepal is legendary turned into in-your-face warrior diplomacy by former Ambassador Hou Yanxi who took Kathmandu for a royal ride. Nepal was browbeaten into accepting the One China policy at the drop of a hat, a former Nepalese diplomat told me. While Tibetans were cowed down in Kathmandu and Pokhara, China has closed down the border in the north since the pandemic. Chinese have indulged in salami-slicing in nine places on the Nepal-Chi-

na border.

A former Madhesi MP informed me that border pillars have been removed, water sources diverted and dual-use villages constructed. Encroachments are reported at Dharchul, Mustang, Gorkha, Sindhupal Chowk, Rasua, and Solukhumbu. He said the Government maintains silence, especially the ruling Communists. Ambassador Chen Song and other CPC leaders like Sun Haiyan are brazenly criticising India for “not being a friendly neighbour and not so beneficial for Nepal”. Nepal mildly smacked China for violating diplomatic norms.

President Xi first visited Nepal in 2019 resulting in the 20 agreements none of which materialised. In 2016, the Trade and Transit Treaty with China following the blockade resulted in China granting access to seven sea and land ports for third-country trade and commerce and promised of alternate source of petroleum. Not a litre was provided. India built a pipeline from Motihari to Amlekhgunj and provided Nepal with its fuel requirements in full. The rail link from Kirung to Kathmandu first mooted in 1973 was followed by a feasibility study in 2018-20. Total silence prevails on Chinese connectivity projects. India submitted the preliminary feasibility report on a rail link with Kathmandu two years ago, Funding has to be worked out.

Nepal can sell power to India to the order of 452.6 MW plus 108 MW with an additional 10,000 MW in the next ten years. This will redress the trade balance. China exported



USD1.7bn worth of goods in 2022 while it imported USD5.11 mn and has just reopened some border trade posts. Protests were launched in the first week of February about BRI and the Chinese-built Pokhara airport. When I was in the VIP lounge of the Pokhara airport on 27 November 2023, the carpets were soiled with water leaking. It is also the only airport in Nepal with an aerobridge.

But what’s the use, since there are no international flights? Prachanda has managed foreign relations deftly balancing US and China and

India and China.

Kathmandu issued a statement that criticised Israel’s humanitarian breaches in Gaza as well as called Russia’s war against Ukraine an aggression that must stop. Further, he asked Russia to stop enlisting Nepalese

nationals into its army. The villain of the piece is India’s flawed Agniveer which has shredded the strategic strand in India-Nepal relations. Still, for Delhi, Prachanda is the right horse to back while keeping Deuba in the stable.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. Views are personal)

Source and reproduced from Daily Pioneer <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2024/columnists/india-is-on-the-right-track-in-nepal.html>

POLITICS | Left, Right, Left Right

Nepal has had three governments in just 16 months, although Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda remains in power. In his recent reshuffle, PM Prachanda appointed 21 ministers from four political parties, including CPN-UML, Rastriya Swatantra Party, Janta Samajbadi Party, and CPN-US, while removing Nepali Congress. As no political party has a majority, it is likely that there will be more coalitions in the future. Maoist leader Prachanda believes that the Nepali Congress leaders' non-committal attitude towards the Maoist-Center is a key factor behind the current political developments, including the changing coalition. However, Nepal's politics over the past five decades has shown a fading ideology. There is no clear divide between left and right when it comes to sharing power, which remains a factor of instability, besides the geo-strategic position.

By KESHAB POUDEL

The Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal attempted to alter the coalition over a month ago, but the rivalrous Nepali Congress leaders did not foresee the government's collapse until the very last minute.

Dr. Shekhar Koirala, General Secretaries Gagan Thapa and Bishwo Prakash Sharma, and other members of the anti-Deuba wing of the NC stated their belief that the NC will run in all next elections

without making an alliance with the Maoist-Center. As a result, Maoist Center leaders and CPN-UML leader KP Oli have begun to get along.

CPN-Maoist center leader and Prime Minister Prachanda did not make a big issue when Dr. Koirala's group joined with CPN-UML to form the government in Koshi Province. The alliance between the Maoist-Center and NC was broken after the Maoist candidate from

Koshi Province was defeated in the National Assembly due to the Koirala faction's betrayal.

Despite this, a faction of Nepali Congress leadership has continued to make statements against the Maoist Center. Furthermore, Prime Minister Prachanda was uncomfortable working with some of the ministers from the Nepali Congress.

Prime Minister Prachanda requested NC leader Sher Bahadur Deuba to recall three



CPN-Maoist, CPN-US, RSP, and JSP together have a total of 153 seats in the 275-member House, which is more than the required minimum of 138 seats.

Comments of Parties

ministers from NC including Finance Minister Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supply Ramesh Rijal, and Minister of Health and Population Mohan Bahadur Basnet. However, the NC leadership, including President Deuba, rejected the request.

