

DAO Kathmandu Regd. No. 148/11/063/064  
ISSN: 2091-0711



**OPINION**  
Dipak Gyawali



**ENVIRONMENT**  
Batu Uprety



**FORUM**  
Dr. Prabin Manandhar

**NEW**

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August 23, 2024

FORTNIGHTLY



FM DR. ARZU DEUBA RANA'S INDIA VISIT

## Strengthening Diplomatic Ties

**INSIDE**



**FELICITY VOLK**  
An Envoy Of Compassion



**INTERVIEW**  
Ganesh KC



**NEPAL - INDIA ENERGY TRADE**  
A Significant Achievement

HBL

नारी  
बचत खाता

# अब हरेक नारी, दुई कदम अगाडी

विशेष सुविधायुक्त हिमालयन बैंकको  
'नारी बचत खाता'

- न्यूनतम मौज्जात: रु. १,०००/- मात्र
- अन्तर शाखा कारोबार सुविधा
- विभिन्न बैंकिङ्ग सेवा शुल्कमा २५% छुट
- प्रति ग्राहक एउटा लकर धरौटीमा ५०% छुट
- विदेशी मुद्रा विनिमयमा १० पैसा प्रति अमेरिकी डलर छुट

- नि:शुल्क डेबिट कार्ड, खाता विवरण, एस एम एस बैंकिङ्ग, मोबाइल बैंकिङ्ग, चेक बुक
- रु. १० लाख सम्मको दुर्घटना मृत्यु बीमा र रु. ५ लाख सम्मको निक्षेप सुरक्षण

\*शर्तहरू लागू हुनेछन्।

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**Kathmandu DAO Regd. No.**

148/11/063/64

**Central Region Postal Regd.**

No. 36/067/068

**US Library of Congress Catalogue**

No. 91-905060, ISSN : 2091-0711

(Print), ISSN: 2091-0754 (Online)

**Printing**

Megha Offset Printing Press P. Ltd.,

Dhapasi, Kathmandu

Tel. : 977-1-4363624

**Notes From The Editor**



The persistent monsoon rains have caused significant devastation throughout Nepal, resulting in over 200 fatalities within a mere two months and triggering a substantial glacier outburst in the Khumbu region. This situation underscores Nepal's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. The intense rainfall over a short duration has heightened the risk of flooding in the area. Additionally, the increasing temperatures and excessive precipitation are exerting considerable stress on the Himalayan glaciers. In light of these challenges, it is imperative for Nepal to enhance its disaster management capabilities and explore strategies to reduce the loss of life and property. Amidst political instability and a growing sense of insecurity, climate issues are receiving insufficient attention. Numerous critical topics remain to be addressed, which will be featured in upcoming issues. Nonetheless, we have prioritized the inaugural visit of Nepalese Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba to India as our lead story. While visiting India, Foreign Minister Dr. Rana achieved notable progress, particularly regarding power trade. The decision by India to import an extra 251 MW of electricity is of considerable importance. Additionally, discussions surrounding the revival of the halted Gurkha recruitment for the Indian Army were addressed. Furthermore, we highlighted the 39th anniversary of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and the accomplishments attained by NEA over the past eight years under the leadership of Managing Director Kul Man Ghising, which is another key topic in this issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keshab Poudel'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Keshab Poudel**

Editor

# CONTENT

<b>NEWSNOTES</b>	3
<b>BUSINESS BRIEF</b>	8
<b>OPINION</b>	
Dipak Gyawali	10
<b>NEPAL - INDIA ENERGY TRADE</b>	
A Significant Achievement	17
<b>FELICITY VOLK</b>	
An Envoy Of Compassion	21
<b>INTERVIEW</b>	
Ganesh KC	26
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	
Batu Uprety	28
<b>FORUM</b>	
Dr. Prabin Manandhar	30



**COVERSTORY:FM Dr. Arzu Deuba Rana's India Visit: Strengthening Diplomatic Ties** 12



**IFAD/MOICS: Promoting Youth In Agriculture** 31



**NEPALESE ECONOMY: Rebounding** 24

## Matsuzaki Appointed As New Chief Representative Of JICA Nepal Office

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is pleased to announce the appointment of MATSUZAKI Mizuki as the new Chief Representative of the JICA Nepal Office.. Matsuzaki succeeds r. OKUBO Akimitsu, who concluded his tenure in Nepal on July 31, 2024.



