



**OPINION**  
Arup Rajouriaali



**VIEWPOINT**  
Hanaa Singer-Hamdy



**ENVIRONMENT**  
Batu Uprety

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# NEW SPOTLIGHT

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## NEA Era Of Light

**INSIDE**



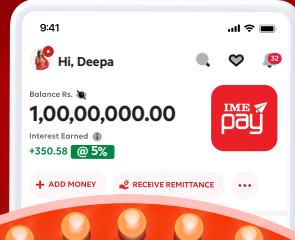
**POLITICS**  
LOOMING CRISIS



**NEPAL-UK FRIENDSHIP**  
100 YEARS OF RELATIONSHIP



**COP 28**  
NEPAL IN VCM



# करोडपति बनौ



विदेशबाट पठाएको रकम IME PAY वালেट, आइएमई काउण्टर वा  
बैंक खाता मार्फत प्राप्त गर्दा बन्न सक्नु हुनेछ **“करोडपति”**

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**Notes From The Editor**



Though Nepal has revised its constitution several times in the past sixty years with four different political systems, political instability remains a major problem and the demand for systemic change has already surfaced. Previously, major political parties such as Nepali Congress and Communist Parties were at the forefront of major political shifts in Nepal, including the current Federal, Republic, and Secular Nepal. However, this week witnessed a significant protest against the political system led by Durga Prasai, an individual or businessman from the eastern region of Nepal. Supported by seven political parties responsible for the current change, the current political system is heading. Nonetheless, Prasai is questioning the validity of the system and political parties, urging for the annulment of the constitution and federal system. Instead of discussing political agitation, this week's cover story focuses on the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) in the context of COP28. Despite various opportunities, Nepal has not yet taken advantage of the VCM. However, there is an increasing realization at the governmental level of the necessity to tap into the VCM. This is evident by the inclusion of VCM in the government's position paper for COP28. Our analysis examines how VCM could support Nepal in generating resources in the future.

**Keshab Poudel**

Editor

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# Glaciers Are Melting At Record Levels



BY: HANAA SINGER-HAMDY

It is my great pleasure to be joining you here today at the opening of this important National Climate Summit. Let me first congratulate the Government of Nepal for finalizing its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to climate change and updating its Nationally Determined Contributions. I also would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the key role of the main stakeholders to the NAP process: government agencies at the central and local level under the leadership of Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOFE), UN agencies, development partners and other contributors.

This month's Emissions and Adaptation Gap Reports from UNEP paint a stark picture of our collective climate reality. Current pledges under the Paris Agreement are putting the world on track for a 2.5-2.9C temperature rise, with a shortfall in the financing desperately needed to protect people and nature from the devastating impacts of global heating. Those who have contributed the least to the climate crisis are suffering at unspeakable scale.

Nepal, being an LDC and a mountainous country, faces grave and accelerating climate challenges. Glaciers are melting at record levels. And we have been witnessing dramatic shifts in temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, which lead to hazards such as droughts, heat waves, floods, glacial lake outburst floods and landslides. These extreme events threaten food security. They threaten water supply and infrastructure. They put lives and livelihoods at serious risk.

COP28 is just a week and a half away. In Dubai, parties to the UNFCCC will engage in the first Global Stock take under the Paris Agreement. This is not merely an opportunity to review progress towards climate goals. It is a unique chance for Nepal and other Member States to push for greater mitigation and adaptation ambition. It is also a chance to highlight the financing that developing countries need now to adapt to climate change. Nepal is well placed to actively participate in these discussions and present its actions under the NAP.

Allow me to return to the plan itself. Nepal's NAP is a welcome boost for national and global climate action. It is a visionary policy document charting the path for the country to adapt to climate change now, as well as in the

medium and long-term. With the support of UNEP and the Green Climate Fund, the Ministry of Forests and Environment has led the development of a gender-responsive and socially inclusive plan, which has focused on addressing vulnerabilities. The UN stands ready to support in implementing the NAP.

Allow me to leave you with three points:

a) Focus on implementation: Pivoting the implementation of the actions identified in the plan with an emphasis on protecting the communities most at risk from the effects of climate change

b) Integrate climate change in national development planning and budgeting system: development financing both by government and development partners must integrate climate change in planning and budgeting system.

c) Restructuring climate finance: In order to support integration of climate change into development planning and budgeting, climate financing modalities need to be restructured for easy and timely access.

As mentioned earlier about Global stocktaking at COP28, this is an opportunity for Nepal to discuss and raise ambitions in mitigation and adaptation, as well as on financial

support needed for developing countries. Nepal, as a country vulnerable to climate change, must engage in Global Stocktaking discussions and present its actions under National Adaptation Plan and other instruments, as well as the support needed to achieve future goals.

In closing, I would like to share the recent words of our Secretary-General, who said, "The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived. The air is unbreathable. The heat is unbearable. And the level of fossil fuel profits and climate inaction is unacceptable. Leaders must lead.

No more hesitancy. No more excuses. No more waiting for others to move first. There is simply no more time for that." Colleagues, friends, let us be a beacon of action.

Hanaa Singer-Hamdy is the UNRC in Nepal. Excerpts of her statement delivered at the National Climate Summit: NAP and NDC Implementation plan unveiling on Tuesday (November 21)



## NEWSNOTES

### Parliamentary Hearing Committee Approves Bharat Raj Paudyal As Ambassador Designate To Canada



Bharatraj Paudyal's appointment as the designated ambassador to Canada, by the Cabinet, has been approved by the Parliamentary Hearing Committee.

On Sunday, the committee unanimously approved the government's proposal to appoint Paudyal as the ambassador to Canada. Previously, on November 1, the committee had called for a complaint against Poudyal.

Chairman Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, a senior committee member, announced the committee's unanimous approval of the proposed appointment of Ambassador Paudyal to Canada. He also disclosed two complaints against Paudyal

and reported the approval of the appointment of non-resident ambassadors for Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Haiti, as well as permanent representatives of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

After obtaining approval from the parliamentary committee, the designation of the ambassador will proceed. The President appoints ambassadors only when he receives an agreement approval from the Canadian government.

### Nepalese Team Win Nepal-China International Cross Country Race

The Nepal-China International Mountain Cross Country Race Competition came to an end with Nepali team emerging victorious.

In the competition concluded in Pokhara on Saturday, Suman Kulung, Indrakala Nembang and Ramesh Limbu's team stood first in the 40-km run and took home Rs 360,000 cash prize.

Similarly, Nepal's Shrebi Maharjan, Mahesh Tharu and Basanta Tharu of Nepal came second in the same competition. The cash prize for second position was Rs 288,000.

In the competition organized by the Chinese Embassy in Nepal, Pokhara Metropolitan City and Nepal Tourism Board, Nepali team's Shreekas Rai, Tilak Sunuwar and Keshari Thapa Magar finished third winning Rs 216,000 as a cash prize, informed Gokarna Karki, Coordinator of the Award section.

The Chinese team came fourth in the competition taking home Rs 144,000 cash prize. The team comprised Lin Xiaqji, Yang Chunheng and Hou Qing.

Likewise, Nepal's athlete Homlal Shrestha stood first in the 38-km race. He was awarded with Rs 144,000 cash prize.

Nepal's Bed Bahadur Sunuwar came second, Tirtha Tamang third and Karan Wala finished fourth in the same competition.

The cash prize for second position was Rs 108,000 and Rs 54,000 for third and Rs 18,000 for fourth, Karki shared.

The Nepal China International Mountain Cross Country Competition is a joint initiative of Embassy of China in Kathmandu, Pokhara Metropolitan City and Nepal Tourism Board.

Under the slogan of Race for Shared Prosperity, the event was held in four categories, including group and individual competition, happy run and student run. A total of 20 groups took part in the group competition category.

The competition involved a distance of 40 kilometers to be covered by running, cycling and boating.

Starting from Barahighat in Lakeside, the race involved the distance passing through Birauta, Furse Khola, Ramadi, Ulleri, Bhumdi, Lukunswarna, Lichibot to end at Barahighat.

Chief Minister of Gandaki Surendra Raj Pande, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Chen Song, Mayor of Pokhara Dhanraj Acharya jointly inaugurated the event.

Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Song said that

such event will make a special contribution to strengthen the age-old relationship between Nepal and China. The Nepal China Dragon Boat Festival has already been held in Pokhara, which, he said, has helped to bring more Chinese tourists to the lake city. (RSS)



### Norway To Support UNICEF and UNESCO To Build A Climate Smart, Green and Resilient Education System in Nepal

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with support from Norway, have joined hands for a three-year project to strengthen Nepal's school education system's response to climate change.

The collaboration signifies a pivotal step towards addressing the impacts of climate change locally. The aim is to ensure that schools are resilient to the impacts of climate change and the country's children and youth, starting from



the school level, are provided the essential knowledge, tools and skills needed to guide the country toward a more sustainable future.

Speaking at the project signing and commencement event, HE Torun Dramdal, Norwegian Ambassador to Nepal said, “This project highlights the interconnectedness of the climate crisis and the learning crisis in Nepal. At the same time, it provides us the opportunity to support the sector from both mitigation and adaptation perspectives.”

Funded by the Norwegian Embassy, this comprehensive effort aims to strengthen school’s resilience and empower students, educators, schools and the three tiers of government with a proficient understanding of the environmental challenges they will face due to the climate crisis. The key to ultimately reduce and eradicate the effects of climate change is to integrate elements of targeted climate action into the education system.

Michael Croft, UNESCO Representative to Nepal, referring to the recent visit of the UN Secretary-General and his call for greater effort around climate change, stressed that, “This initiative is important beyond its scope, for it lays the foundation for wider action and will do much to enable a common approach under national leadership”.

youth, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world.”

### Japan Hands Over The Maternity And Children’s Clinic In Ilam District

The handover ceremony of the Maternity and Children’s Clinic supported by the Government of Japan to Suryodaya Municipality, Ilam District was held today.

KIKUTA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, attended the ceremony. Under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) of the Government of Japan, the project to construct the Maternity and Children’s Clinic was supported with USD 84,277 (approximately NPR 9.2 million).



On this occasion, Ambassador Kikuta congratulated and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of all those involved in the project. He emphasized that the pro-

ject will be a great help to the people in providing adequate health services in the areas. He also expressed his hope that this support will contribute significantly not only to local health care, but also to the development of the community.

The project aims to improve the quality of health services for the people of Fikkal and its neighboring areas in Suryodaya Municipality by constructing a new maternity and pediatric clinic.

In this area, it was a serious problem that there were no clinics and people had to walk two hours to the nearest health center. Suryodaya Municipality applied for the GGP supported by the Government of Japan to solve the problem, and the clinic has already been in its operation since March this year under the management of the municipality.

The Embassy hopes that this project will contribute to the better health services for the residents and further deepen the friendship between the people of Japan and Nepal. 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.

### FM Saud Requested Quarter To Help To Early Release of Bipin Joshi

Foreign Minister Narayan Prasad Saud has requested the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, for assistance in facilitating the early release of Nepali national Bipin Joshi.

The request was made during a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the visiting State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi.

Foreign Minister Saud praised the State of Qatar for their crucial mediation in achieving the agreement for a humanitarian pause in Gaza and the release of hostages.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar visited Foreign Minister Saud at his Ministry today. The two dignitaries discussed mutual interests such as employment, trade, investment, development cooperation, and high-level exchanges.

The State Minister of Qatar has pledged to assist with the prompt release of Nepalese national Joshi, who was abducted by Hamas on October 7th in Southern Israel, as confirmed by Minister Saud’s tweet.

Foreign Secretary Paudyal Qatar State Minister Foreign Affairs Concluded Bilateral Meeting Bharat Raj Paudyal, Foreign Secretary, conducted bilateral talks with Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, State Minister for Foreign



## NEWSNOTES

Affairs of Qatar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today.

The discussion addressed various topics of mutual interest such as trade, investment, cooperation, and the welfare of Nepalese citizens residing in Qatar.

This afternoon Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, arrived in Kathmandu. The State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, arrived in Kathmandu this afternoon and was received by the Foreign Secretary, Bharat Raj Paudyal, at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

The Qatari delegation led by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal at his office earlier in the morning.

Both sides reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations.

While expressing satisfaction on the progress made in different sectors, the Foreign Secretary requested for enlisting Nepal in the skilled category for labour supply to Qatar, providing special access to Nepali products in Qatari markets and extending development cooperation through Qatar Fund for Development.