With limited options before him, Prachanda turned to his arch critic KP Sharma Oli, who was also desperately trying to restore his friendship with him. After a series of meetings, Oli accepted the offer. NC leaders, including Deuba and his colleagues, did not take note of this development until the last minute.

Prime Minister 'Prachanda' severed his Maoist party's 15-month alliance with the Nepali Congress on March 4th and formed a coalition with the CPN-UML, which had withdrawn support from him in February 2023. The coalition

also includes the Swantra Party, CPN-US, and Samajbadi Janta Dal.

Prachanda's Maoist Centre is the third-largest party in the 275-member House of Representatives, with 32 members. The Nepali Congress, with 89 members, is the largest, followed by CPN-UML, which has 78 seats. The RSP, with 21 members, stands fourth in strength.

The CPN-UML,

After the new equation took formal shape, Prachanda accused the Nepali Congress of being a 'reactionary force' that was trying to use him. Nepali Congress leaders also accused Prachanda of being dishonest.

Sher Bahadur Deuba, a Nepali Congress leader and former Prime Minister, expressed disappointment in Prachanda's dishonesty to his party col-





leagues.

Prachanda stated that his Maoists are not static forces and that they know when and where to make changes. He also said in another program that political upheavals will continue as long as he is alive.

Ganesh Shah, the secretary of the CPN-Maoist, said that they were forced to seek a new alliance as the Nepali Congress did not cooperate with the Prime Minister. On December 25, 2022, with the support of CPN-UML, Prachanda became the Prime Minister for the third time. Prachanda broke the alliance with the Nepali Congress, the largest party in the House of Representatives. He then joined hands with the CPN-UML led by Oli, who was considered Prachanda's top critic.

The change of equations

at the center is likely to cause a change of government in all seven provinces. All of them are coalition governments. Nepali Congress leaders backing to host pro-Tibetan lobby's supported International Conference in Lumbini, which was scheduled for March 11 and 12 in Lumbini. The even, which would have seen ten Nobel



Peace laureates and some heads of state, has canceled following the change of government. Chinese government has vehemently opposed the conference.

Left led alliance is now

in power but there are still many areas where the CPN-Maoists and the CPN-UML have differences. The adoption of the Transitional Justice Bill remains a crucial area of concern.

The Maoists are seeking blanket amnesty for their leaders and activists for human rights violations during the insurgency from 1996 to 2006, which the UML opposes.

Instability All The Times

Situated in geographically most unstable region with two great power, the frequent change of governments is not surprising in Nepal, and it would not be surprising if the Maoists return with

the Nepali Congress in the coming months and year.

Nepal has a history of short-term governments in its 60 years of democratic progression. The current reconfigura-

tion is not a new.

Although it is reported that the Maoists severed ties with the NC due to power sharing, political discontent, ideological differences, under-performance, and pressure to restore Nepal to a Hindu state, no body recalled the history of Nepal.

Role of External Force

As in the past, conspiracy theories about the involvement of external powers in politics have become more widespread than analysis of the internal political dynamics that create a conducive environment for fallout. Given the Nepal's history, there are also reasons to see external factor behind the fall of government.

Besides Nepali media and intellectuals, Indian media has already started blaming China for the sudden change of political alignments in Nepal. All Indian major newspapers including Nepali media reported that the left parties coming together to form a coalition



government has all the signs of Chinese involvement behind the scenes.

According to Nihar R Nayak, a Research Fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses and an expert on issues pertaining to Nepal, India has always been uncomfortable with Left governments in Kathmandu.

Nayak also stated that the second-rung leaders of both the CPN-Maoist and CPN-

UML believe that their parties should contest elections together. He stated that the individual who negotiated on behalf of the CPN-Maoist to form this new coalition government is pro-China. He believes that China is behind all of this.

However, Nepali international experts hold opposing views to Nayak. Aviation expert Hemant Arjyal stated that the new alliance was created by India. Arjyal wrote in X wall, 'Nothing new here, same old Indian ranting.'

Other Indian experts have stated that India has enjoyed a comfortable working relationship with the Nepali Congress and the Maoists. Although Maoists were a challenging party for New Delhi to work with when Dahal first became prime minister in 2008, the two have since developed a strong working relationship.

India's upcoming general elections, which are





tends to advance the China-Nepal strategic partnership of cooperation, featuring everlasting friendship for development and prosperity, and deliver more benefits to the people of both countries.

Mao Ning, spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, stated that China highly

less than a month away, make this an inopportune time for a change of government in the neighborhood.

Nepal has become a crucial point of interest for both China and India amidst the ongoing geostrategic maneuvers in the Himalayas.

China Factor

China considers Nepal's border with Tibet as a significant security concern, leading Beijing to increase its efforts to enhance its relationship with Kathmandu through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India aims to maintain its longstanding 'special ties' with Nepal, emphasizing the intricate interplay of strategic interests in the region.

The Left Alliance's emergence in Nepal has raised concerns for India, and it may also lead to changes in Nepal's partnership with the United States, a significant development ally.