Before assuming this role, Matsuzaki served as the Director of the Basic Education Team 2 (Africa Region) the Basic Education Group within JICA's Human Development Department at the agency's headquarters. His journey with JICA began in July 1998 when he joined as a Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteer in the Philippines. Over his distinguished 26-year career, Matsuzaki has contributed to various departments and country offices, including those in Laos, Egypt, and Yemen.

Matsuzaki holds a degree in Physics from Shinshu University, graduating in 1996. His extensive experience and commitment to international cooperation position him well to lead the JICA Nepal Office.

In his new role, Matsuzaki is dedicated to furthering JICA's mission of fostering development and prosperity in Nepal. He expressed enthusiasm for working with the JICA Nepal team and reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the people and government of Nepal in achieving their development goals. This year marks the 70th anniversary of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) globally, and Matsuzaki assured to commemorate this milestone by continuing to enhance developmental efforts in Nepal.

Under his leadership, the JICA Nepal Office will continue to strive towards JICA's vision of "Leading the World with Trust."

## Nepal-India Held A Bilateral Secretary Level Meeting

The Foreign Secretary of India Vilram Misri left Kathmandu last night upon completion of his two-day official visit to Nepal. He was seen off at the Tribhuvan International Airport by Foreign Secretary Sewa Lamsal.

Before leaving, Foreign Secretary Lamsal held a bilateral meeting with the visiting Foreign Secretary of India Misri in Kathmandu today. The two sides reviewed the overall aspects of Nepal-India relations including cooperation between the two countries in the areas of

energy and power sector, physical and digital connectivity, agriculture, tourism, trade and transit, ffid people-to-people relations.

The two Foreign Secretaries agreed to continue to advance engagements between the two sides, including through regular bilateral mechanisms. Following the meeting, Foreign Secretary Lamsal hosted a luncheon in honour of the Foreign Secretary of India.

During his visit to Nepal, Foreign Secretary of India Misri paid courtesy calls on President Ramchandra Paudel, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Urban Development Prakash Man Singh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Bishnu Prasad Paudel, Minister for Home Affairs Ramesh Lekhak and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interests and bilateral cooperation were discussed during the calls on.

Foreign Minister Dr. Rana And Indian Foreign Secretary Misri Discussed On Bilateral Matter And Issues Of Mutual Interests

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called on Foreign Minister of Nepal Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba at her officer in Singha Durbar.



They discussed bilateral matters of mutual interest & ways to further strengthen Nepal-India bilateral cooperation across all sectors.

According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Views were exchanged on further strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation between Nepal and India.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met his counterpart Sewa Lamsal. They discussed the steady growth of Nepal-India cooperation and ways to take it forward.

According to MoFA, both sides committed to deepening bilateral cooperation and addressing shared challenges.

## IFAD Nepal Office Holds Consultative Review Meeting On COSOP

Rajendra Mishra, Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock, Reehana Raza, Regional Director of Asia Pacific Regional Office and Roshan Cooke, IFAD-Nepal jointly inaugurated the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD Country Office (ICO)) in Nepal at a function.

In his brief message, Secretary Mishra said that launching of ICO with a big space indicted that IFAD will provide more support for Nepal's development. "This is a historic day for Nepal."

## NEWSNOTES



In his brief opening remarks, IFAD's Country Director for Nepal and Bhutan narrated the engagement in Nepal from small spaces. "Now we

have a large space to work comfortably and oversee large programs. He said that the official inauguration of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) country office presents its compliments to the government of Nepal.

Prior to the inauguration of the new office, a Stakeholder Consultation for the Mid-Term Review of Nepal Country Strategic Opportunities Program (COSOP) was concluded with the participation of stakeholders from different sectors including government, NGOs, private sector and media.

### **Nepalese Peacekeepers Recognized For Their Service And Sacrifice In South Sudan**

The important contribution of 762 Nepalese personnel serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), including 81 women, was recognized this week in a ceremonial medal parade hosted by the UNMISS Force Commander at the mission's field office in Rumbek.



The Tara Dal Battalion's presence and active patrolling in locations across the country has helped to prevent violence against civilians and maintain security. The strong relationships they have built with

local authorities also help provide the mission with early warning of conflict in hotspots and support reconciliation and peacebuilding efforts. They also build and repair infrastructure, including main supply routes which are critical to the timely delivery of humanitarian aid to millions in need as well as the safe travel of communities.