Later in the afternoon, Minister for Foreign Affairs N. P. Saud hosted a luncheon to welcome the Qatari delegation led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar and his delegation left for Doha this evening after completing the two-day official visit to Nepal. Foreign Secretary, Paudyal and other senior officials of the Ministry bade farewell to the dignitaries at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

### Nepal-UK Discussed Issues Raised By The Ex-Gurkha

The Government of Nepal and United Kingdom held a discussion on addressing the matters like the pension and benefits for ex-Gurkhas at the British Ministry of Defense on Wednesday.

Following the presentation of responses to most of the issues raised by the ex-Gurkhas from the British Ministry of Defense, Nepal's Ambassador to the UK, Gyan Chandra Acharya, and retired Major Juddha Bahadur Gurung responded with arguments on those matters, informed the embassy.



Ganesh Prasad Dhakal, Head of the Europe and America Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Nepal,

emphasised Nepal's commitment to addressing the demands.

Acknowledging the historical ties between Nepal and Britain, Ambassador Acharya urged British authorities to seek a lasting solution to the foundational demands of the ex-Gurkhas.

Deputy Head of the Nepali Embassy, Roshan Khanal, revealed that unresolved issues requiring further study would be discussed in the next meeting. She also informed that the British side had committed to scheduling the next round of talks following their internal deliberations reported by The Rising Nepal.

This marks the third session of the bilateral committee established to handle the demands of former Gurkha soldiers. The Nepali Embassy in London reported that the meeting evaluated progress on pension and welfare facilities, drawing on previous committee sessions and technical-level discussions.

Following the presentation of responses to most of the issues raised by the ex-Gurkhas from the British Ministry of Defense, Nepal's Ambassador to the UK, Gyan Chandra Acharya, and retired Major Juddha Bahadur Gurung responded with arguments on those matters, informed the embassy.

### Nepal Calls For Immediate Release Of Bipin Joshi, Welcomes Humanitarian Pause In Gaza

Nepal Government on Thursday reiterated the call for the immediate release of Nepali student Bipin Joshi, who is held hostage by Hamas militants.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the agreement on the humanitarian pause in Gaza and called for the immediate release of



Joshi, who has been held hostage by the Palestinian militant group since October 7.

Ten Nepalese students were also killed in an attack by Hamas terrorists on October 7 in Israel.

The Government of Nepal has welcomed the agreement on humanitarian pause in Gaza, paving the way for the release of hostages and supply of humanitarian materials.

In the statement, the Government of Nepal has also reiterated its call for the immediate release of Nepali national Bipin Joshi.

"Nepal compliments the diplomatic efforts of all



the countries and parties primarily the State of Qatar, the United States of America and the Arab Republic of Egypt in reaching this understanding,” reads a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here today.

**Korea And Nepal Share Cultural Aspects: Ambassador Park Tae-young**

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea organized the 2023 Korean Culture Night in Kathmandu on November 22. The event featured Korean cuisine, traditional games, a hanbok experience, a quiz, and demonstrations of Kpop and Taekwondo.

In his welcome speech, Ambassador Park Tae-



young emphasized that cultural exchange is a crucial factor in fostering mutual understanding between nations.

“Moreover, Ambassador Park Tae-young highlighted that Nepal and Korea share numerous cultural similarities including Buddhism, food, and family values. He expressed his fascination with the richness of Nepali culture.

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Nepal has been organizing the Korean Culture Night annually since 2014 to exhibit different aspects of Korean culture with Nepali people.

As is well known, the Korean Wave, or Hallyu, has evolved into a worldwide cultural phenomenon.” Nepal shows a considerable interest in various Korean cultures. Individuals throughout Nepal have been enjoying Korean culture recently. Many families watch Korean dramas and movies in their homes. Over 100,000 Nepali people practice Taekwondo, a Korean martial art,” said Ambassador Park Tae-young . He stated that numerous young people enjoy K-pop music and dance.

“We at the Korean Embassy in Nepal aim to recognize and promote the Nepali people’s growing interest in Korean culture by organizing cultural events every year.”

“This year, we held several events, including the K-Pop World Festival in Nepal in July, the Ambassador’s Taekwondo Championship in September, and the K-Culture Video Contest last month. Today, we hosted the 2023 Korean Language Speech Contest, where we were pleasantly surprised by the exceptional Korean proficiency of the contest winners. The Korean Culture Night will serve as the culmination of this productive yearlong effort.”

“I hope that these programs provide a enjoyable experience and improve your understanding of Korean culture,” stated the ambassador.

“Our sincere wish is that your interest and comprehension of Korean culture will form a solid basis for the strengthening of exchange and cooperation between Korea and Nepal. Our relationship is not solely diplomatic, but a bond founded on shared values, experiences, and cultural understanding with the goal of a better future.”

During the program, Bharatmani Subedi, Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation, expressed his gratitude to the Republic of Korea for providing development support to Nepal in various sectors through KOICA. He emphasized that the Nepalese who work or have worked under the EPS program in Korea are a valuable asset for Nepal in its efforts to transform its society.

Secretary Subedi also noted that Nepal and Korea are celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries this year, emphasizing the significance of this milestone for Nepal.

He further commented on the recent visit of the Korean Minister of Agriculture, which demonstrated the high level of importance given by the Republic of Korea to Nepal.

Attended by individuals from diverse backgrounds, including senior civil servants, diplomats from the Embassy of Korea, media personnel, businessmen, and Koreans residing in Nepal, the program lasted after the Tae-Kwondo demonstration by the Nepal Police Academy team.

The final round of the Korean Speech Contest concluded, and the winners were awarded certificates and gift hampers. Furthermore, certificates and gift hampers were given to the winners of the 2023 Online K Culture Video Contest.

**India Provides Fourth Tranche Of Relief Materials To Nepal**

India handed over the relief materials to Nepal to supply in earthquake affected districts of Rukum and Jajarkot.



## NEWSNOTES

This is the fourth tranche of relief support comprising vital medicines & equipment for the earthquake affected families reaches Nepal.

“India’s humanitarian efforts continue to support people in Nepal,” tweets External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar.

### Ambassador Of Republic Of Korea Park Tae-Young Handed Over Automated Biochemistry Analyzer To Nepal

Park Tae-Young, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Nepal, handed over the fully Automated Biochemistry Analyzer to Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal at the Ministry of Health and Population amid a function.



In a notable demonstration of bilateral

collaboration, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea has generously contributed to Nepal’s health sector by donating Fully Automated Biochemistry Analyzers, valued at USD 402,500.

Secretary Pokhrel graciously accepted the donation on behalf of the Nepalese government. The critical need for advanced medical equipment, particularly at the district and sub-district level hospitals across Nepal, prompted this significant contribution.

The Fully Automated Biochemistry Analyzer plays a pivotal role in enhancing primary healthcare services by facilitating the examination of vital organs, including the liver, kidney, and pancreas.

This diagnostic tool analyzes biochemistry samples such as serum, plasma, and urine, playing a crucial role in accurate patient diagnosis and treatment. The Korean government’s support is anticipated to empower hospitals at the local level, enabling them to independently diagnose diseases.

During the handover program, Secretary Pokhrel conveyed heartfelt gratitude for this invaluable assistance, emphasizing the positive impact it would have on strengthening the health authorities’ capabilities at the grassroots level.

Similarly, Ambassador Park highlighted the Korean government’s commitment to Nepal’s healthcare sector development. He affirmed that such initiatives align with Korea’s enduring support to Nepal as a steadfast development partner.

Having designated Nepal as a “Priority Cooperation Country” for 15 consecutive years in development cooperation, the Korean government has consistently provided diverse assistance in key areas, including health & sanitation, agriculture, education, rural development, and energy.

The Korean government has provided substantial support to Nepal, including USD 188.6 million allocated through KOICA since 1991, of which 26.8% was in the health sector. Support for the establishment of Mugu, Nuwakot, and Tikapur Hospitals was included here. Additionally, a 2nd phase capacity-building project for the Nepal Korea Friendship Municipality Hospital in Bhaktapur, which involves the construction of an additional 150-bed hospital, is currently ongoing.

In addition, Korea has been providing immediate support to Nepal during challenging times, including the 2015 Nepal earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with this commitment, the Korean government has decided to provide USD 300,000 in humanitarian assistance to help the people of Nepal affected by the recent earthquake in Karnali.

As 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Nepal, the Korean government plans to commemorate this milestone with various projects. These initiatives aim to further expand bilateral cooperation across diverse fields between the two nations.

### Australia To Provide AUD 600,000 For Earthquake Emergency Needs

The Australian Government has announced humanitarian funding of AUD600,000 (approximately NPR 5.09 crore) to respond to the emergency needs of victims of the recent earthquake in western Nepal.

The new funding will enable Australia’s established partners working on-the-ground in the earthquake affected districts to respond to emerging humanitarian needs.

Australian funding will contribute to cash for work activities through World Food Programme in affected communities. It will provide life-saving protection and assistance such as psychosocial support and access to reproductive health and gender-based violence response services, through UNFPA. The funding will also support early reconstruction to restore damaged public infrastructure, including health facilities, through Human Development Communities Services.

The



Australian Ambassador to Nepal, HE Felicity Volk, said, “I am deeply saddened by the loss of lives and damage to property in the west Nepal earthquake and subsequent aftershocks. Australia and Nepal have a long-standing friendship and a history of supporting each other during times of crisis including in the 2015 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic. Our humanitarian funding for the most recent earthquake response will help meet the urgent needs of impacted communities, including preparing for winter.”

This support is in addition to prepositioned supplies such as dignity and adolescent kits distributed through UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Nepal to 10,000 women and girls. Australia has also supported the distribution of reproductive health kits to key facilities to support safe deliveries, treatment of pregnancy complications and other services to respond to the needs of an estimated population of 60,000.

**EU Provides Euro 2 Million In Humanitarian Aid For Nepal To Help People Affected By The Earthquake**

Following the earthquake that struck Nepal earlier this month, the EU has approved a €2 million aid package to bring relief to the most affected people. It will help provide shelter, access to clean water and sanitation, and health



care, among other services. The support package includes €600,000 to support the work of humanitarian partners already providing assistance in affected areas.

eas.

In addition, €200,000 have been allocated to the Nepalese Red Cross Society, via the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Complementing the financial contribution, the EU will mobilise in-kind assistance from its European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC), worth €1.2 million.

This will include tents and winterisation kits that will be sent from the EU’s stockpile in Kuala Lumpur, to address the crucial shelter needs of vulnerable families whose homes were destroyed.

Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management: “Nepalese people have once again been hit by a deadly earthquake. As in previous disasters, the EU stays ready to help those most in need. This new aid package will bring shelter to people that have lost their homes, so they can be prepared to face the upcoming winter, while helping with

other pressing needs.”

**Korea Provided Humanitarian Assistance To Earthquake Affected People Of Jajarkot And West Rukum**

The Government of the Republic of Korea has decided to provide USD 300,000 worth of humanitarian assistance to help people of Nepal affected by the earthquake in Karnali.



The Korean government hopes that this assistance will help swiftly bring stability to lives of the people of Nepal and help recover areas affected by the earthquake.

Korean President and Foreign Minister already sent the condolence letter regarding Jajarkot Earthquake to their counterparts of Nepal.

**China To Provide Additional Rs. 260 Million As Earthquake Relief Assistance**

China has decided to provide an additional Rs. 260 million as emergency humanitarian assistance to Nepal.

The assistance is provided to help Nepal carry out earthquake relief work.

“Chinese government decided to provide an additional 15 million RMB (260 million Rupees) of emergency humanitarian assistance to Nepal to help Nepal carry out earthquake relief work,”



Chinese Ambassador to Nepal, Cheng Song, shared on the social networking site, X.

Earlier, China provided relief materials worth Rs. 10million for the quake survivors in the Jajarkot and the Rukum Paschim districts of Nepal.

A powerful earthquake measuring 6.4 on Richter Scale rattled the Karnali province in Nepal on November 3 killing 153 people and injuring over 300.

## BUSINESS BRIEF

### Vijayakumar Shah Honored As The Highest Tax Payer

Vijayakumar Shah, founder chairman of Jawalakhel Group of Industries, has again become the highest paid person. The Internal Revenue Department has honored him for paying the highest amount of tax on an individual basis. He was honored on Thursday, November 23, the last day of the Department's Tax Day weekly program.



He has become the highest tax payer in recent times. Earlier, he had surpassed Siddharth Rana, who has been honored for paying the highest income tax for 6 consecutive years after paying the highest tax in the financial year 2017-18. Since then

Shah has held his ground except once.

On the occasion of National Tax Day 2080, the Internal Revenue Department honored various organizations, companies and individuals for paying the highest amount of tax. Shah was also honored at the same time.