In conclusion, the Left Alliance's resurgence in Nepal

indicates a shift in power dynamics that affects both domestic politics and regional geopolitics. Nepal's foreign policy may lean more towards Beijing as China's influence grows, potentially challenging India's interests.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning stated that China aims to collaborate with the new government to uphold the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, deepen their traditional friendship, and strengthen practical cooperation.

Additionally, China in-

values its relations with Nepal as a friendly neighbor and cooperation partner. Mao Ning, an official from China, expressed a desire to work with the new government to uphold the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, deepen the traditional friendship, strengthen practical cooperation, advance the China-Nepal strategic partnership of cooperation featuring everlasting friendship for development and prosperity, and deliver more benefits to the people of the two countries.

Mao Niang made this





statement during a discussion about India's advantage.

India's Advantage

India and Nepal share strong religious and cultural ties, which have fostered warm relations between the two countries. Despite this, some cultural traditions have changed since the abolition of the monarchy and the rise of communist, including Maoist, power.

It is important to note, however, that Nepal's spiritual ties with India remain strong. After the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, tens of thousands of Nepalese have been visiting the shrine to show their solidarity.

This indicates that the relationship between Nepal and India is above politics and remains close. Regardless of whether people like it or not, Nepal is a part of the Indian subcontinent, connected to India through shared civilization and geography.

After meeting with newly appointed Foreign Minister Narayan Kazi Shrestha, Indian Ambassador Naveen Srivastava said the relationship between Nepal and India is unique, rock solid and based on mutual trust and expressed India's willingness to support Nepal and in-



crease investment in the future.

Srivastava conveyed Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar's greetings to Shrestha on assuming the roles of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Foreign Ministry reported this.

There are speculations that India is unhappy with the dissolution of the alliance between the Nepali Congress and the CPN (Maoist Centre) and the formation of the new coalition between the CPN-UML and the Maoist Centre. However, Indian Ambassador to Nepal Srivastava has clarified that India's policy towards Nepal remains unchanged.

The Indian ambassador made the statement one day after Prime Minister Prachanda restructured his Cabinet and added new ministers from the CPN-UML, his own party CPN (Unified Socialist), and the Rastriya Swatantra Party.

In separate meetings on Thursday, the Indian envoy conveyed India's position and view on the new power equation in Kathmandu to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Narayan Kazi Shrestha and Finance Minister Barsha Man Pun.

COVERSTORY

During his meetings with Shrestha and Pun, the Indian ambassador stated that India considers the political change in Nepal as an internal matter.

Some political circles perceive that the new ruling coalition was orchestrated at the behest of China.

“The change in the government is an internal affair of Nepal,” said ambassador Srivastava, adding that is why I want to convey that India’s position towards Nepal will remain unchanged.” Our partnership and cooperation with Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal which has been continuing for a year and a half, is satisfactory. We will also work in a similar spirit and trust in the future.”

Power Sharing

Ministers from CPN (Maoist Center), CPN (UML), Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP), and CPN (Unified Socialist) took the oath today.

Narayan Kaji Shrestha from the CPN (Maoist Center) was sworn in as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. Barsha Man Pun was appointed as the Minister for Finance, Shakti Bahadur Basnet as the Minister for Energy, Rekha Sharma as the Minister for Communication and Information Technology,

and Hit Bahadur Tamang as the Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation.

Raghubir Mahaseth took the oath as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport. Padam Giri became the Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. Hari Upreti was appointed as the Minister for

came the Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security. Biraj Bhakta Shrestha was appointed as the Minister for Youth and Sports, and Sumana Shrestha as the Minister for Education, Science and Technology.

Bhanu Bhakta Joshi, from CPN (Unified Socialist), was sworn in as Minister for Federal Affairs and General Administration. Dhana Bahadur Budha, also from CPN (Unified Socialist), was sworn in as Minister for Urban Develop-



Defence, and Bhagavati Chaudhari as the Minister for Women. All of them were sworn in from the CPN (UML). Rajendra Rai serves as the Minister for Water Supply, Damodar Bhandari as the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Jwala Kumari Sah as the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, and Balaram Adhikari as the Minister for Land Management, Cooperatives, and Poverty Alleviation. Additionally, there is a department for Children and Social Welfare.

Ravi Lamichhane took the oath as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs. Dol Prasad Aryal be-

ment.

On Monday, March 4, Dol Prasad Aryal from RSP, Hit Bahadur Tamang from CPN (Maoist Centre), and Padam Giri from UML were also sworn in.

In the words of Arup Rajouria in his X Wall, “Nepal’s political landscape shifts with the re-emergence of the left alliance highlighting the intricate balance of ideology, geopolitics and regional power dynamics, but it’s also a vivid reminder of opportunism that has plagued Nepal’s politics.”

NEPAL ARMY DAY

Time To Recall Glory

Defending Nepal's integrity and sovereignty, Nepal Army also proved that the institution has capacity to build bigger projects for the development of the country

By A CORRESPONDENT

The Nepal Army was founded 261 years ago to unify the Gurkha's ruler. Since then, it has fulfilled all the responsibilities entrusted to it. Initially, the Nepal Army participated in the political unification process.