"Peacekeeping is in the DNA of the remarkable men and women standing before me today. Your dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to peace

are commendable," said Lieutenant-General Mohan Subramanian. "Thank you for your service and wear your medals with pride—not just because you have earned them, but because you have made your country and the UN proud."

Among those awarded the prestigious United Nations medal for their service and sacrifice is Captain Prarthana Bhujel. Like the other members of the contingent, Captain Prarthana Bhujel has dedicated the last year of her life to protecting and improving the lives of communities across Lakes State in conflict-affected South Sudan.

It is an area plagued by humanitarian hardship and persistent intercommunal conflict, which is causing immense suffering, including loss of life, destruction of property, theft of livestock, and displacement.

Despite the challenges of operating in this difficult environment, Captain Bhujel has found her service as a United Nations peacekeeper life changing.

"As a woman in peacekeeping, this experience has been empowering and meaningful," she says. "I encourage more women to step forward and contribute to missions like these. We have so much to offer, and our presence is vital in building lasting peace."

### **Flag Hoisting On Indonesia's Independence Day, 'Benefits From Trade And Experience Sharing'**

On the occasion of the 79th Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, a Flag hoisting program was held in Kathmandu on Saturday. A special ceremony was organized at Zhandottolan, IME Complex Panipokhari on the Independence Day of Indonesia by the Office of the Unpaid Consul of Indonesia for Nepal.

Chandra Prasad Dhakal, the unpaid consul of Indonesia for Nepal, said that there is a harmonious relationship between Nepal and the Republic of Indonesia and he is trying to bring it to the people in the coming days.

He said that there is a lot of potential for the people and governments of both countries to benefit from mutual trade and exchange of experience. He emphasized that the relationship should be strengthened. Formal diplomatic relations were established between Nepal and Indonesia in 1960.

The Indonesian Ambassador to Nepal has a residential office in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. Indonesia is a country with a large economy among ASEAN countries.

Citizens of Indonesian origin living in Nepal, consular office and employees working in IME Group



were present in the Zhandottolan program.

**US Deputy Secretary Verma pays Courtesy Call On FM Dr. Rana**

Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources of the United States Richard R. Verma paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba.



According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Various aspects of Nepal-US relations, including development cooperation, were discussed in the meeting.

**US Deputy Secretary Verma Pays Courtesy Call On PM Oli**

Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources of the United States Richard Rahul Verma paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli. According to the PM’s Secretariat, the courtesy meeting was held between PM Oli and Deputy Secretary Verma on Friday afternoon. He is on a one-day visit to Nepal.



According to the American Embassy in Nepal, Verma will meet with senior government officials, development professionals, and business leaders to discuss shared priorities in economic development including meeting with tea experts and Nepali businessmen, women’s empowerment, energy, and people-to-people ties and USAID Nepal’s program implementation partner.

**Nepal Youth Summit Empowers Youth Voices**

Nepal Youth declaration presented to the Prime Minister, urging inclusion in decision making, skills development and climate action ahead of United Nations ‘Summit of the Future’

The Government of Nepal’s Ministry of Youth and Sports, along with the National Youth Council, in collaboration with the United Nations in Nepal and sup-

ported by civil society organizations, hosted the Nepal Youth Summit in celebration of International Youth Day.

The summit, inaugurated on 12 August 2024 by the Rt. Honorable President of Nepal, Ram Chandra Poudel, and Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Teju Lal Chaudhary convened over 170 young leaders selected through extensive consultations with youth representatives from Nepal’s seven provinces, involving hundreds of youth. The summit focused on six critical themes: Education and Digitization, Health, Migration, Decent Work and Social Protection, Climate Change, and Agri-Food Systems, providing a platform for young voices to address the issues that matter most to them.

The Nepal Youth Summit was organized in preparation for the upcoming ‘Summit of the Future,’ scheduled to take place in New York on 22-23 September. World leaders, including a high-level delegation from Nepal, will gather at the United Nations to adopt the Pact for the Future, which includes a Declaration on Future Generations advocating for enhanced youth participation at all levels.



In his address, President of Nepal, Mr. Ram Chandra Poudel, emphasized the importance of youth involvement in national development, highlighting the need for an environment that allows young people to fully exercise their political, economic, social, and cultural rights and implementing policies that create opportunities for them to contribute significantly to the nation’s development is crucial.”