Jawalakhel Group of Industries includes companies such as Jawalakhel Distillery, Himalayan Distillery, Raj Brewery, Asian and Vijay Distillery.

Ruslan Vodka, Golden Oak and Warsteiner Beer are being produced from this company of Shah.

### NIMB Has Decided To Donate Rs. 5 Million Assistance For Earthquake Victims

Nepal Investment Mega Bank Limited (NIMB) is going to help the earthquake-affected areas of Jajarkot and West-Rukukum districts.

In the meeting of the bank's board of directors, the decision has been taken to provide Rs. 5 million to help the earthquake victims. The bank said that the amount will be deposited in the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund.

### Himalayan Airlines Direct Flight From China To Pokhara Landed

Himalayan Airlines direct flight from Kunming, China touched down on Pokhara International Airport on Thursday afternoon. The plane carry 100 plus athletes to

participate in he International direct flight from Kunming, China touched down on Pokhara International Airport this afternoon.

The plane carried 100 plus athletes to participate in Pokhara International Mountain Cross Country Competition. Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Chen Song welcomed the athletes and delegation at Pokhara International Airport.



### Global IME Bank Becomes Highest Taxpayer in Banking Sector

Global IME Bank has emerged as the highest taxpayer among all banks and financial institutions in Nepal for the fiscal year 2078-79. The bank has contributed a corporate tax of Rs. 3,200 million during this period.

Amidst a function, Finance Minister Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat provided award to Chandra Prasad Dhakal, chairman of Global IME Bank and FNCCI Chair.

At present, Global IME Bank holds the position of the largest bank in Nepal in terms of capital, boasting a paid-up capital of Rs. 35.77 billion. Established in 2007 as a commercial bank, Global IME Bank achieved this status through the merger and acquisition of 21 banks and financial institutions, including 5 commercial banks, 10 development banks, and 6 finance companies.



The bank is actively pursuing digitization and has embraced 'Vision-2025,' a strategic plan aimed at doubling its business with the utilization of modern technologies and digitization.

The bank has established a nationwide presence with 350 branches, 369 ATM counters, 322 branchless units, and 64 extension counters across all 77 districts of Nepal. Furthermore, the bank has expanded its reach internationally with representative offices in London (UK), New Delhi (India), and Sydney (Australia), maintaining three international contact points.

With a customer base exceeding 4.2 million and a workforce of more than 4,000 employees, Global IME Bank continues to solidify its position as a key player in the banking sector.



**MD Ghising Directed To Complete Construction Of Bahrabise Substation As Per Schedule**

Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), has directed to complete the construction of 220/132 kV substation under construction at Bahrabise in Sindhupalchowk immediately.

MD Ghising has instructed to complete the construction of the substation to connect electricity of the 102 MW Madhya Bhotekoshi hydroelectric project constructed under the leadership of Chilime Hydropower Project in Sindhupalchowk district.

A high-level team of NEA, including Managing Director Ghising visited the substation construction site on Thursday (November 16) and instructed them to complete the remaining works immediately.

The team held discussions with the project management and contractor’s officials the problems encountered in the construction, the condition of equipment supply, and the construction completion schedule, said the NEA.

The construction of the substation is scheduled to be completed within mid-January 2024.

Ghising said that the contractors have improved their performance of late and achieved good progress in substation construction.

He instructed to speed up the connection work by adding more workers when all the equipment to be installed in the substation have been supplied and some connections have been made.

“Madhya Bhotekoshi has reached the stage of starting electricity generation, the construction of the substation should be completed before the beginning of electricity generation from the project,” he said.

“The Madhya Bhotekoshi, which is near the Kathmandu Valley, will help a lot to meet the demand for electricity during this year’s dry season, so let’s get serious about substation construction and connect the project’s electricity as soon as possible, we are ready to provide necessary support and facilitation from our side.”

The construction of the substation has been delayed due to the poor performance of the joint venture of the Chinese companies Guangxi Transmission and Substation Construction and Shenzhen Claw Electronics, which have



been awarded the contract for the construction of the Bahrabise substations.

The NEA has been warned that if the construction

of the substation is not completed and the electricity of Madhya Bhotekoshi cannot be connected, the compensation will be paid by the contractor’s company.

The power transformers to be placed in the substation have been connected. Power transformers of 220/132 kV, 160 MVA and 132/11 kV, 5 MVA are placed in the substation.

The substation equipment based on Gas Insulated System (GIS) technology is being installed. All the equipment in the control room has been supplied to the construction site, but the connection remains, said the NEA.

Finishing work on the civil side is left. The overall progress of construction of 220-132 kV substation is about 90 per cent. Another 400 kV substation is also under construction in Bahrabise.

The team also inspected the Madhya Bhoteshi hydropower project. The final phase construction works of the project are going on, targeting completion by mid-January 2024.

The electricity generated from Madhya Bhotekoshi will be connected to Bahrabise substation through 220 kV transmission line.

The project has already constructed towers of 220 kV single-circuit transmission line from the switchyard of its power plant to Bahrabise substation. About 2 km of transmission line wire has been extended.

**Green Growth Advisory Service Set Up At FNCCI Secretariat**

The Green Growth Advisory Service has been

established at the secretariat of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce



and Industry (FNCCI) to promote the green economy.

The Chairperson of the Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee of the National Assembly of the Federal Parliament, Prakash Pantha, FNCCI President Chandra Prasad Dhakal, and International Labour Organisation’s Country Director, Numan Özcan, jointly launched the facility on Thursday.

The Green Growth Advisory Service was established with the technical assistance of the ILO, informed the FNCCI in a statement.

“Through this service, FNCCI will actively advo-

## BUSINESS BRIEF

cate for the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices while promoting economic growth.

Awareness campaigns will be organised at the central, provincial, and local levels, focusing on employment skill development, green employment, and just transition, with a special emphasis on industrial corridors, industrial areas, and villages,” read the statement.

The advisory will also take the initiative in assisting the development of strategies and action plans to promote the green economy.

The advisory is also expected to provide regulatory guidance to ensure the implementation of green growth by establishing metrics and indicators to measure the importance of green growth, advocacy, and progress at all levels of the government.

To ensure effective operation, an advisory service consisting of representatives from the FNCCI, the Government of Nepal, universities, trade unions, ILO, and experts in this field has been formed.

Pantha said that the private sector has a vital role to play in green growth and sustainable development.

Likewise, Dhakal claimed that adopting green growth practices in Nepali businesses and industries will not only benefit the environment and society but also create opportunities for economic growth, market competition, and long-term sustainability.

Similarly, Numan stated that the United Nations including ILO has prioritised green initiatives to achieve sustainable development goals.

### **NPEA Announced Launching Of Agora With Support From UNCDF**

Nepal Private Equity Association (NPEA) with Support of UN Capital Development Fund Launch Agora to Promote Alternative Investments for the Country

Nepal Private Equity Association (NPEA) Will Advance Deployment of Agora to Support Nepalese SME Access to Capital

The Nepal Private Equity Association (NPEA), with the support of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), announced the launch of “Agora” - a



web platform connecting entrepreneurs in emerging and frontier markets with investors and experts, fostering collaboration and driving eco-

nomie growth.

NPEA will leverage the Agora platform to advance the association’s mission of promoting access to finance for Nepalese small and medium-sized enterprises in support of innovation, job creation and entrepreneurship.

Today’s announcement will commence a call-to-action among NPEA’s membership, which includes investment firms, fund managers and financial services providers, to leverage the Agora platform in advancing the strategic objectives of the Association.

NPEA and UNCDF had agreed on jointly supporting the launch of Agora in July prior to the platform becoming live in October. With the NPEA’s deployment of Agora, the association will support Nepal in becoming one of the inaugural countries to officially deploy the Agora platform in country.

“We are pleased to have this partnership with UNCDF. Agora will complement our deal sharing platform and provide access to our entrepreneurs and investors to a much wider perspective. As Nepal Private Equity Association strives to enhance the alternative investment ecosystem in Nepal partnerships such as this help expedite innovation,” said Siddhant Raj Pandey, Chairman of NPEA.”

“Agora is a global public good that can be leveraged to provide the best total service to the Nepalese enterprise ecosystem, whether they are SMEs are larger in size,” said Xavier Michon, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNCDF.

“Agora will bridge the information gap that prevents investment finance from reaching promising projects in the world’s emerging and frontier economies. By bridging this gap, Agora will help deliver critical lifelines of capital to the businesses, entrepreneurs, and communities in Nepal that have been underserved by the global financial architecture.”

Among the objectives of the Association, NPEA endeavors to strengthen and promote Nepal’s private and alternative investment ecosystem. Through Agora, NPEA will look to close the information gap to position Nepalese SMEs in accessing investment finance from regional and global capital providers.

Additionally, as an aggregator and database of investors, NPEA will look to use Agora to nurture collaboration between private equity and venture capital firms within Nepal as well as collaboration between Nepalese firms and those operating at regional and global levels.

By utilizing cutting-edge algorithms and artificial intelligence to facilitate connections between entrepreneurs and investors, Agora supports entrepreneurs in accessing a diverse pool of investors to improve their funding prospects, while investors discover tailored opportunities that unlock the potential of emerging and frontier markets. In collaboration with a network of like-minded partners, UNCDF is deploying Agora as a global public good, with an eye of reaching approximately 20 countries by the end of

2023.

**FNCCI President Dhakal Urges Businessmen In Asia And Pacific Region To Invest In Nepal**

FNCCI President Chandra Prasad Dhakal has urged the business leaders of the Asia Pacific region to invest in Nepal as the country has robust potential in all sectors.

He said so while addressing the 37th CACCI conference that began here today.

“One of the rapidly growing economies and our neighbor, Bangladesh, is another potential market for Nepal’s hydroelectricity. I would like to invite the private sector of Asia-Pacific to explore potential of investment and collaboration in the energy sector of Nepal,” said the FNCCI president.

Nepal has always been a popular destination for international tourists. Being the land of highest mountains of the world, including Mt. Everest, we aspire to host more tourists from the Asia-Pacific region. In our effort to establish better connectivity with the world, we have invested in important for tourism infrastructure, including world-class hotels and airports. There is a huge potential for investment in cable cars, luxury hotels and resorts, theme parks, hill stations, and much more, he said.

The theme of the conference is “Chambers of Commerce -Helping Businesses Get SET for the Future” which focuses on three important aspects: Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, and Trade.

Situated between two economic powerhouses, India and China, Nepal holds a strategic position at the heart of Asia Pacific region. We strongly believe that this conference will serve as an important platform for business networking, exploring investment opportunities, and exchanging valuable ideas, said FNCCI president Dhakal

Referring to the great earthquake in 2015 and the COVID-19 pandemic, he said Nepal’s people and economy have been showing their strength to bounce back from major natural disasters and global economic shocks.

We have robust foreign exchange reserves and a positive balance of payments. Our banking sector has sufficient liquidity to lend to the private sector, he said.

Nepal’s energy sector is rich and growing. We have a huge market in our doorsteps. India’s recent decision to include imported hydroelectricity from Nepal under

its renewable energy count will further increase market in India. Being abundant in hydroelectricity, Nepal is well positioned to utilize clean and renewable energy for the sustainable economic development, he said

One of the rapidly growing economies and our neighbor, Bangladesh, is another potential market for Nepal’s hydroelectricity. I would like to invite the private sector of Asia-Pacific for exploring potential of investment and collaboration in energy sector of Nepal, he urged the business leaders.

Nepal has always been a popular destination for international tourists. Being the land of highest mountains of the world, including Mt. Everest, we aspire to host more tourists from the Asia-Pacific region. In our effort to establish better connectivity with the world, we have invested in important for tourism infrastructure, including world-class hotels and airports. There is a huge potential for investment in cable cars, luxury hotels and resorts, theme parks, hill stations, and much more.

He urged the business leader to explore investment opportunities in the tourism sector of Nepal, saying that Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu has recently been upgraded. Two more international airports have been set up, one in Lumbini where Shakyamuni Buddha was born, and another in Pokhara, a famous tourist destination of lake and mountain attractions.

Manufacturing, Agro-processing, ICT, pharmaceuticals, herbs and herbal sectors, are some other sectors that have a huge prospect in Nepal.

Multinational companies operating in Nepal, are enjoying excellent returns on their investments, he made a point.

Nepal enjoys duty-free market access to India, China, EU and other developed nations. Nepal aspires to establish wider connectivity, physically and digitally, with South Asia, Asia Pacific region, and beyond. We aspire for rapid growth through digital economy, ICT, light manufacturing, value chain integration with the world, and boosting exports, he said.