Over the last five decades, it has taken on the responsibility of building roads to connect different parts of Nepal. Despite challenging terrain in high mountains and middle hills, the Nepal Army has successfully constructed many roads.

Four years ago, the Nepal government handed over the construction of a fast track linking Kathmandu and Nijgadh to the Nepal Army. Despite challenges such as a lack of

budget and support from related agencies, including the Ministry of Forest and Environment, the Nepal Army has made remarkable progress in constructing the road.

The Nepali Army celebrated its 261st anniversary on Friday (March 8) with military arts, cultural performances, and musical events across the country.

Nepal's main security force was founded on Shivaratri, the birthday of Lord Shiva, and has inherited the unique character of the region, including Shiva as its symbol.

The Army celebrates Mahashivratri as Army Day. On this occasion, various cultural programs, including a parade (army drill) and cannon firing, Kawaz, will be con-

ducted.

According to Krishna Prasad Bhandari, spokesperson of the Nepali Army, there will be a program featuring 300 female and 300 male soldiers performing the endangered thali dance together. The aim is to revive the original Nepali culture and tradition during the Army Day ceremony. During the event, the Nepalese army, along with the armies of India, Britain, and the United States of America, will perform a musical show.

Additionally, various programs will be organized in Pritna, Bahini, Gana, and Gulm under Jangi Adda. The Nepali Army is an organization of disciplined soldiers who are ready to sacrifice their lives in any situation for the protection of freedom,



sovereignty, geographical integrity, independence, and national unity. Chief of Army Staff Prabhuram Sharma stated this.

During the organization's foundation day, the speaker reminded the audience that the organization should prioritize the collective over the individual. He emphasized that reputation is more important than position.

The Nepali Army has a history of protecting Nepal's independence, geographical integrity, and sovereignty through exemplary and record-breaking work.

The current army's organizational structure began in 1819. The army has earned the trust and faith of citizens through patriotic and dedicated deeds that prioritize the interests of the common people.

Nepal was founded on the courage, heroism, and sacrifice of military heroes. The army has a constitutional responsibility to maintain national unity. The Nepali

Army has a high culture of discipline, chain-of-command, and politics, with a strong sense of unity. It has successfully established itself as a reliable and trustworthy army, both domestically and internationally.

The army has made significant strides in terms of inclusion, with increasing participation of women.

The Nepali Army has received praise from national and international arenas for its significant contribution to establishing peace in various conflict-affected countries

around the world. The United Nations has called upon the Nepali Army to participate in peacekeeping missions since 1958, and to date, 150,891 Nepalese peacekeepers have contributed to 44 missions.

73 Nepalese soldiers have died while serving in conflict-affected countries around the world, with an additional 68 soldiers injured. Currently, there are 5,890 Nepalese peacekeepers, including 662 women, serving in 12 peacekeeping missions globally. Nepal is ranked first among countries that deploy troops for peacekeeping.

Soldiers from several of the world's most powerful countries come to Nepal to improve their professional skills and abilities. They confirm this

of the Nepalese Army, is strengthening the relationship with soldiers and citizens by taking responsibility for protecting palaces, forts, museums, structures of historical importance, powerhouses, physical infrastructure, and natural resources. Additionally, they are working on mountain cleaning and development.

Fast Track Progress

Nepal Army is working to complete the shortest road connecting Kathmandu by 2026. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense, Purna Bahadur Khadka, emphasized the need for support and cooperation from all quarters to complete the Kathmandu-Tarai/Madhesh Fast Track Project within the stipulated timeline.



During his address at the fourth quarterly and annual progress review of the Ministry and its subordinate bodies for the fiscal year 2079-80 BS (2022-23) BS, the speaker emphasized that the Project was a top priority for the incumbent government.

The Council of Ministers re-

solved numerous obstructions regarding the Project in a single sitting, recognizing its importance.

He believed that the review should focus on identifying legal obstacles related to the projects and finding ways to overcome them.

During the meeting, it was reported that the Fast Track Project has made 25% progress in physical development and 28.11% progress in financial development.

The project is expected to be completed by March-April

at the Birendra Peace Training Center, Military Academy at Bhaktapur Khariapati, and Army Command and Staff College at Shivpuri.

The Nepali Army is the preferred peacekeeping force for victims of conflict-affected areas worldwide. The army has made significant contributions to disaster management and the construction of road infrastructure. The Kathmandu-Tarai Madhes highway, a source of national pride, is managed by the army.

Bhandari, the spokesperson



2027 and is being overseen by the Nepali Army, which has divided it into 13 packages. The estimated cost of the project, including VAT, is Rs 175.12 billion. Evaluation of tender bids is underway for three packages, while two are undergoing revision of the Detailed Project Report.

The package related to Khokana is facing issues due to land acquisition problems.