The two-day Nepal Youth Summit concluded with the presentation of a Youth Declaration to the Prime Minister of Nepal, K P Sharma Oli, during the closing ceremony. This declaration will contribute to the Pact for the Future, outlining actions and commitments from member states to build a more resilient global community for present and future generations.

The declaration also urged leaders to accelerate efforts to ensure access to skills and services that empower young people to reach their full potential; to create social and economic opportunities that drive youth development as Nepal advances toward middle-income status; to remove structural and persistent barriers, including harmful practices affecting women, girls, young people with disabilities, and those at risk of being left behind; and to take effective climate action for a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

Upon receiving the Youth Declaration, Prime Minister of Nepal, K P Sharma Oli, reaffirmed his commitment

## NEWSNOTES

to conveying the hopes and aspirations of Nepali youth at the Summit of the Future in September. The PM also stressed on the crucial need to reduce poverty and create job opportunities for youth to meet the SDGs by 2030 and to obtain successful LDC Graduation.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal, Madam Hanaa Singer Hamdy emphasized meaningful participation of youth in decision-making, access to essential resources, and investment in skills and innovation for young people to have the power to drive economic growth, advance gender equality, combat climate change, and build a prosperous, sustainable future for all.

### 78th Independence Day Of India Marked

The Embassy of India organized a programme at the Embassy premises to celebrate the 78th Independence Day of India today. The celebrations began with the hoisting of the national flag by the Ambassador of India to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava.

This was followed by playing the video of the address to the nation from the President of India, Droupadi Murmu. The President's message highlighted the progress in various fields in the past 77 years and paid tribute to freedom fighters who laid their lives for the independence of India.

On the occasion, the Ambassador honoured widows and next of kin of deceased Gorkha soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces by disbursing their dues worth NRs

55 million and a blanket to each. In addition, NRs 125.5 million has been disbursed to the widows and next of kin of 107 deceased members of the Indian Armed Forces. This payment covers

benefits under the Army Group Insurance (AGI) programme, including death-in-service benefits, extended insurance benefits and AGI maturity payments for the year 2024, the Embassy of India said in a press release. The Embassy also announced book grants to 21 educational institutions and libraries across five provinces in Nepal. This initiative aims to promote access to educational materials for students in remote areas, in response to requests received.

The 78th Independence Day of India celebrations were attended by members of the Indian community in Nepal and friends of India apart from Embassy officials and their families. The event witnessed renditions of patriotic songs and dance performances by teachers and students of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center of the Embassy and Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kathmandu.



Event was live-streamed on Mission's social media handles. (RSS)

### Embassy Of Pakistan In Nepal Hosted A Reception To Celebrate The 78th Independence Day Of Pakistan

Ambassador of Pakistan to Nepal Abrar H Hashmi said Pakistan is committed for continued support to strengthen cooperation and understanding with Nepal.

At a reception hosted on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day of Pakistan featuring Vice President Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav as the chief guest evening, Ambassador Hashmi said Pakistan would continue its support to Nepal.

"Our collaboration in education, defense, banking, health and other technical sectors is yielding good results.

Over 7,000 strong alumni, including doctors, engineers, journalists, bankers, pilots, defense personnel and others were contributing to the progress and development of Nepal in their respective fields", he noted.

Both Pakistan and Nepal are vulnerable to climate change, he said, adding, "We share ecologically fragile Himalayas; glaciers are melting in a faster pace causing Glacial Lake Outburst Floods, and in medium to long term, could lead to water and food shortages".

Ambassador Hashmi stressed that it was crucial to address these challenges for welfare of the communities and sustainable development of the region.

Pakistan is committed to establish peaceful and cordial relations with all the countries of the world, he said, adding, It contributes to global peace, through diplomatic efforts to UN peacekeeping.

"Nepal is a close friend of Pakistan. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1960: mutual respect, trust, cordiality and understanding remained the hallmark", he added.

Pakistan and Nepal share a unique tapestry from geography to religious and civilizational linkages – from the peaks of Everest to K2, to rich Gandhara heritage and cultural similarities, the ambassador mentioned.

"As partners, we work together at regional and multilateral forums especially at UN and SAARC", he further highlighted.

Pakistan's approach to its partnership with Nepal is





also underpinned by the desire to maturity benefit, he noted, adding the two countries have inked number of agreements such as trade, air services, cultural, tourism and cooperation in agriculture and number of bilateral mechanism exist.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker Indira Rana, former Prime Minister Madhav Kuamr Nepal, former ministers, parliamentarians, diplomatic missions chiefs in Kathmandu, high-ranking government officials, entrepreneurs, journalists and distinguished people.