With all these potentials Nepal offers, I would like to request you all to explore Nepal’s potential during the conference sessions. FNCCI, representing the private sector of Nepal, assures of our utmost support to you all business leaders to explore business opportunities and remedy any obstacles you face in Nepal, said the FNCCI president.



## POLITICS

# Looming Crisis

*Despite issuing a statement defending the present political system and asserting that there is no threat to it, Durga Prasai, a businessman and activist, is shaking up the system.*

By A CORRESPONDENT

Although he was previously known only as a political activist, his recent actions appear to pose a significant threat to the current political dispensation and the political process. A year ago, Prasai began a political campaign. Five years prior, he played a significant role in unifying two communist parties and forming the UML under KP Sharma Oli's leadership. However, now he is challenging Oli and his party.

Prasai has launched an agitation to hold a referendum on the monarchy, federal system, and restoration of the Hindu State.

Given the country's political context, it is challenging to predict the outcome. Throughout past political changes, individuals like Prasai have emerged from the shadows to lead.

Prasai, a medical college owner from Jhapa, has initiated the movement demanding the abolition of the current constitution, restoration of the Hindu State, and holding a referendum for the monarchy.

His demands encompass providing relief to small farmers and medium entrepreneurs from loans granted by Cooperatives, commercial banks, and micro-finance companies. Likewise, he advocated for a decrease in interest rates.

Prasai initially engaged in politics via the CPN-UML, and subsequently joined the Maoist revolution during the insurgency. He previously maintained longstanding relationships with major political parties in the nation, which could explain why CPN-UML has mounted a direct political conflict against Prasai and his adherents.

### Political Leaders

Although the country's major political parties have publicly ignored Prasai's demands, claiming there is no threat to republican, federalism, and secularism; the leaders of the major political parties, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, NC Leader Sher Bahadur Deuba, and CPN-UML Leader KP Sharma Oli, recently held a meeting and agreed to unite in defending the current constitution.

Despite K.P. Sharma Oli's

confrontations between Prasai's supporters and CPN-UML, the District Administration Office in Kathmandu has prohibited all demonstrations within the ring road.

### Prasai And UML

Launched against the government, Prasai's movement is now turning into an anti-UML campaign. The movement is organized from the grassroots level and has support across all levels of society. Despite occasion-



claim that Prasai is a hoax, the National Youth Federation Nepal, CPN-UML's sister organization, has announced a nationwide protest against Rastra, Rastriyata, Dharma-Sanskriti, and NagarikBachauAndolan, a citizen's movement advocating for the protection of nation, nationalism, religion, and culture.

CPN UML's sister organization previously staged a one-day demonstration of power on November 23. Led by Mahesh Basnet, CPN-UML-Durga Prasai has raised concerns of potential clashes with the government.

In order to prevent violent

al divisions, CPN-UML's core cadre remains intact, and the party's organization is strong.

However, CPN-UML's leadership views Prasai's movement as a serious threat to its existence. After UML announced a rally against him, Prasai and his supporters are now openly waging war against CPN-UML.

Prasai maintains that he gave refuge to Maoists during the People's War, and once had a close relationship with former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal. This is evidenced by Dahal's insistence, during his time as prime minister in 2016, on affiliating





Prasai's medical college, B&C Hospital.

Prasai later became close to KP Sharma Oli once the UML and Maoists merged to form the Nepal Communist Party (NCP), and even joined the UML as a central member.

Oli became upset with Prasai's decision to conduct a campaign for the restoration of the monarchy, resulting in his expulsion from the UML in February.

Since then, Prasai has spoken unfavorably about Oli, which has been received negatively by UML leader Basnet.

On October 9 in Kathmandu, members of the UML youth wing smeared Prasai with black soot. This situation is ironic as Prasai previously stated the need to hold bankers and local sharks accountable, yet

he garnered public support by expressing his stance against loans, microfinance, and the plight of loan shark victims while simultaneously declaring his intention to showcase his power in Kathmandu starting on October 24. He presented programs with the goal of 'changing the system.'

On November 19th, a statement was issued by Prasai's group announcing the commencement of the 'Peaceful Civil Liberation Movement' on November 23rd. Prasai has urged

Hindu organizations, activists, and even Nepalis living overseas to join in the demonstration.

Sher Bahadur Deuba, President of the Nepali Congress (NC), has defended the republican system of governance in the country as the only viable option. Speaking to the media at Bhagalpur Airport in Chitwan district today, Deuba stated, "Objecting to the republican system is pointless, as it will not change."

When asked if the country's political parties were troubled by 'anti-republican activities', Deuba, a former Prime Minister, firmly replied, "Absolutely not."

However, when asked about the agreement on power sharing in the current coalition turn-by-turn, he did not provide a clear response. When asked about how power would be shared in the current coalition, the septuagenarian leader responded, "You will know for yourself."

NC leader Dr. Shashanka Koirala stated that he did not think monarchy would be reinstated, but acknowledged that citizens were dissatisfied with the government's performance, leading to questions regarding the current governance system.

He urged all political parties to unite in order to protect the republican system. "I am dissatisfied with the incumbent government's performance," he stated objectively. He noted the government's lack of attention to the country's progress and development, and questioned the

current federal structure. For clarity and understanding, he stressed the imminence of political parties uniting to alleviate citizens' doubts concerning the governance system.

At a time when the government is unable to fulfill their promises and growing economic hardship and corruption in provincial government are prevalent, there is increasing disenchantment among the people.

Prasai has gained a large number of supporters with his populist slogan, enough to challenge the present political system. Although political leaders have claimed that the current constitution has a solid foundation among the people and poses no immediate threat, Prasai's actions have demonstrated otherwise.

As before, Prasai's agitation has ended in failure. Currently, the political situation indicates an impending major crisis, and the outcome of Prasai's leadership in the agitation is uncertain.

## NEPAL-UK FRIENDSHIP

# 100 Years of Relationship

*Nepal and the United Kingdom joined hands to commemorate the centenary of the Nepal-UK Friendship Treaty of 1923. The grand celebration took place at the Basantapur Palace, signifying a momentous milestone in the long-lasting bond between the two nations.*

By KESHAB POUDE

The Centenary of the Nepal-UK Friendship Treaty of 1923 was commemorated in a one-of-a-kind event held at the historic Basantapur Palace. The event featured a performance by the Nepal Army's musical band adding to its significance.

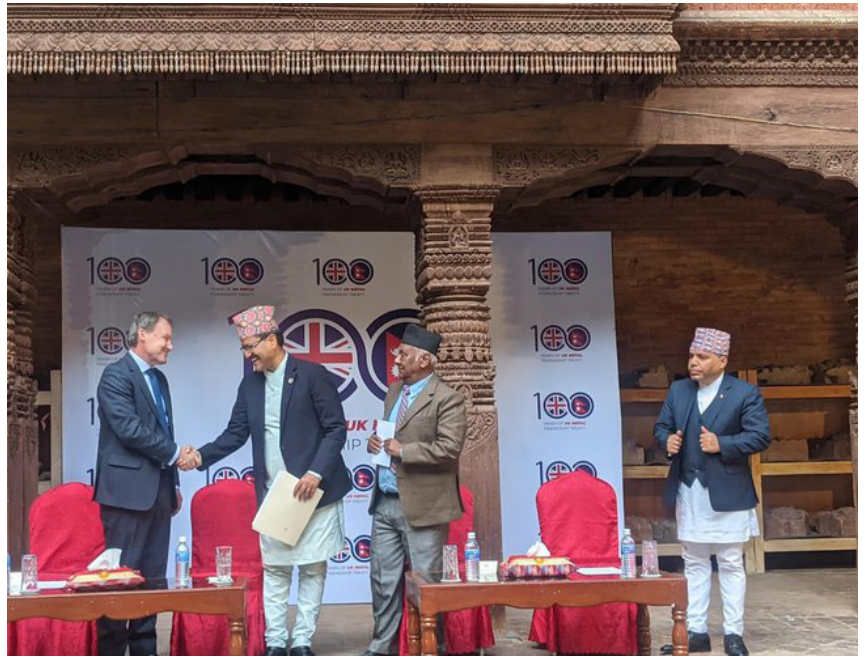
In the presence of Foreign Minister N.P. Saud, Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal, British Ambassador to Nepal Rob Fenn, Professor Tri Ratna Manandhar, a renowned scholar of history and joint secretary of MoFA Ganesh Dhakal as well as notable retired officials of MoFA, the Nepal government, the Nepal Army, and other scholars and diplomats based in Kathmandu, the centenary celebration held at the historic courtyard of Basantapur Palace was truly exceptional.

With Secretary Paudyal, who has been nominated as an ambassador to Canada with approval from the Parliament Hearing Committee, leading the foreign office, it is predictable why this historic venue was chosen.

As Winston Churchill once said, "The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see." Hosting this program at the historic location, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) demonstrates the relevance of this quote.

It gives me immense pleasure to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the UK-Nepal friendship treaty in such a stunning location. I would like to express my gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) for organizing this event. As per the terms of the treaty, Nepal and the UK. British ambassador to Nepal Robert Fenn expressed his anticipation for the coming century stating, "We look forward to the next century together."

The British Embassy shared



on their official X page, stating "It is a great pleasure to celebrate the centenary of the UK-Nepal friendship treaty at this beautiful location." Ambassador Fenn emphasized the treaty's significance in strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations.

Narayan Prakash Saud, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered a speech emphasizing the importance of the treaty and its positive impact on the bilateral relations between Nepal and the United Kingdom.

Foreign Minister Saud stressed the significance of a treaty that recognized Nepal's autonomy and sovereignty, believing it will enhance Nepal's global role. Minister Saud stated, "This treaty is crucial for Nepal's past, present, and future."

The treaty includes a provision that ensures perpetual peace and amity between Nepal and the United Kingdom. British ambassador Fenn expressed anticipation for the future century of cooperation between the two countries.

The program's keynote speaker, historian Prof. Dr. Tri Ratna Manandhar, delivered a comprehensive discourse on the treaty, emphasizing its context and sequences.

According to Professor Manandhar, Prime Minister Chandra Sumsher played a crucial role in convincing the British government that recognizing of Nepal's independence would strengthen relations.

In his keynote speech, Historian Professor Dr. Manandhar recounted a series of historical events that occurred in the Indian subcontinent. He also discussed Nepal's backing of the United Kingdom after the signing of the 1816 Sugauli Treaty.

What British Prime Minister Churchill said was not a statement, it was indeed accurate. Studying history can provide valuable insights into the era in which one lives. Not only does it offer predictive powers for the future, but it also provides insight into potential

future occurrences.

The speakers explained the treaty's purpose within the current context. However, due to the vast differences between the past and present, we can gain valuable insights into the arbitrary nature of our current way of life.

The past, as some say, differs vastly from the present. Those who cannot experience new cultures through travel can gain a similar level of education by studying history and observing how differently things were done in the past. The context and language of the 1923 treaty between Nepal and the United Kingdom are exceptionally distinct. The treaty was established after the conclusion of World War I and emphasized equality, independence, and the sovereignty of Nepal.

As the old adage goes, forgiveness is important, but forgetting is not advisable. Reflecting on one's own past is crucial for personal growth. By facing our past head-on, we gain valuable insights into ourselves, including what has worked and what has not. This self-knowledge is especially valuable in understanding how far we have come and how we have arrived at our current situation.

It is noteworthy that the program is being hosted at the second main yard of Hanuman Dhoka Palace, which is adjacent to Nasal Chowk and holds an equally significant role in the histories of Nepal and the United Kingdom.

After prolonged discussions at Hanuman Dhoka Palace, Nepal and Britain signed the Sugauli Treaty in 1816. This treaty resulting from the Anglo-Nepal War, laid the foundation for modern



Nepal.

While Nepal had previously signed a treaty with the Chinese Empire in 1794 accepting Chinese suzerainty, the Sugauli Treaty disregarded the provisions of the Nepal-China Treaty and recognized Nepal's independence.

Secretary Paudyal, along with his skilled team at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, selected the palace as the venue for a commemorative program honoring the centenary of the Nepal-United Kingdom Friendship Treaty of 1923.

Secretary Paudyal, along with his skilled team at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, chose the place as the location for a commemorative program celebrating the centenary of the Nepal-United Kingdom Friendship Treaty of 1923. The event took place at Hanuman Dhoka, Durbar Square in Kathmandu and was coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The program commenced with opening remarks from Ganesh Prasad Dhakal, Joint Secretary and head of the Europe and America Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Rare

photographs and documents related to the 1923 Treaty were displayed, and the Nepal Army band gave a musical performance of "Nyauli Baaja".