The government has allocated Rs 22.50 billion for the project in the current fiscal year. The total cost so far is Rs 49.23 billion.

Last fiscal year, the Ministry achieved 97.59% of its financial targets and 97.91% of its physical targets.

Chief of Army Staff Prabhuram Sharma suggested gradually clearing legal and other obstacles for the expressway. He stated that the NA is capable of completing the project.

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Various programs were organized to celebrate Mahashivratri and the 261st Anniversary of the establishment of the Nepali Army, recalling the glory of the institution, as in the past.

NEA

Increasing Profit

Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director, has demonstrated how dedicated management can transform a virtually bankrupt public utility, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), into a lucrative profit-making venture.

By Keshab Poudel

Despite offering free electricity for up to 20 units to one third of its 2.5 million customers, as well as heavy subsidies for electricity used in irrigation, and increasing regular expenditure and reimbursement of interest and loans, NEA, under the leadership of Managing Director Ghising, was able to make a profit of over Rs. 15.36 billion in the first seven months of the current fiscal year.

Additionally, NEA paid over Rs. 10 billion in taxes to the government, excluding royalties from power plants. The government has yet to deliver the promised Rs. 9 billion.

The results may come as a surprise and be unbelievable to some, but given the factors at hand, it is not unnatural to feel surprised. However, NEA's annual balance sheet for the last seven years has shown this.

One of the key factors for the annual increase in profit is the reduction of technical loss from 27 percent to 12 percent. NEA saves over 450 MW in the lean season and over 150 MW in the dry season by reducing 15 percent of leakages.

NEA was able to reduce the cost of imports from India by tactfully managing the import process during off-peak hours and reserving



NEA's power stations for this purpose. Off-peak prices are almost half as expensive as peak prices.

Under the leadership of Managing Director Ghising, NEA has demonstrated how controlling all loopholes of leakage and limiting unnecessary expenditures can lead to profitability. In the last six months, NEA made a profit of 15.36 billion rupees through its annual transactions.

During the first half of the current fiscal year 2080/81, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) earned a profit of 15.36 billion rupees.

NEA's financial statement for this period shows that it earned a total of 67.28 billion rupees from the sale of electricity, interest, and other sources of income. It spent a total of 51.92 billion rupees on electricity purchases, administrative projects, and other expenses.

The NEA's primary sources of income and expenses are electricity sales and projects, respectively. During the review period, the NEA earned a profit of Rs 15.36 billion (before deductions). This is an increase of 4.44 billion rupees compared to the same period in the



previous year when the profit was 10.91 billion 6 million rupees.

During the review period, the Authority earned a profit of Rs 15.36 billion (before deductions). This is an increase of 4.44 billion rupees compared to the same period in the previous year when the profit was 10.91 billion 6 million rupees. It is important to note that the NEA's profit is subject to change based on various factors. Last year's profit was 12.33 billion rupees. The NEA had an annual loss of 8.89 billion in 2072/73 but has been profitable since then.

Kulman Ghising, the managing director of the NEA, attributes the increase in profits during the first six months of this year to controlling electricity leakage, increasing income, reducing expenses, exporting more electricity to India, and increasing internal consumption.

The NEA faces budget limitations and cannot obtain sufficient funds for investment from the government. "Therefore, the organization invests billions of rupees annually in infrastructure expansion, strengthening, and electrification projects using profits

earned," stated MD Ghising.

To achieve self-sufficiency in electricity and provide reliable service to consumers, an investment of over 10-12 trillion rupees is needed for production, transmission, and distribution projects.

The NEA collected 45.49 billion rupees from electricity sales in the first six months of this year, but this is not enough to cover the necessary costs. Nepal purchased electricity worth 30.48 billion rupees from energy producers within the country and imported from India during this period.

During the first six months of this year, the Nepal Electricity Authority exported electricity worth 13.385 billion rupees to India. In the same period, Nepal imported electricity worth Rs. 1.98 billion. The authority exports electricity to India after consumption within the country during the rainy season.

NEA sells electricity to the Indian company NVVN through competition in the day-ahead market on IEX. NVVN sells electricity in the state of

Haryana.

In the review period, 1,47,6,400,000 units of electricity were exported. The flow of water in the rivers has decreased due to the dry season, causing a decline in electricity production from hydroelectric projects. As a result, electricity is now being imported from India to meet domestic demand.

Nepal imported 225 million units of electricity during the review period. Once the rainy season begins, Nepal will resume exporting electricity. In the last six months, Nepal exported electricity worth 13 billion to India and imported electricity worth Rs 2 billion.

NEA, like any other institution, aims to increase profit margins. It is praiseworthy and must be acknowledged. NEA's management is commendable for making a profit even by selling electricity for irrigation and drinking water at Rs.2 per unit and providing free electricity of 20 units to 2.5 million.