A documentary reflecting Pakistan’s progress in social-economic, technological and defense sectors was also screened on the occasion. (RSS)

### Youth Sounding Board (YSB)’s Third Cohort Journey Begins

Given that a large portion of Nepal’s population consists of young individuals, their active participation in the development process and involvement at all three levels of governance is essential for the nation’s transformation.

This context, the European Union-funded Youth Sounding Board (YSB) serves as a vital initiative. After the success of two previous cohorts, the EU has now appointed members for the third cohort of the YSB.

Residential orientation of European Union (EU) funded Youth Sounding Board (YSB) members was organized recently. The EU-Nepal Youth Sounding Board’s third cohort is composed of 30 youths aged 18-28, from various provinces of Nepal.

Those include Sasha Sunuwar, Bidhya Neupane, Rakshya Khadgi, Shishir Sapkota, Bibhuti Poharel, Dikshya Bhandari, Smarika Pokharel and Manisha Neupane.



Similarly, Kritika Dhungana, Sobindra Nepali, Sahiba Khatun Miya, Sagar Budha, Aakriti Chamlagain, Dipa Rai, Tanjua Pandey, Manoj (Manorama) Ghartimagar, Rupika Tharu, Sunita Chamar,

Samir Pariyar, Diwas Sharraf, Alisha Mulmi, Bikash Kumar Agrawal, Khushi Kumari Gupta, MD Naym Rain, Shishir B.K. ,Anusha Ojha, Puja Shah, Rabishek Chaudhary and Himal Rokaya.

“This is a two-way street,” said Veronique Lorenzo, EU Ambassador to Nepal, at the YSB Third Cohort opening in Kathmandu. She calls on youth to shape Nepal’s future, highlighting both challenges and opportunities, “writes in EU Nepal X wall.

The new board members are jubilant joining YSB. “It’s

an amazing experience for youth like us, from all the provinces, coming together, sharing this bond.”–Dikshya Bhandari, 22, law student from Gandaki Province. Grateful to the European Union for this platform where we can connect, learn, & shape the future together.

“I joined YSB to grow personally and professionally. YSB helps youth become focal points for change, aligning with my passion for gender equality and indigenous rights. My message to the EU: Expand YSB! Thousands in Nepal are eager to learn and lead,” said Dipa Rai in EU Nepal’s X wall.

Youth Sounding Board (YSB) is a consultative space for Nepalese youth to have an influence on the EU’s actions by making it more participatory, relevant, and effective for them. It is an all-inclusive multi-sartorial platform of engagement designed to bring together youth voices to guide the EU’s development cooperation in Nepal.

The YSB started under Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen’s leadership, with the formation of a global YSB, and similar boards have been formed in other Delegations around the world.

### Political Stability Will Ensure Reforms In Economy: FNCCI President Dhakal

President of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) Chandra Prasad Dhakal has expressed the confidence that the incumbent government formed with the alliance of two major political parties would bring about reforms in economy thanks to political and policy stability.

Addressing the golden jubilee celebration of Kailali Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday, President Dhakal hoped that the monetary policy unveiled by the central government recently would make economy more vibrant.

Stating that the share market has grasped a bullish trend, the FNCCI President called for more reforms in the market to create demand and ensure growth in the production sector.

Likewise, he said that economic activities in the provinces will also increase as chances are high for the formation of a stable government in the provinces too and viewed for coordination



between the province and local governments.

The Sudurpaschim province has high potential in hydropower and tourism sectors and the youths here are hardworking thereby they should be linked to the entrepreneurship and development initiatives.

## BUSINESS BRIEF

### IME Leading The Charge In Formalizing Nepal's Remittance: Chandra Prasad Dhakal

Chairman of IME Limited Chandra Prasad Dhakal said that IME had been at the forefront of efforts to formalize Nepal's remittance sector, significantly shifting the majority of remittance flows from informal to formal channels.



Speaking at the inauguration of integrated operations following the merger of IME Remit and GME Remit, Dhakal emphasized IME's pivotal role in the transformation of the industry.

"IME Remits has been leading the charge in formalizing Nepal's remittance sector," Dhakal stated.

"When we started, only about 20% of remittances were formal.