The event was attended by members of the Federal Parliament, ambassadors, diplomats, chiefs of the Armed Police Force and National Investigation Department, former foreign secretaries, former ambassadors, and representatives from the media, among others.

As Mark Twain famously stated, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes." Furthermore, it is often emphasized that failure to learn from history can lead to repetition of past mistakes. By hosting the commemorative program in a historical place, MoFA has shown that it always learns from history.

For Secretary Paudyal, who is in final state of his bureaucratic career at the MoFA, the Centenary Celebration was also a memorable event. Promoted to Secretary three years ago, Paudyal has successfully organized many historically significant diplomatic including the visit of Head of State and Government. British Ambassador to Nepal Fenn appropriately acknowledged Secretary Paudyal's leadership and his team for making this program memorable.



# Climate Crisis: Can World Leaders Rise To The Challenge?



BY: ARUPRAJOURIA

The world today, stands at a unique crossroads, facing an unprecedented human-induced climate crisis that is emerging as an existential threat to humanity. The silence of world leaders on this critical issue is deafening, a sheer contrast to the urgency and gravity of the impending devastation.

Amidst this frightening backdrop, the recent five-day climate discussions between the US Envoy on Climate Change, John Kerry and Chinese officials have offered a glimmer of hope, hinting at the possibility of meaningful progress at the upcoming COP28 Climate Summit in Dubai, UAE. US Envoy Kerry's emphasis on the constructive nature of the discussions and the common grounds reached on several critical issues suggests a potential for improved collaboration between the world's two largest greenhouse gas emitters.

However, this glimmer of hope is overshadowed by the conspicuous absence of any mention of climate action during President Biden's press conference following his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. This silence, despite the dire warnings from the UN Secretary General Guterres from the base camp of Mt. Everest, during his recent visit to Nepal, highlighting the impending threat and consequences of the depleting Himalayan Glaciers and the irresponsible actions of the developed world in cutting down emissions was "madness".

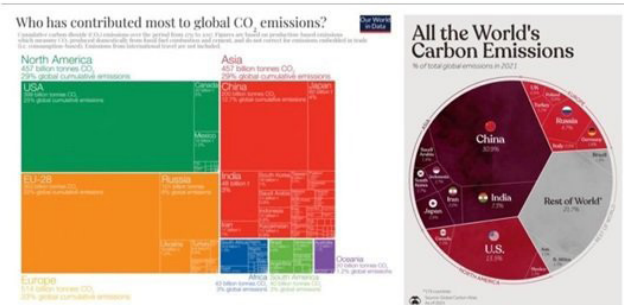
President Biden's likely decision to skip COP28 has further worsened these concerns. The symbolic gesture of the US President's absence could be interpreted as a weakening of the US's commitment to addressing human induced climate change. This is particularly concerning given the urgency of the situation and the pivotal role the United States plays in leading climate action.

It is also important to note that President Biden has previously emphasized the urgency of climate action and has urged world leaders to backup their words with action before the COP28. The absence of a clear stance on climate change during the recent press conference seems contradictory to his previous statements.

The Himalayan Glaciers, according to latest reports, are melting at an alarming rate, 65% faster since 2010 than in the previous decade, and that reducing snow cover

due to global warming will reduce fresh water for people living downstream. The glaciers are a source of more than ten major rivers in Asia, including the Ganges, the Mekong, the Yangtze, the Irrawaddy, and the Indus, which provide sustenance to over 2 billion people in 11 countries - more than one fourth of humanity.

The rapid melting of the glaciers is a blunt warning of the impending global action, specially from industri-



alized nations, is crucial to curb greenhouse gas emissions and avoid catastrophic consequences, including wars, famine, and widespread extinction.

More importantly, the forthcoming COP28, is the first after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) report is a very significant event where countries are expected to agree to new pledges to address climate change and its consequences. The report found that we are on a track for a 2.7 degree Celsius temperature rise by the end of the century, which will have disastrous consequences for human health, ecosystem, and infrastructure.

The IPCC report's unequivocal assessment underscores the urgent need for decisive and binding action from world leaders at COP 28. The world leaders must rise to the challenge with firm determination and resolve and demonstrate their commitment to safeguarding planet earth for posterity.

*Rajouria is a globally recognized professional in climate change and natural resources management, with an impressive track record at organizations like former CEO of NTNC, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNEP, and USAID. He holds an MPA degree from Harvard University.*

## COP 28

# Nepal In VCM

*COP 28's negotiations on the potential integration of Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) and compliance markets are crucial issue for Nepal. It will determine how VCM industry guidelines and the results of Article 6.4 negotiations in Dubai interact with each other*

By KESHAB POUDEL

As the VCM debate in COP28 Dubai intensifies, the Nepalese Government, private sector, and NGOs/INGOs are also there taking drastic steps months before the start of COP28.

After years of inaction on VCM, the Nepalese government is now facilitating the involvement of the private sector, NGOs, INGOs, and other organizations.

For years, organizations in the clean energy sector have tried to engage with the VCM without much success. To tackle this challenge, private sector entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) have come together to form a coalition called the Voluntary Carbon Market Forum (VCM Forum).

Established in an initiative of Sustainable Prosperity Initiative (SPI-Nepal) Pvt Ltd, a private sector organization with support from many organization working in the clean energy sector, the VCM Forum aims to advance the VCM

agenda and facilitate the sharing of experiences with the government and private sectors. The establishment of the VCM Forum was anticipated and signifies a significant advancement in addressing this crucial issue.

Recently, the government, private sector, and NGOs/INGOs collaborated in the first interaction program and discussed the challenges and opportunities.

Despite the benefits Nepal receives from carbon trading through biogas plants and the forest sector, the government has long neglected the private sector in VCM. However, the authorities now acknowledge the immense potential of VCM to bring in resources.

Nevertheless, a policy-level change is currently underway. The authorities acknowledge the immense potential of VCM in terms of resource allocation. In fact, Nepal's Position Paper, prepared by the Climate Change Management Division of the Ministry of Forest and Environment for COP 28, mentions VCM as one of Nepal's key priorities for the first time.

As the government demonstrates flexibility in its approach, private sector representatives from VCM are attending COP28 in different roles, both as the part of the government delegation and independently.

During a recent VCM Forum interaction program at the Sustainable Prosperity Initiative (SPI-Nepal) office, Bimal Regmi, a climate change expert and member of the Climate Change Council, shared perspective on Nepal's position in COP28 regarding the VCM.

"COP28 may facilitate a closer partnership between voluntary carbon markets (VCMs) and compliance markets, depending on the outcomes of Article 6 negotiations. These negotiations address issues such as eligibility for new activities," emphasized Bimal Regmi during his presentation.

"Understanding the correlation between VCM industry guidelines and the resolutions of Article 6.4 negotiations in Dubai is crucial." Integrity is paramount and it is crucial to establish and solidify optimal standards on the sup-

## ENVIRONMENT

ply and demand side of Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCMs). Creating an end-to-end integrity framework for VCMs is critical in addressing market credibility concerns. Additionally, the speakers emphasized the importance of incentivizing investment in high-integrity carbon projects. They noted that without strong demand, there can be no supply.”

During the discussion, Ugan Manandhar, a climate advisor at the FCDO, emphasized the importance of Nepal making a prompt decision in order to avoid losing out on the opportunity. Thus, Nepal has a promising opportunity to participate in the market. While acknowledging his participation in several COPs in the past, Manandhar also pointed out the volatility of the carbon market, and the instability of carbon pricing.

With the market being complex and competitive, Manandhar urged the private sector to develop the capacity and capability to compete in the global market.

### VCM and Nepal

Nepal’s current pace in the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) is too slow. Although the Nepali government has had the opportunity to utilize the VCM for some time now, it has not taken advantage of this option.

Despite participating in

global efforts on a larger scale, Nepal has only recently taken steps to develop mechanisms for VCM initiatives.

As such, there is much work to be done in order to connect to voluntary carbon trading, including establishing internal institutional arrangements and forming partnerships with aggregators.

Skilled manpower will also be required for these efforts. The government, which had an-

and explore markets. “I will participate in a small international VCM conference in Dubai during COP 28,” added Timilsina.

Encouraged by Nepal’s Position Paper for COP28, which precisely stated Nepal’s position on VCM, private sector entities as well as NGOs and INGOs hope that Nepalese parties can capitalize on the market.

SPI Chair Mohan Manandhar, who is participating in COP28

as Nepalese government delegation, emphasized the need for the private sector to vigorously pursue VCM exploration. He recommended the establishment of a mechanism to oversee VCM



participated significant funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation, has postponed the launch of the carbon trading scheme. The government must proactively introduce this initiative to promote a clean environment and generate revenue.

Private industries are purchasing carbon under VCM. Our company has been working on the agro-forestry scheme, yet we face difficulties due to inadequate government mechanisms,” stated Ram Sharan Timilsina, Deputy General Manager of Muktinath Krisshi Kendra Ltd. Timilsina will attend COP 28 to establish connections

and urged policy clarity on several fronts.

“The future of voluntary markets remains ambiguous following the refinement of Article 6 regulations, while debates on how best to govern supply and demand continue. The Integrity Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets has endeavored to establish a common set of credit standards known as the Core Carbon Principles, yet the Paris Agreement’s Article 6.4 should theoretically supersede these as the standard for high-quality carbon credits,” stated Regmi.

“On the agenda for COP28 is the launch of the UAE’s ‘end-to-

end integrity framework for voluntary carbon markets'. However, it is not entirely clear what this framework entails or how it will interact with Article 6. Additionally, jurisdiction-specific initiatives such as the African Carbon Market Initiative were launched last year with some criticism, seeking to establish specific credits standards for Africa.”

This year’s Conference of Parties (COP) may witness additional initiatives announced from various regions; however, their success hinges upon regulatory advancements.

**Why Nepal Benefit ?**

As a Least Developed Country (LDC) and a

party to the Kyoto Protocol, Nepal is strategically placed for carbon trading. Nepal can substantially benefit as there is currently no immediate implementation of a binding system.

In addition to garnering international goodwill Nepal finds itself in a favorable position for carbon trading. During the climate summit held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022, the articles of the Paris Agreement were agreed upon. The renewal of these articles has sparked hope for creation of a robust and dependable carbon market, particularly for developing nations like Nepal.

“The future of voluntary

carbon markets remains uncertain until the establishment of the Article 6 rules, as experts continue to debate how to effectively manage supply and demand,” explained Regmi. “The Integrity Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets has taken significant strides in establishing a standardized set of credit criteria, referred to as the Core Carbon

from different regions, but their success hinges upon future regulatory developments.

The UAE, as the host of this year’s summit, has already pledged to take the lead in carbon trading, which could potentially create up broader opportunities in the field.

“This summit has the potential to be a game changer. Purushottam Ghimire Ghimire, a member of the Nepalese delegation at the COP 28 and convener of VCM Forum, emphasized the importance of a unified stance among all private sectors.

**Total Volume of Carbon Trade**

Based on recent data, in 2022 roughly 12.5 billion carbon permits were traded in the world’s emissions markets, which is a 20% decrease compared to the previous year.

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Based on recent data, in 2022 roughly 12.5 billion carbon permits were traded in the world’s emissions markets, which is a 20% decrease compared to the previous year. However, the markets’ value increased by 14% due to higher



Principles. However, Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement has the potential to become the new benchmark for ensuring integrity.”

On the COP28 agenda is the unveiling of the” UAE’s ‘end-to-end integrity framework for voluntary carbon markets.” However, it is unclear what exactly this entails and how it will connect with Article 6. Last year, there was initiative specific to certain jurisdictions as the African Carbon Market Initiative, which aimed to establish credit standard for Africa. However, this initiative receives criticisms.

This year’s COP may see additional initiatives announced

## ENVIRONMENT

permits prices.

Emissions trading schemes are designed as market-based tools aimed at restricting greenhouse gas emissions. They establish a cap on the quantity of emissions allowed by countries or companies and permit them to buy permits from others if they surpass those limits.

Over 9.2 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide (GtCO<sub>2</sub>) was traded in the European carbon market, which represents a decrease of approximately 24% from the prior year. Refinitiv analysts reported that the value of global markets for CO<sub>2</sub> permits reached a record high of 850 billion euros (\$909 billion) last year.

The cost of carbon permits on the EU ETS averaged over 80 euros per ton last year, which is 50% higher than the previous year due to a surge in energy prices following the war in Ukraine.