Investing In Women: Accelerating Progress



BY: DR. PRABIN MANANDHAR

Gender equality is fundamental for sustainable development, yet progress remains slow and uneven globally due to systemic barriers faced by women. However, investing in women presents a transformative solution beyond traditional charity. Investing in women recognizes their potential to drive progress, leading to improved economic growth, health outcomes, and social cohesion. This approach acknowledges women as agents of change and directs resources to empower them economically, socially, and politically.

One of the most important elements in investing in women in the Global South is ensuring access to education and skill development. Education serves as a foundational pillar for empowering women economically, socially, and politically. By providing young girls and women with quality education, including basic literacy and numeracy skills, as well as opportunities for higher education and vocational training, they gain the knowledge and tools necessary to break the cycle of poverty, pursue meaningful employment, and contribute actively to their communities and economies.

Investing in education and skill development for young girls and women has far-reaching benefits. It not only enhances their individual capabilities and prospects but also leads to broader societal improvements, including better health outcomes, reduced child mortality rates, and increased economic productivity. Moreover, educated women are more likely to participate in decision-making processes, advocate for their rights, and challenge discriminatory norms and practices, thus contributing to progress towards gender equality at both local, national, and global levels.

There are several best-case examples of successful investments in women's education and training that have led to tangible improvements in gender equality and socio-economic development. BRAC education program in Bangla-

desh provides non-formal primary education to marginalized communities, particularly girls, through flexible and gender-sensitive community-based schools. This has boosted girls' enrollment and retention rates, as well as literacy and numeracy skills in rural areas. SEWA's Vocational Training Program in India offers tailored vocational training to women in the informal sector, enabling them to gain economic independence through skills like tailoring and food processing.

Rwanda's Girls' Education Policy addresses gender disparities in education through curriculum reforms, scholarships, infrastructure improvements, and teacher training. The Malala Fund's Gulmakai Network supports grassroots efforts to advocate for girls' education in countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. In Nepal, the Female

Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) program plays a crucial role in promoting health education and awareness, particularly among young girls and women in rural areas. FCHVs are trained volunteers selected from within local communities to deliver essential health services, including maternal and child health education, family planning, and hygiene promotion.

These instances show the positive impact of investing in the education and skill development of young girls and women, which not only benefits individuals but also promotes wider socio-economic progress and gender equality. It's a ripple effect that transforms communities and generations!

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IWD 2024

Helvetas Nepal's InElam Project Transforms Dalit Women

Many Dalit and backward women, such as Shiva Sati Sada, who previously lived in a subsistence-based society, have become entrepreneurs thanks to Helvetas Nepal's InElam Project. They now run small businesses and create jobs in their own locality. The Helvetas Nepal's InElam Project has helped them transition from housewives to business owners.

By Keshab Poudel

Shivasati Sada, a forty-year-old Mushar Dalit, was pleasantly surprised by the dramatic shift in the community's way of life. This change was brought about by the emergence of commercial vegetable farming, which utilized previously underutilized river beds.

Today, the women of Pakariya, Karmahi Tole Ward 3 of Kshireswornath Municipality in Dahनुशा District, Madhesh Province, enjoy a reality that Sada could never have dreamed of.

Riverbed farming has been shown to boost the eco-





economic standing of disadvantaged and Dalit people, including the landless Sada, with the help of Helvetas Nepal's In-Elam project.

Poor Mushar have experienced a positive impact on their economic status by growing vegetables in the riverbed during dry seasons. The sale of vegetable products has significantly increased household income, helping them escape poverty.

"Most of us are landless, so we work as daily wage agricultural laborers for landlords," said Sada, the leader of a group of twenty local women. "We used to get paid Rs. 600 (\$5) for about 12 hours of odd labor. However, since we began using the Karmahi riverbed during the dry season, I have been able to sell extra veggies in the market, making about Rs. 40,000.00 (\$250) in six months.

With the start of vegetable production, our community has begun consuming seasonal produce," Sada added.

Sada and other Dalit

women have been able to contribute to household expenses and send their children to school thanks to the additional income generated by agriculture.

Estimates suggest that a significant portion of the riverbank land in Nepal's Southern Plains, including Dhanusha, is suitable for agriculture. During the post-monsoon season, vegetables are planted in ditches dug into seasonal



sandy banks and harvested before the next monsoon.

In 2006, Helvetas's Elam launched riverbed farming in Kailali and Kanchapur. The program aimed to raise the standard of living for the Kamaiya people and has been successful. Based on preliminary findings, riverbed farming was expanded to several locations around the Terai region with the goal of substantially increasing the target population's income. The World Bank awarded the program the Global Development Market Place award for its commitment to improving the economic standing of impoverished and marginalized people in Tharus and other areas.

The Helvetas Nepal InElam initiative played a significant role in transforming the way of life of the impoverished and marginalized Mushar Dalit community. The project addressed social issues and focused on innovative business development and job creation.



Hari Gurung, the program manager of the InElam Project, stated that the project aims to support Dalits in starting vegetable-selling enterprises. The Mushar community now sells their produce in the wholesale vegetable market by growing vegetables together. Gurung also mentioned that the project encourages Mushar women to learn about market behavior, pricing, and demand.