Today, nearly 80% of remittances are channeled through formal means, and IME has been a key driver of this change."

Dhakal recounted the early days of IME, which began in 2001 as a small money exchange counter and has since grown to become the largest player in Nepal's remittance market.

He highlighted the company's efforts to provide a secure, reliable medium for Nepali migrant workers to send money home, addressing the risks associated with informal channels.

The chairman also noted that IME Group now commands approximately 50% of the remittance market in Nepal and has expanded its operations into various sectors, including banking, tourism, and infrastructure development.

Looking ahead, Dhakal hinted at an upcoming public offering to further broaden public ownership of the company.

Dhakal expressed his gratitude to the Government of Nepal, Nepal Rastra Bank, and other stakeholders for their continuous support in helping IME achieve its goals.

He reaffirmed IME's commitment to enhancing the convenience, security, and accessibility of remittance services, ensuring that the company remains a cornerstone of Nepal's economic growth.

### Nepal Can Meet SDG Commitment and Build A Prosperous Future: UN Resident Coordinator Hanaa Singer-Hamdy

Jointly organized by the Ministry of Finance, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) and the United Nations in Nepal, 'Finance for development dialogue: Nepal's road to the summit of the future' concluded calling for more development fund for Nepal.

Addressing the program, Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nepal, said that she is delighted to participate in F4D Dialogue focusing on domestic reforms, advancing financial inclusion, gender equality, embracing digital transformation & advocating for international cooperation Nepal can meet its SDG commitment & build a prosperous future.

She said that as Nepal prepares for graduation from the LDC, bold and decisive action should be taken to strengthen economic foundations of the country.

"This includes channeling investment into projects that balance economic growth with environmental sustainability," she said.

"By providing tailored financial products and services and institutionalising gender-responsive public finance management, the country can empower women, marginalised communities, and

small businesses to engage more fully in the formal economy, thereby supporting sustainable livelihoods and improving access to education and health services, which are crucial for human development."

Singer-Hamdy said, "We must embrace digital transformation as a driver of economic resilience. The global economy is rapidly shifting from labor-intensive manufacturing to high-tech digital services."

She also said that advocacy should be run for comprehensive reforms to the international financial system to ensure that all countries, including Nepal, have access to affordable and long-term financing. This is particularly crucial as developing countries face higher borrowing costs, limited access to liquidity in times of crisis, and an inequitable share of resources, including climate finance.

Inaugurating the program, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Bishnu Prasad Paudel, said that private sector is the partners in the national development. He said that the government is ready to extend possible cooperation for the facilitation of the private sector and its investment in development projects," he said while addressing a conference on The conference was organised to document Nepal's needs and suggestions to be presented at the upcoming UN Summit of the Future. He also said that credit rating of the country is being conducted to attract foreign investment. Speaking at the event, Governor of the Nepal Rastra Bank, Maha Prasad Adhikari, said that the low domestic saving has repercussions on development financing. According to him, credit flow to energy, agriculture and SMEs can prove instrumental in promoting inclusive development.

President of the FNCCI, Chandra Prasad Dhakal, said that the government has been putting efforts including the creation and amendment in policies to attract investment and create better environment for business.

"One of the primary drivers of our collaboration is the state of investment in Nepal. Currently, Foreign Direct Investment stands at just 0.2 per cent of our GDP which is a very low figure for a country with our potential," he said.

He said that the growing reliance on loans is not sustainable in the long term, and it poses a significant risk to the country's economic stability.

"Although the graduation is a proof of Nepal's progress, it will also bring about new difficulties. The amount of grants and concessional loans available to us will decrease significantly, putting additional pressure on our finances," he said. "Moreover, our exports will face a significant impact as we lose preferential access to developed and preferred markets."

Dhakal emphasized on attracting investment by creating right conditions. He appreciated the recent legislative changes to create better business environment.

"They are a positive step forward, and they reflect the government's willingness to work with the private sector to drive economic growth," he said.

Kamlesh Kumar Agrawal, President of the Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC), stressed on the need to be more vigilant to



the possible future economic setbacks. “Harnessing the potential of renewable energy, infrastructure for trade promotion, tourism and agriculture with better technology and irrigation should be the priority,” he said.

Birendra Raj Pandey, Vice-president of the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), urged the stakeholders to forge collaboration to create sustainable development.