This report does not address Nepal's position on carbon trading. The Nepal government is already benefiting from the carbon market by signing a multi-million dollar agreement with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), a global partnership that seeks to reduce emissions by protecting forests. This progress denotes Nepal's effort to meet its environmental obligations.

### Nepal In Carbon Trade

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est Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), a global partnership that seeks to reduce emissions by protecting forests. Besides the implementation of alternative energy projects, the Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) has also engaged in carbon trading. AEPC has reported only eight listed projects thus far, which have generated 5120 thousand carbon credits and revenue of 322 million US dollars.

However, global carbon markets experienced a growth of 13.5 percent in 2022, reaching a value of 865 billion Euros. The Paris Agreement mandates a reduction in carbon emissions for industrialized nations. If successfully implemented, carbon trade could increase and global emissions may



be reduced by 80% by 2035. Increased investment in green technology in the future could lead to Nepal earning an immense carbon credit. This credit could be earned not only by the country but also by companies.

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### COP 28 and Carbon Market

COP28 may serve as a milestone in bringing voluntary carbon markets (VCMs) and compliance markets closer together, depending on the negotiations surrounding Article 6, specifically, eligibility for new activities.



The carbon markets have lost several years in this regard. We need to establish market credibility, and it is crucial to make advancements on carbon markets during the COP 28 conference. There is agreement among participants as EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen proposed discussing an international carbon price plan at the COP. Additionally, African leaders suggested the Nairobi Declaration as an alternative view, proposing a global carbon tax applied to fossil fuel trade, maritime transport, and aviation, according to Regmi's presentation.

"It is probable that COP28 will encompass in-depth discourse regarding the implementation of Articles 6.2 and 6.4 within the current Paris Agreement, as well as a more extensive exchange pertaining to the reliability and feasibility of carbon offsets, alongside proposals for alternative structures of carbon taxation. This may lead to contemplation of the future of the hard-to-abate sector."

Bhai Raja Maharjan, a carbon expert, emphasized the need for Nepal to enhance technical manpower expertise and capacity.

He pointed out the limited number of Nepalese experts and highlighted the Integrity Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets (IC-VCM) publication of the Core Carbon Principles (CCP) Assessment Framework in 2023, which aimed to establish a quality benchmark for high integrity credits.

Similarly, the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI) has published a code of practice to guide buyers on using carbon offsets and making corporate claims.

Dr. Buddhi Sagar Paudel, the Chief of the Climate Change Management Division at MoFE, stated that Nepal will support the promotion of VCM.

Envoys from over 190 nations, including Nepal, are convening to establish standards for credits that enable their owners to offset domestic pollution by investing in emissions-reducing or carbon diox-



ide removal initiatives abroad.

The United Nations-backed initiative seeks to guarantee top-notch credits aligned with an internationally recognized framework, providing investors with greater assurance amidst fears that some current voluntary projects have little or no impact on mitigating the effects of climate change.

According to Maharjan, "Integrity is crucial within the VCM, which has faced significant

scrutiny.

Voluntary carbon markets have been a major topic of discussion over the past year, particularly since the announcements made at COP27.

As the conversation around climate action continues, it is becoming increasingly important to focus on the integrity of these markets. In order for COP28 to reflect current discussions, VCM and finance must be viewed as an integral aspect of the broader conversa-

tion. Criticism often centers on the viability of different initiatives.

Regmi said that COP28 must increase momentum on this issue, emphasizing the importance of collective responsibility and outlin-

ing how various stakeholders can work together to address integrity throughout the carbon value chain.

As Regmi said COP28 could mark a step toward a closer relationship between voluntary carbon markets (VCMs) and compliance markets, depending on Article 6 negotiations on issues such as eligibility on new activities, this will be crucial for Nepal.

## Transforming The Political Messages



BY: BATU UPRETY

Discussions and observations on the impacts of climate change in the Nepal Himalayas, mountains, and socio-economic and infrastructure sectors have enhanced understanding, clarified scale and magnitude of impacts at different levels, and stimulated to commit for a strong presence in climate negotiation processes. Preparatory processes for the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP28), 18th session of the CoP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP18) and 5th session of the CoP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA5), including the recent reports such as UNEP's separate gap reports on emission and adaptation (2023) calls for urgent climate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as 'temperatures hit new highs' and 'world fails to cut emissions', and provide adequate investments for climate adaptation as it is 'underfinanced and underprepared'. CoP28, CMP18 and CMA5 will be held at Dubai from 30 November to 12 December 2023 with high-level segment (Climate Action Summit) on 1-2 December 2023.

Recalling the recent visit and call of the UN Secretary General from Khumbu and Annapurna Base Camp, and statement at the parliament provides hope to further internationalise the impacts of climate change in the mountains, people, livelihoods, and natural resources. Prime Minister Puspa Kamal Dahal has reiterated the impacts of climate change in Nepal and has mobilised a team to prepare evidence to 'claim for compensation' at CoP28 for the loss from climate and water-induced disasters. Devastations from flood in Melamchi,

Dordi Khola, Hewa Khola or Kagbeni and other areas, deserve special attention to link with climate.

Recalling the speeches at Jomsom, Kalapathar and Rukum, Prime Minister has clearly expressed his great concern on climate change impacts and made a commitment to strongly raise 'claim' at CoP28. Unveiling the National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2021-2050) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) during the National Climate 'Summit' on 21 November 2023, Prime Minister further reiterated to 'claim' seriously and to advocate, inter alia, for limiting temperature rise, doubling financial resources for adaptation, and early and full implementation of the previous financial commitments, including procedural difficulties in accessing climate finance, and urgent need for climate justice.

During the National Climate 'Summit', state of preparations for CoP28 was shared with the climate community to collect feedback on Nepal's position paper as well. Nepal has prepared thematic papers on: (i) climate finance; (ii) loss and damage; (iii) adaptation; (iv) mountain technology and capacity building; (v) migration, carbon trade, global stocktake and transparency; and (vi) gender, youth, children, and indigenous peoples. A separate national position paper has also been prepared.

As shared during the 'Summit', Nepal has outlined activities for before, during and after the CoP, including focus on consultations, preparation of thematic papers, and planning for 36 side-events in Nepal pavilion at Dubai. During the CoP28, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister will deliver a statement at the high-level segment. Leaders' summit will also focus on transforming finance and high-level Glob-

al Stocktake on Adaptation. Nepal pavilion will provide a platform for sharing country climate actions during the CoP28. The government may wish to show evidence-based videos that clearly reflect snow melting, glaciers retreats and climate and water-induced disasters to inform the international community about the adverse impacts of climate change in Nepal. It may also wish to double focus on climate change impacts on water resources and urgency for understanding the contribution of water for both climate adaptation and mitigation. Sharing of mountaineers' experience on snow melting and challenges faced by the climate vulnerable communities in the recent years would add value, and may help to understand and enhance knowledge on climate change effects in the mountains.



Statements of the Heads of the States and/or Governments provide adequate guidance to mainstream negotiation process. In multilateral negotiations, a position of a single country might not get adequate attention. It would rather focus on issues of common needs and priorities. Several regional and interest groups play a significant role in climate negotiation. In general, Nepal participates to develop a 'common voice' in LDC group, Asia and the Pacific, and Group of 77 and China - a big group of over 130 developing countries. Nepal is also a member of climate vulnerable forum and other initiatives.

Recalling the past, Copenhagen Climate Summit participated by the Heads of the States and the Governments did not deliver to effectively im-

plement the Conventions and the Kyoto Protocol. The CoP15 simply noted the 'Copenhagen Accord'. This happened so as high-level segment was organised almost at the end of the Conference and negotiators faced difficulties to agree on political messages during a limited time. In Paris, Heads of the States and the Governments attended the high-level segment on the first day of the Conference. This provided the negotiators an opportunity to understand and negotiate on the political messages. This resulted to the adoption of the Paris Agreement. Since then, high-level segment has been organised on the first day of each CoP to understand and negotiate on political directions. Same happens in CoP28 and negotiators will get opportunity to elaborate, influence and convince the country-specific needs and priorities, and agree on implementation of the provisions of the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

Recalling the statements and instructions of the Prime Minister, CoP28 statement at Dubai will likely include a 'claim for compensation' from climate-induced effects. Nepal may actively participate in negotiation process to flag issues of national priorities, as contained in the statement. For this, Nepal may wish to form a knowledgeable and well-versed negotiating team to transform the political deliberations into CoP's decisions. Furthermore, Nepal may wish to support and lobby to adopt agenda on the mountain and climate change proposed by Andorra. This would greatly provide a basis for future climate negotiation processes.

# A Glimpse Of Nepal’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process And Outcomes

## The Context

Nepal’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process is broadly guided by the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2019;Cancun decision 1/CP.16 in 2010: formulate and implement national adaptation plans to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs; Durban decision 5/CP.17 in 2011: NAP initial guidelines and modalities for LDCs; and Paris Agreement Article 7 in 2015: Adaptation-para 9: Process to formulate and implement NAPs which provided the overarching policy guidance on building climate resilient systems. Its aim is set to create a climate resilient society by reducing the risks associated with climate change by integrating climate change into all levels of government and within thematic policy areas, strategies, development plans and programmes. The NCCP notably mentions that the implementation of all policies, strategies and plans related to climate change will be at the local level. The Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2020 has stated that NAP process will be the medium of Adaptation Communications for Nepal.

Nepal NAP process, commenced in 2015, after traversing long distance, ups and downs, emotional fatigue, obstacles like Covid19, finally came up with the final NAP document (Nepal NAP 2021-2050) which was unveiled by the H’ble Prime Minister of Nepal on 21 November 2023. Nepal NAP has put forward the socio-economic and natural systems at high risks of climate change. It has outlined 64 adaptation interventions across 10 thematic and cross-cutting areas with a budget estimate of USD 47.4 billions (current price). The Nepal NAP aimed to achieve reduced climatic vulnerabilities and risks and further integrate Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into development planning through:

1. Develop and enhance country capacity to promote CCA at systematic, institutional and individual levels; and help poor and vulnerable communities in adapting and building resilience to climate change impacts;
2. Contribute to the reduction of climate vulnerability



BY: DR. GYANENDRA KARKI

by integrating CCA into existing and new policies, strategies and programmes;

3. Establish and/or strengthen a system to generate and share knowledge, experience, lessons learned, gaps and needs at international, national and sub-national levels to advance CCA for the benefit of the poor people and restoration of ecosystem; and

Develop strategy to implement, monitor and communicate adaptation benefits at different levels.

## Nepal NAP Approaches

Nepal NAP innovatively espoused the global approaches: Country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory, fully transparent, consideration of vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge (Paris Agreement, Para 5). Based on the country experiences of National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and associated adaptation projects and programmes and inspired by the Constitution of Nepal, Periodic Development Plans and NCCP, Nepal adopted a national approach to the NAP process as:

Establishing and functionalize thematic and cross-cutting working groups and Provincial Climate Change Coordination Committee (PC4) to coordinate multi-stakeholder thematic areas;

Utilising existing coordination mechanisms;

Building capacity and enhancing understanding on climate change adaptation;

Building ownership and avoiding duplications on efforts;

Promoting multi-stakeholder participation;

Building on experiences of NAPA, LAPA, resilience and other good practices

Ensuring gender-sensitivity and inclusiveness; ‘LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND’

Generating, utilising and sharing knowledge and good practices;

Supplementing to ‘development efforts’ with integration of adaptation actions;

Aligning with national policies and linking with recent initiatives (Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals); and Synergising ecosystem-based and community-based adaptations.

In addition, the innovative points of departure of Nepal NAP are, promoting ‘nature based solutions’, ‘build back better’ and circular economy for generating multiplier and cascade effects of adaptation actions.

## Cruising the NAP Pathways

Nepal NAP process attempted to best use the available sciences coupled with indigenous and traditional knowledge. Climate change impacts assessments and analyses to inform medium- to long-term adaptation budgeting and planning were carried out at both national and sub-national levels.

Furthermore, the working groups established accord-



ing to the NCCP 2019 for the NAP process produced a stocktaking report that reviewed available information on climate change and linkages to the established thematic areas and identified major stakeholders and key gaps and needs. The reports also included recommendations for the way forward. In addition, capacity gap assessments were produced for each theme and cross-cutting issues.

Sector-wise information on the vulnerability, impacts and adaptation were collected from the peer reviewed scientific articles, documents (mainly Third National Communications) and reports from sectoral ministries and departments. Information was obtained for different sectors including; agriculture, water resources, forests and biodiversity, public health, climate-induced disasters, human settlement and infrastructures, and gender and social inclusion.