She was able to save Rs. 15,000.00 (\$150) by selling vegetables, which has eliminated the need to borrow money and pay hefty interest. Rebani Sada, an elected mem-

ber of Ward 3 in Kshireswornath Municipality, has experienced significant transformations in her life. Sada achieved this by participating in riverbed farming and man-



aging a grocery store. Thanks to the aid provided by the InElam Project, she not only runs

a grocery store in her community but has also obtained a citizenship certificate.

Thanks to the Manab Kalayan Samaj and Helvetas Nepal's InElam project, the women in our community have found solace.

In - Elam's seed money enabled me to open a small grocery store and engage in annual riverbed farming during the dry season. Before, our only sources of income were odd jobs and seasonal agricultural labor.

I used to go to bed hungry on many nights because we couldn't afford food.



However, things have changed now. Thanks to InElam, the barren riverbed is now yielding vegetables and generating income.

Women who joined the group established by Manab Kalyan Samaj, a local NGO and partner of the InElam project, have realized the importance of citizenship in conducting business and other activities. As daily wage farm laborers, we receive payment from the landlord and nearby individuals without any documentation requirement.

Larupati Sada, a member of a women's group, made \$350 last year by growing vegetables in a riverbed. She learned how to manage the market and set the product's price. Riverbed farming is advantageous to all of us, and it has helped her to stop worrying about work.

As daily wage farm laborers, we receive payment based on our work from the landlord and nearby individuals without any documentation requirement. However, when

the women joined our group, they realized the importance of having citizenship and registering incidents related to individuals. This realization came about when they started thinking about starting their own business. Pramod Yadav said that the Mushar family is experiencing transformative change with the help of organizations like Helvetas Nepal and Manab Kalayan Samaj

Dhanusha, a local partner of the project, and through close collaboration with the municipalities.

Despite the negative experiences brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, it served as a catalyst for transformation within the community.

The families cultivate vegetables for both personal consumption and sale at neighboring and regional markets. This strategy allows them to earn lucrative returns, particularly because the vegetables are grown during the arid season when fresh produce is scarce.

Typically, their first investment is in their children's education. Men often return from migration to assist with cultivation and marketing once families realize the potential income from vegetables. Families are expected to save enough money by the third year of riverbed farming to purchase their own land



or start a small business. Afterward, they relinquish their lease, making room for more families who do not own land.

According to Manab Kalyan Samaj's program manager Pramod Yadav, 'Riverbed farming has helped about 40 landless families overall.'

The Mushar Community was successfully transformed by the municipality, Manab Kalayan Samaj, and the InElam Project. According to Kshreshworenath Municipality Mayor Sukh Dev Yadav, the project team worked closely with the municipality and became a game changer for the community. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Various entities, including the government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, are implementing initiatives to create employment opportunities for young people. The InElam Project by Helvetas Nepal is a model project that collaborates with regional governments, business owners, farmers' cooperatives, and young entrepreneurs. The project's primary objective is to create jobs in Madhya Pradesh and Karnali.

Akriti Rana stated that the InElam project works closely with a variety of stakeholders and market participants, including



the private sector and local and provincial governments. Our observations have led us to conclude that commercial riverbed farming is the best program for improving the lives of people in Mushar.

The InElam project by Helvetas-Nepal is an example of how a project can help

sha is an example of a project that not only helps people start their own businesses and become entrepreneurs but also provides the necessary support for them to become citizens.

The sentences are short and straightforward, and the active voice is used. The information



is presented in a logical order, and verb phrases are used instead of noun phrases. The text is grammatically correct, and simple vocabulary is used to make it accessible to a broad audience. No

transform people's lives. The Mushar settlement in Dhanu-

changes in content were made.

PROYEL

Lesson From Bheri Municipality

Following the implementation of the Promotion of Youth Engagement in Local Governance Process (PROYEL) project, funded by the European Union and Helvetas-Nepal, the youth of Bheri Municipality in Jajarkot District are developing the necessary skills to participate in the local governance process.

By Keshab Poudel

With the increasing involvement of young people in the budget and planning process, the Bheri Municipality in the Jajarkot District of Karnali Province has begun allocating funds for youth in areas such as mental health, GESI, enterprise and education.

After the implementation of the PROYEL project in the Municipality and the establishment of Youth Panel (YP), Helvetas Nepal's PROYEL project in collaboration with the Women Empowerment Ac-



tion Forum (WEAF), the local partner, has already organized 21 training and interaction programs since April 2022.

Following learning about the constitutional, legal and procedural issues of local governance, youth are showing more interest in municipal programs, budgeting and planning process.

Chandra Prasad Gharti, the Mayor of Bheri Municipality, has noticed a significant increase in youth engagement during his second consecutive tenure. He stated, “six years ago, very few young people would come to the office with request for projects and budget allocation for the youth population. However, since the establishment of the Ward level Youth Panel in all 13 wards of Bheri Municipality as well as one at the municipal level Panel in Au-



gust 2022, youth have been becoming a priority at all levels of the municipality.”