**FNCCI Hails Ministry’s Step To Form Economic Reform Commission**

The FNCCI welcomed the Ministry of Finance’s move to form a high-level Economic Reform Commission.

Issuing a press statement here today, the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI)’s President Chandra Prasad Dhakal said that they have taken the move positively.

“The FNCCI had been demanding a high-level commission to coordinate efforts for economic reforms. I would like to express my gratitude to the government for prioritizing the Federation’s proposal,” expressed President Dhakal.



The statement reminded that the Federation, an umbrella organization of the private sector in Nepal, had submitted a proposal seeking formation of a high-level Commission for economic reform acknowledging the need of the hour to achieve sustainable economic development by revitalizing the national economy.

The Federation had also pointed out the need to address situation relating to the lack of coordination among economy-related sectors and limited access of the private sector to the policy-making level.

It had also pressed for charting out immediate and long-term plans to bolster economy.

The Federation extended thankfulness towards the Ministry of Finance as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Bishnu Prasad Paudel for including the formation of a high-level Economic Reform Commission in the Ministry’s priority list to executive action plans within 100 days.

The Federation has also proposed framework for the Commission’s operation in austere manner, read the statement.

**Surendra Raj Regmi, CEO of Global IME Bank, Takes Over, To Focus On Brand Expansion**

Surendra Raj Regmi, CEO of Global IME Bank, took charge of office before assuming office today.

Before assuming office today, Regmi took the oath of office and secrecy from the chairman of the bank’s board of directors, Chandra Prasad Dhakal.

Regmi has more than three decades of experience in the banking sector. He started his banking career from National Commercial Bank and joined Global IME Bank from Deputy Manager level in 2065.

He has worked in Global IME Bank in the supervisory level of overall banking including credit management, risk and control, banking operations, risk management, compliance, branch op-

erations, general administration, merger management. He has a Masters in Economics from Tribhuvan University and an MBA from the University of Wales, UK. In the program, IME Bank Chairman Dhakal expressed his belief that the bank



will become stronger and stronger during the tenure of Regmi, who has worked in the banking sector for a long time.

Regmi, while assuming office, said that during his tenure, he will further strengthen the bank’s balanced business expansion and customer service. He also said that he will try to increase the brand, network and strong market share of Global IME Bank.

**BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce To Be Formed, FNCCI To Be Founding Member**

A decision has been made to form the BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce. This decision was reached at a meeting held during the BIMSTEC Business Summit, attended by presidents and representatives of chambers of commerce from the region, as well as the Secretary General of BIMSTEC, Indra Mani Pandey.

The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be a founding member representing Nepal.

FNCCI President Chandra Prasad Dhakal expressed his happiness that the chamber was about to be formed as per his proposal made last year. Participating in the meeting, President Dhakal called for the immediate formation and implementation of the chamber’s constitution.

The proposal to establish the BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce was put forward at the BIMSTEC Trade Summit held in New Delhi, India. The proposal was presented at a meeting of representatives of BIMSTEC member chambers on Wednesday.

As per the proposal, one member nation will be included in the BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce. The BIMSTEC Chamber is expected to accelerate the formation and implementation of the BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement.



According to the discussions held at the meeting, the Confederation of Indian Industry has proposed for the secretariat of the BIMSTEC Chamber to be established at its office in New Delhi. The presidency of the chamber will be held on a rotational basis. Along with FNCCI President Dhakal, Past President Bhawani Rana and Senior Vice President Anjan Shrestha were also present in the meeting.

Paramount Motors Partners With NIMB Bank To Offer Innovative Financing For MG Electric Vehicles

# Rejuvenating Environmentalism In South Asia



BY: DIPAK GYAWALI

Globally, modern environmentalism began in 1962 with Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* that highlighted the hidden but ubiquitous dangers of chemical biocides. Despite vitriolic attacks from the chemical industry, she did early on manage to get people to question their blind faith in market-driven "technical progress" that left behind a poisoned planet and an unhealthy populace. South Asia, being the colonialism-ravaged residue of that exploitative market, saw environmentalism as an intrinsic part of its freedom movements. Mahatma Gandhi's "the world has enough for our needs but not enough for our greed", his anti-industrial homespun khadi movement as well as his salt march against an exploitative tax system that maintained such an extractive regime was environmentalism long before its rise in the Industrial West.