The adaptation intervention ideas were collected from the local and provincial stakeholder process. Several rounds of ‘shared learning dialogues’ were conducted at provincial and federal level. Thematic conclaves were keys to finalise the sectoral adaptation interventions, budget and implementation strategies.

**Interim Achievements**

Principally, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to climate change is a process that identifies country’s major climate risks and vulnerabilities, together with corresponding adaptation priorities and adaptation programme implementation strategies and modalities. The inclusion of climatic and non-climatic (e.g. socio-economic, cultural and bio-physical) variables in risk assessments and analyses of cost-benefit ratios of adaptation actions are crucial to inform and guide the national adaptation programmes and investments, including job creation, to ensure the long-term climate-resilience of the country and its economy. Furthermore, investing in climate-resilient infrastructure can be a source of economic growth and job creation. Through the NAP process, governments can also ensure the evidence of climate risks and vulnerabilities, based on future projections, are effectively communicated to the global and national stakeholders, private sector, allowing businesses to ensure their investments and prospects are climate-resilient. Through the development of cost-benefit analyses of adaptation measures, the NAP process can make the case that adaptation actions should be prioritized in the key economic sectors. It has also been suggested that NAP projects could define a set of criteria that would ensure recovery investments are climate-resilient.

One of the main focuses of the NAP process in Nepal is to catalyse funding for adaptation actions through integrating adaptation into national, subnational and local development planning and implementation courses. This strategy will seek to streamline conventional funding channels and also identify additional financial resources to leverage adaptation actions in the NAP prescribed interventions. The challenge is to secure funding to implement adaptation strategies in the most vulnerable economic and social sectors in Nepal so the negative impacts of climate change including droughts, flooding, and soil erosion could be checked and the historical cultural and development achievements are safeguarded. The Nepal NAP will also secure coordination and collaborations among global and national state and non-state actors such as private sector, so that the climate resilient initiatives will reach to the systems at the highest risk with the mission of ‘Putting the Last First’.

The NAP process, which is a continuous initiative, as achieved the following so far:

Functional Province Climate Change Coordination Committee (PC4)

National Adaptation Plan (2021-2050)

Climate change finance strategy for Nepal (to be completed)

Monitoring and review system for the NAP process institutionalised

Institutionalised and functional working groups led and coordinated by the corresponding ministries at the federal level

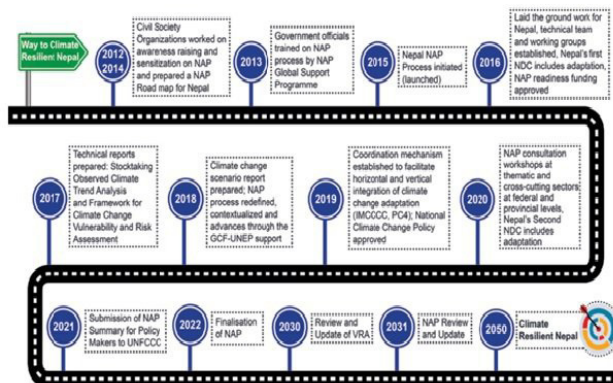
Enhanced capacity of all level of governments on climate change adaptation planning and implementation

Step-by-step guidelines for Locally led Adaptation Plans implementation as a tool of downscaling NAP into local level

Private sector engagement in climate change

**5. Opportunities and way ahead**

There are new entry points available for ministries and sub-national authorities to access climate finance and integrate adaptation across all sectors due to the availability of global banded funds (such as Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility etc), as well as new climate-oriented structures and policies shifting from short- to long term adaptation needs.



There are still additional steps needed to further the implementation of NAP, including: i) to systematically communicate climate risk, vulnerability knowledge and information available for informed decision making; ii) coordinate, clarify roles and responsibilities of provincial and local governments on NAPs and expand stakeholder engagement to ensure broad and inclusive participation, including mechanisms that ensure functional linkages between sub-national and federal governments; iii) identify resources for the implementation of the NAP, in terms of financial and human resources; and iv) establish a system to monitor and evaluate results of adaptation interventions, as well as establish the status of integration of climate change into development planning.

The country is in a ‘ready to move’ position for the 28th Conference of the Parties (CoP28) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Nepal NAP is the strongest advocacy document among others. Nepal NAP has clearly speculated 64 adaptation interventions, periodic adaptation targets, sectoral ownership and a specified budget for immediate, medium- and long term interventions. Therefore this is a high time for the government to claim adaptation rights. It would be better to work with LDCs and other Low Income Countries to establish adaptation as a fundamental right of the most vulnerable.

*Karki was a team leader of NAP. He can be reached at gyanendra.karki@gmail.com*

## KUL MAN GHISING

# Era Of Light

*For seven consecutive years, Nepali citizens have not had to call upon Laxmi, the goddess of light, prosperity, and happiness, during dark nights of load shedding. This change is credited to Kul Man Ghising, the Managing Director of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). Backed by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda and Energy Minister Janardan Sharma Prabhakar, as well as Anup Kumar Upadhyaya, secretary, and Chairperson of NEA, MD Ghising made a landmark decision to end a decade-long era of prolonged power outages on October 30, 2016, coinciding with the festival of Laxmipuja.*

By KESHAB POUDEL

As part of his regular routine, MD Ghising and his executive colleagues arrived at NEA's Load Dispatch Center (LDC) in Syuchatar at 5 PM on Laxmipuja (November 13) to assess the current status of electricity demand and supply throughout

Nepal. Despite the public holiday, MD Ghising spent the majority of the day inspecting major substations in the Kathmandu Valley before joining the discussion on the supply and demand in Syuchatar.

Due to uninterrupted and reliable power supply, there were no complaints of disruption

throughout the country. MD Ghising and his team confidently departed for their homes at 7 PM, assured of the continued smooth and uninterrupted provision of electricity.

In contrast to previous practices, MD Ghising, who typically remained on-site until mid-



night, delegated responsibility for technical operations at the center to his technicians. This ended the continuous and efficient generation, transmission, and distribution of power.

For MD Ghising, the director of the nation's largest public utility, it was a source of great satisfaction that his organization, NEA, was also exporting electricity. On November 26, the day of Laxmi Puja, NEA exported 517 MW of electricity and met the peak demand of 1438 MW.

To avoid any disruptions, the NEA ensured that the heads of distribution centers, power plants and technical staff throughout the country were prepared to prevent power outages on the day of Lakshmi Puja.

By taking a leadership role in ending a decade-old energy crisis and positioning Nepal

as an electricity exporter, MD Ghising has demonstrated how an efficient and competent manager can assist the country's leadership in transforming the nation. The transformation is made possible through strong support from political leadership and the bureaucracy.

If Prime Minister Prachanda and Minister Prabhakar Sharma had not strongly supported it and Energy Secretary and Chairperson of NEA Upadhyaya had not facilitated the process, MD Ghising would not have been able to implement his management plan to end power outages.

Coincidentally, Secretary Updhyaya, who was flying to Kathmandu from out of town, captured the brightest photo of Kathmandu Valley from the sky, which was the first photograph of the end of power outages.

Like in the country's life, Laxmi Puja remains a significant day for MD Ghising. This year is especially significant for him, as the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) was able to supply all domestically generated electricity while exporting surplus to India.

In the past, NEA had to import approximately 300 MW of electricity from India to meet the electricity demand in Nepal during Laxmi Puja.

During peak demand in the past, the demand used to be around 1000 MW. This year, the country's electricity experienced a peak demand record of 1438 megawatts.

Based on the NEA report, the demand for electricity on Lakshmi Puja day, specifically at 6 PM, increased by 1357 MW year-over-year and reached 1438 MW.

## COVERSTORY

Conversely, last year's peak demand on the day of Lakshmi Puja, which was observed in October, only amounted to 1305 MW.

Industrial customers' activities were shut down during Tihar, hence their recorded peak demand was relatively low. This year, the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) projected a peak demand of 1357 MW and managed the electricity supply accordingly. Consistent citation style and grammatical correctness are also ensured. The peak demand on the day of Lakshmi Puja was met by power houses within the country. All technical abbreviations are explained at their first use, and the language remains objective and formal throughout the text.

On the day of Lakshmi Puja, the peak demand of Kathmandu Valley reached 366 MW, up from 342 MW the previous year.

MD Ghising stated that seven years ago, 254 megawatts were imported to meet the demand of Lakshmi Puja day. Currently, the energy sector has made a historic leap by using domestic production to export saved electricity.

He also noted that the peak demand of Lakshmi Puja has increased by 10 percent compared to last year, which is a positive development.

Although the Kulekhani 1st, 2nd, and 3rd reservoirs have a power generation capacity of 101 megawatts, the authority only operated them at 16 MW during peak times.

During Laxmi Puja, the power generation scenario consisted of 420 MW generated by power plants owned by the NEA, 522 megawatts generated by sub-



sidiaries of the NEA, such as Upper Tamakoshi and Chilime, and 997 megawatts generated by the private sector.

"As in previous years, the Nepal Electricity Authority has succeeded in providing uninterrupted electricity supply throughout the country on the occasion of Lakshmi Puja this year," said MD Ghising.

The campaign to declare the country load-shedding-free was initiated on October 30, 2016, the day of Lakshmi Puja. Currently, the country not only remains free from load shedding, but the surplus electricity generated after domestic consumption

is also being exported.

### Lakshmi Puja

of 2073 marked the beginning of the end of load shedding, making it a historic day." There was a noteworthy event in Nepal's energy sector that every Nepali remembers.

Nepalese citizens were surprised when electricity started flowing continuously after Tihar 2073, as they had previously experienced eight hours of daily power cuts even during the rainy season. This consistent electricity supply has led to a reduction in LPG and petroleum product imports over recent years, and Nepal is currently transitioning away from fossil

fuel-dependent diesel, petrol, and LPG to clean and renewable electricity.

Nepalese people, who remember the NEA's instruction not to light any lamps during the Tihar festival of lights, were surprised when they were able to light lamps for 24 hours on the day of Lakshmi Puja in 2016.

The Managing Director at the time, Kulman Ghising, was appointed by Prime Minister Prachanda based on Energy Minister Sharma's recommendation. During that time, in spite of the rainy season, there were 8 hours of load shedding per day. It was anticipated that load shedding would



need to be increased to 14 hours a day during winter.

After assuming the role of Executive Director, Ghising, who played a primary part in ending load shedding, was seen at LDC in Syuchatar working alongside his junior colleagues on the day of Lakshmi Puja in 2016. MD Ghising, with the backing of the then political leadership and a friendly relationship with the secretary, initiated the cessation of load shedding on the same day as a trial run.

MD Ghising stated that the historic accomplishment of ending load shedding was made possible by working with determination and sincerity. It was previously believed by many that this task was impossible.

At the time, even those within the organization did not believe that load shedding could be stopped immediately. However, through efficient and scientific management of the supply and demand, we were successful in managing the electricity supply.

After ending the power outage in urban areas, the National Electric Authority (NEA) distributed electricity evenly among the industrial sector. The announcement of the end of power outages in the industrial sector was made in May 2018.

The termination of power cuts provided relief not only to citizens suffering from blackouts but also to industries who have reportedly increased their production capacity. According to a report by the World Bank, the end of power outages contributed to a 1 percent increase in GDP growth.

With the abundant supply of energy, the country's economy has experienced significant growth. NEA employees, who were responsible for scheduling load shedding in the past, are now creating schedules for exporting electricity abroad.

Had we been content with only the end of load shedding, we would not be in the current position to increase both domestic

air conditioners running.

In addition, electric stoves and vehicles are now common options for households as well. Sufficient electricity has increased industrial production capacity, leading to a viable economy and the creation of a suitable industrial environment.

Although the KP Sharma-led government demonstrated excellent performance, they did



consumption and exports of electricity. “We have made deliberate strides towards augmenting power generation, transmission, and distribution. As a result, we can now export surplus electricity to India after catering to domestic needs during the rainy season,” stated MD Ghising.

On the domestic front, the National Energy Authority (NEA) is expanding the transmission and distribution system to reach all households. According to NEA officials, households that did not have access to electricity in the past can now keep fans and

not extend his tenure and appointed another person as MD in 2019. During MD Ghising's one-year absence, the system deteriorated.

After evaluating Ghising's performance, the Nepali Congress-led government under Sher Bahadur Deuba's leadership reappointed him as the Managing Director of NEA for a second term in July 2023 based on the recommendation of the then Minister of Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation, Pampha Bhusal.

During Ghising's second tenure, consumers are expressing their concerns not only about the



possible return of load shedding but also about the frequent power outages.