“As 40 percent of Nepal’s population is youth, with over 43 percent being elected representatives at the local, provincial and national level, it is

concerning that youth participation in local governance and democratic processes are negligible,” said Dr. Prabin Manandhar, Country Director of Helvetas Nepal.” Through the implementation of PROYEL, Helvetas Nepal aims to increase youth participation and make local government more youth-friendly. It is good to see things are changing now.”

During an interaction meeting held on January 23 at the office of Bheri Municipality in Khalanga, the Municipality and the Bheri Municipality Youth Panel discussed the youth agenda with mayor Gharti. Prem BK, convener of Bheri Municipality Youth Panel, led the discussion.

The meeting, which was held in Khalanga of Jajarkot, was attended by the ward chairpersons, Dal Bahadur Gharti, Acting Chief Administrative





Officer, Helvetas Nepal Country Director Dr. Prabin Manandhar, PROYEL Project Coordinator Aagya Pokharel, Om Khadka, Knowledge Management and IT Coordinator, Shreda Shrestha, Project Officer and Caroline Guillet, Helvetas Nepal Office and YP members. Additionally, WEAFF officers.

Supported by his two colleagues, Dharmasara BK, 22, and Binisa Oli, 19, YP members from Ward 9 and Ward 8, respectively, BK asked the municipal leaders to increase the budget for youth employment. Oli suggested that necessary efforts should be made to prevent child marriage in the context of the earthquake.

PROYEL, implemented in the five municipalities of Karnali Province, including Bheri Municipality as well as three municipalities in Madhesh

Province, has facilitated young people in expressing their concerns to local governments in a structured and institutionalized way.

“Apart from supporting the formation of the youth body, we have initiated vari-

ous capacity building programs for youth, youth organizations, municipalities and elected representatives. The project has already conducted twenty-two programs in the municipality in collaboration with local partners,” said Aagya Pokharel, Coordinator of Helvetas Nepal’s PROYEL project.

“I learned about the budget-making process, annual planning preparation process, GESI and democratic process. The elected representatives actually listen to us,” said Dharmasara BK, 24, coordinator of Ward No. 9 of Bheri Municipality.

The project carried out many programs including a baseline survey to determine the status of young people, and the youth policy in Bheri Municipality. Additionally, the project



included an introduction to the new elected local government representatives.

To provide legal and constitutional provisions on federal structures, three tiers of government and Gender Equality Social Inclusion (GESI), the project organized trainings that provided basic information on federal structures, the constitution, laws and the role of the three tiers of government in relations to youth. Additionally, trainings were conducted on human rights, violations against women and the rights of sexual minorities.

Shortly before the federal elections in November 2022, the project conducted training on electoral literacy. In addition, the project facilitated the youth-Palika dialogue, palika internship training program, third-party financial support, and consultative session with Palika during the planning and budget process.

The project also provided training on budget tracking surveys, good governance, and citizen satisfaction surveys and gender audits. It mobilized Youth Good Governance Practitioner to monitor the ward level planning process and introduce social accountability tools in all 13 wards of Bheri Municipality in November-December 2023.

Dal Bahadur Gharti, the Acting Executive Administrative Officer of the Municipality,



acknowledged the contribution of PROYEL in bringing the youth population and the municipality together.

Alongside the youth, the project also conducted capacity-building sessions for local elected representatives of Bheri Municipality on meaningful use of social media and digital literacy. The Deputy Mayor as well as other ward chairpersons and members actively participated in the training.

“At every stage of

the project, GESI has been a cross-cutting issue,” said Shre-da Shrestha, Project Officer of the PROYEL project.

With constant monitoring, inspection, and guidance from Helvetas Nepal’s PROYEL team led by Project Coordinator Aagya Pokharel, the project has made remarkable progress in achieving the set goal in Bheri Rural Municipality of Jajarkot District.

रक्तदान गरौं, स्वस्थ जीवन बिताऔं

- तपाईं हामीले दिएको एक युनिट रगतले तीनजनासम्मको ज्यान बच्न सक्दछ,
- हरेक स्वस्थ व्यक्तिले तीन-तीन महिनामा रक्तदान गर्न मिल्दछ,
- १८ वर्षदेखि ६५ वर्षको उमेरसम्म रक्तदान गर्न सकिन्छ,
- रगतको अन्य विकल्प नभएकोले रक्तदान नै एकमात्र उपाय हो,
- रक्तदानमा कुनै धर्म र जात हुँदैन,
- रक्तदान दानमध्ये सबैभन्दा ठूलो दान अर्थात् जीवन दान हो,
- प्रयोगमा नआएको रगत सम्बन्धित ठाउँमा फिर्ता गरौं

आफूले पनि रक्तदान गरौं, अरुलाई पनि रक्तदान गर्न प्रेरित गरौं,



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