However, MD Ghising assured that load shedding is now a thing of the past. According to him, “While there was a previous desire to decrease electricity consumption in the country, we have reached a point where we are currently campaigning to increase consumption. The current frequent power outages are not due to load shedding but rather a technical issue, and we will address it.”

“To address these issues, the current emphasis is on expanding and fortifying of the transmission and distribution infrastructure to provide reliable and superior electricity to customers. We are giving prominent attention to the advancement and enlargement of the system infrastructure, and the outcomes will be observed progressively,” stated MD Ghising.

in industries, resulting in the government’s announcement of the end of load-shedding.

MD Ghising stated that he had exceeded public expectations, but acknowledged that more challenges lie ahead. “Our focus is now on accomplishing more long-term tasks beyond ending load-shedding.” MD Ghising stated, “Our goal is to increase consumption through reliable and

accessible electricity supply. To bolster the country’s economy by exporting electricity in the international market and reduce petroleum product imports, increased investment in hydropower projects is necessary.

In 2016, the government began, a phased-out approach to end nationwide load-shedding. By 2019, regular power supply had been established

To increase access to electricity and domestic consumption, NEA is allocating more funds to rural electrification projects.

“Although a number of projects have been completed, electricity has not yet reached large areas of Karnali and Sudur Paschim Provinces,” stated MD Ghising.

It was stated that the projects were implemented to provide electricity to all parts of the country, using loan from foreign donor agencies.

Since the end of peak load shedding, Nepal has become an electricity exporting country in this decade. The NEA has exported electricity worth 12 billion rupees since July of the current fiscal year. Currently, India has authorized the export of about 452 MW of electricity.

MD Ghising stated that the objective is to export 1,200 megawatts of electricity to India during the upcoming monsoon season.

Upon returning home at 8:30 PM on November 23rd, during

Laxmi Puja, MD Ghising’s family was overjoyed to celebrate the holiday with him, as he had been spending a significant amount of time at the office. Many households across the country celebrated Laxmi Puja without their guardians.

विवरण	लक्ष्मी पूजा, २६ कार्तिक २०८०	लक्ष्मी पूजा, ७ कार्तिक २०७९
नेपाल विद्युत् प्राधिकरण (जलाशययुक्तवाहक)	४२६ मेगावाट	४३५ मेगावाट
विद्युत् प्राधिकरणका सहायक कम्पनी	५२२ मेगावाट	४८३ मेगावाट
निजी क्षेत्र	९९७ मेगावाट	७९३ मेगावाट
विद्युत् प्राधिकरण (जलाशययुक्त)	१६ मेगावाट	०
निर्यात	५१७ मेगावाट	४०६ मेगावाट
राष्ट्रिय प्रणालीको पिक डिमाण्ड (निर्यातवाहक)	१४३८ मेगावाट	१३०५ मेगावाट
प्रणालीको पिक डिमाण्ड (निर्यातसहित)	१९५५ मेगावाट	१७११ मेगावाट
काठमाडौं उपत्यकाको विद्युत् माग	३६६ मेगावाट	३४२
स्रोत : नेपाल विद्युत् प्राधिकरण ।		

## NEPAL-INDIA ELECTRICITY TRADE

# Nepal's Favor

*NEA Exported Worth Of Rs.12.5 Billion Electricity To India*

By A CORRESPONDENT

With the increase in the price of electricity in the Indian market, Nepali electricity has also started selling at the highest price there. Due to various reasons, the prices have increased due to the lack of electricity in India.

For the four month, the trade is in Nepal favor. However, it is going to shrink in coming months due to receding in the water levels and declining the production.

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has exported electricity worth 12.5 billion rupees to India in the first four months of the current financial year (FY) 2080/81.

The authority has earned 12.55 billion rupees by exporting 1.36 billion 1.2 million units of

electricity in July, August, October and October of the current year.

Electricity export is 4 billion 86 crore 44 lakh rupees more than the same period of last year 2079-80. In the first four months of last year, 983 million units of electricity were exported and 7 billion

rainy season in the Indian market from June this year. From last May to October, 1.62 billion 1.6 million units of electricity have been exported and 14.5 billion 2.1 million rupees have been earned.

Nea has exported electricity worth 2 billion 1476 million rupees in August, 3 billion 478 million rupees in August, 4 billion 1777 million rupees in October and 2 billion 697 million rupees in October. The overall average selling rate of electricity for four months is 9 rupees 18 paise per unit. The overall average sales rate for the same



63 million 64 million rupees were earned.

The authority had started selling the electricity saved in the

period last year was Rs 7.76 paise per unit.

Kulan Manghisingh, Managing Director of NEA, said that



7.84 billion Indian rupees were earned from electricity export during four months, which contributed to reducing the foreign exchange reserves of the country and the trade deficit between Nepal and India.

The authority has been exporting the electricity saved in the rainy season to India. Through competition in the day-ahead market of IEX and according to the mid-term electricity agreement, NEA is selling about 110 megawatts of electricity to the Indian company NTPC Electricity Trade Corporation Ltd. Selling.

The Central Electricity Authority of India has also allowed the sale of 44 MW of electricity in the real time market in the first phase out of the 522 MW approved for export to the competitive market through NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd-NVVN.

NEA has received approval for the export of 632 MW of 522 MW and 110 MW to NVVN in the competitive market. Out of this, 562 MW of electricity is being exported from the Dhalkebar-Muzaffar 400 kV international transmission line and 70 megawatts from

the Mahendranagar-Tanakpur 132 kV transmission line.

Nepal Electricity Authority has been buying and selling electricity at competitive rates in the day-ahead market of the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) since November 2018. Since this October, IEX has also started selling electricity at a competitive rate in the real time market.

The Indian government has set a maximum limit of Rs. 10 IC (16 Nepalese Rupees) per unit for buying and selling electricity there. Since last Tuesday, the authority has been selling electricity at the same price in both markets.

Earlier, there was a limit of 20 baht per unit for buying and selling electricity in the Indian market. Two years ago, that limit was reduced to IC Rs. 12 per unit.

Last year, the limit was Rs 10 per unit. Kulman Ghising, Managing Director of NEA, informed that electricity is currently being exported at the same rate. According to him, electricity is being bought and sold at an average price of IC Rs. 10 in IEX recently.

However, now electricity is being exported at an average of 16 rupees, Ghising says that this

has also helped to increase the income generated through electricity export.

### Higher price than Nepali market

Currently, the average selling price of electricity in the Nepalese market is Rs 10 per unit. According to that, it seems that the authority has got Rs 6 (per unit) more from India than the price it gets by selling in Nepal. On top of that, the electricity authority sets a lower electricity purchase rate from private producers.

At that time, the authority bought electricity from the projects at 4 rupees 80 paise per unit. According to that, it seems that the authority will get high profit if electricity is exported at the rate of 16 rupees per unit.

However, it is also argued that increasing domestic consumption rather than exporting has a positive impact on the economy. However, now the authority has been exporting electricity which is not being consumed in the country. In that case, the export of electricity is taken positively.

The authority claims that this will help Nepal's balance of payments. 20 crore daily income After getting higher price, the income from electricity export has also increased. Ghising, executive director of the authority, said that the daily income from electricity export is up to 20 million rupees. Now that the price is higher, the income from electricity export has also increased.

Daily income is up to 20 million rupees," he said. "This will greatly help the authority's income." Currently, the authority is exporting up to 632 megawatts of electricity to India on a day-head basis and in real time.

### Electricity export of five and a

## half billion in two months

The authority has increased the electricity export to India by 23.15 percent in the current year 080/81. The data obtained from the Nepal Electricity Authority up to the end of the current year shows this.

In two months of the last fiscal year 079/80, electricity worth Rs.4 billion 41.5 million was exported to India. Electricity worth five billion 42 crore 31 lakh rupees has been exported in July and August of the current year. Electricity worth 1.94 billion 84 million rupees in July and 3.48 billion 48 million rupees in August has been exported to the Indian market.

The authority has set a target of exporting electricity worth around 13 to 15 billion to India this year.

Executive Director Ghising says that electricity export is contributing to Nepal's foreign exchange reserves and reducing the trade deficit between the two countries. The Authority has been exporting to India the electricity saved during the rainy season after consumption within the country.

Most of the hydropower projects in Nepal are based on run-of-river (ROR). In that case, as there is more water in the river during the dry season, the production is at full capacity. At this time, electricity can also be exported to India.

The installed capacity of electricity in Nepal is around 2900 MW. However, the domestic demand is only around two thousand megawatts. In that case, the authority can export power during

## चार महिनाको विद्युत् निर्यात अवस्था

महिना	विद्युत् निर्यात (रुपैयाँ) २०७९	प्रतियुनिटऔसत दर (रुपैयाँ) २०७९	विद्युत् निर्यात (रुपैयाँ) २०८०	प्रतियुनिटऔसत दर (रुपैयाँ) २०८०
साउन	१ अर्ब ९४ करोड ३१ लाख	८.२९	२ अर्ब १४ करोड ७६ लाख	८.३९
भदौ	२ अर्ब ५४ करोड ६६ लाख	९.३३	३ अर्ब ४७ करोड ८५ लाख	११.२४
असोज	१ अर्ब ७१ करोड १२ लाख	६.६४	४ अर्ब १७ करोड ७७ लाख	९.७३
कात्तिक	१ अर्ब ४३ करोड ५६ लाख	६.५६	२ अर्ब ६९ करोड ७० लाख	७.३६
जम्मा	७ अर्ब ६३ करोड ६४ लाख	७.७६	१२ अर्ब ५० करोड ८१ लाख	९.१८

स्रोत : नेपालीबिद्युत् प्राधिकरण

dry season. However, when there is less water in the river in winter, the production is less than the domestic demand.

At that time, electricity had to be imported from India to meet domestic demand. Executive Director Ghising says that electricity can be exported for two more months. After that, electricity will be imported from India, he said.

Indian market is considered very big for Nepali electricity. As much electricity is being produced in Nepal, there is no market to consume the same amount of electricity here. Even now, Nepal is wasting electricity. Therefore, the Indian market is indispensable for Nepali electricity.

Also, due to the increasing climate change, India also needs Nepal's clean electricity. Because, running diesel and power plants in India has badly affected the environment. Due to this, there is pressure on India to increase the use of clean energy. In 2014, an agreement was reached between Nepal and India to cooperate in energy.

During the visit of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to India, a bilateral long-term electricity trade agreement was also signed on May 18.

Under that, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also an-

nounced that India will buy 10,000 megawatts of electricity from Nepal in the next 10 years. After the draft of the final agreement was approved by the Indian Council of Ministers, the energy secretaries of both countries are preparing to sign it.

Why is there a shortage of electricity in India?

India has been facing energy crisis many times before. This year too there is a shortage of electricity in India due to various reasons.

The main sources of electricity in India are coal and diesel power plants. Now imported coal is becoming more expensive in India, which has affected India's electricity production. Similarly, a few days ago, the Teesta Dam in Sikkim burst into flood and swept away the 1200 MW Teesta-3 hydropower project. Since then, there has been a problem in India's electricity supply.

According to Prabal Adhikari, head of the trade department of the authority, the supply of electricity in India has not been able to meet the demand. Because of that, the price of electricity is increasing in the Indian market.

## जाडोको समयमा चिसोबाट बर्चौं

- जाडोबाट बर्चन तातो, पोषिलो तथा झोलिलो खानेकुरा खाऔं,
- न्यानो कपडा लगाऔं,
- घर तथा कोठा न्यानो बनाऔं,
- कोठामा हिटर तथा आगो बाल्दा हावा ओहोरदोहोर हुने सुनिश्चित गरौं
- बालबालिकालाई तेल मालिस गरिदिऔं,
- बढी चिसोमा मर्निङ वाक नगरौं,
- चिसोमा बाहिर हिँड्दा बाक्लो कपडा लगाऔं,
- दैनिक घाम ताप्ने गरौं।



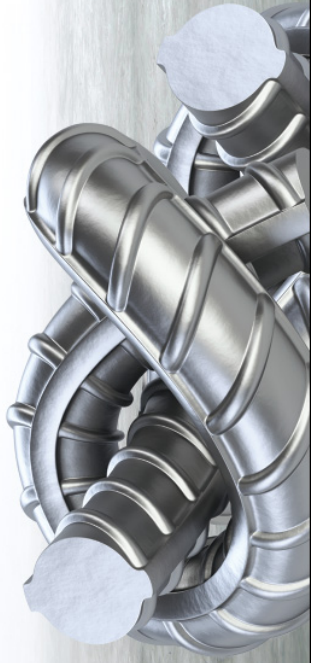
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