Unfortunately, with independence, Gandhi was forgotten by India's new rulers who strove to be like the enemy they just defeated as they pursued extractive market-led growth. The burden of social and environmental battles then shifted to the shoulders of a dwindling band of latter day Gandhians who continue to inspire some younger Indians with mixed results. Social reformers such as Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Baba Amte, Anna Hazare and several very local and lesser known figures have kept the Gandhian flame alive. Environmental campaigns from the Silent Valley in Kerala to the south, through Narmada Bachao Andolan in middle India to the Chipko Movement in the Himalaya continue to be the conscience of the nation even as Indian politicians in the parliament and assemblies changed from being mostly social workers and teachers just after independence to billionaires or even outright criminals today. That malaise is even more sordid and pronounced in Nepal with most top cabinet members soiled in scams and scandals (to say nothing of the recent "coups" in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Srilanka)!

Globally, things are not much better either. When it comes to violent conflicts such as Ukraine or Gaza, international organizations such as the UN seem powerless to do anything (except when it was big powers misusing UN's legitimacy in Korea or Afghanistan). World Trade Organization has been rendered toothless; and when it comes to climate change, UNEP and the COPs are sinking to being confined to a week of platitudinous climate tourism with the rest

of the world, especially the Industrial North, defending their economies by merrily burning more fossil fuel in the name of protecting their GDPs. The primary reason is that the roots of the current environmental crises, be it climate change, biodiversity loss or rising wealth inequality that is fueling growing social unrest, lie in the very nature of growth addicted markets and the governance structures in place to protect and promote them. Just trimming the edges is not going to change things much.

Addressing this angst among those more aware of the crisis is a new compilation of stories and reflections from India that lay bare the above conundrum {Jeevesh Gupta, Chittaranjan Dubey and Anandjit Goswami (eds.) *A Green Day: Embracing Climate Action*; Delhi: Hachette Press, 2024}. To those of us who have been witness to (and friends with) the works of earlier generation of Indian activists such as Anil Agarwal (whose *Global Warming in an Unequal World plus Dying Wisdom* and India's disappearing tradition of water harvesting were seminal global contributions to the environmental movement), Anupam Mishra (whose work on traditional water harvesting structures in semi-arid India is even today an eye-opener), Sundarlal Bahuguna (his providing moral leadership to the Chipko movement still challenges conventional colonial forest management orthodoxy), D.K. Mishra (with his campaign against plainly wrong "modern" flood control engineering that does more damage than good in the Ganga plains and beyond) and others, this collection forces some brutal reflections. Does it represent a movement forward or one in stagnation prompting a new generation to ask the same questions anew?

The book begins with a foreword by India's legendary Public Interest Litigation (PIL) advocate M.C. Mehta who recounts his encounter way back in 1989 and subsequent activist journey in the courts of India against industries polluting rivers and groundwater to the detriment of the marginalized poor. It closes with an afterword by Extinction Rebellion co-founder Roger Hallam with his impassioned plea for action. He critiques India's elites (including socio-environmental) for still being in thrall of Adam Smith and the exploitation-growth paradigm, and for its academics (like other global academics) for living in an ivory tower and failing to demonstrate any commitment to

action that would actually matter.

In between are an assortment of accounts by Indian activists from Assam to the Western Ghats as well as international ones that movingly detail their journey and their battles. They range from disillusioned foresters and simple village folks to those operating at the more national level. The former began working at the very grassroots to bring about change, whether getting villagers to give up slingshots to protect birds, to support women in their anti-hooch campaigns or preventing plastic pollution. The latter worked to move courts and government machinery or even elite urbanites with NGOs and films to bring more broad-based changes.

Many of the international accounts, especially from Africa and Latin America are indeed moving and inspiring. And what makes them so is the lived experience of these activists.

Both these regions were ruthlessly colonized, and formal political independence did not bring about the economic salvation that was expected of such freedom. Indeed, only the skin colours of the new masters changed from

white to brown or black who then served as viceroys of exploitative capitalism's centers in Paris, London or New York.

It is only now, with the rudimentary signs of the emergence of a new multipolar world order that heavily exploited regions are striking back – be it Brazil and Venezuela or Niger and Sahel countries – and taking economic control of their resources. It is too early – and highly doubtful – if these new aggressively nationalistic rulers will be environmentally friendly. As the history of India and its political class giving up on Gandhism demonstrates, they will probably revert to ruthless market exploitation in the name of growth and development just as the white political masters were doing originally.

To wizened old-timers, the collection also displays sig-

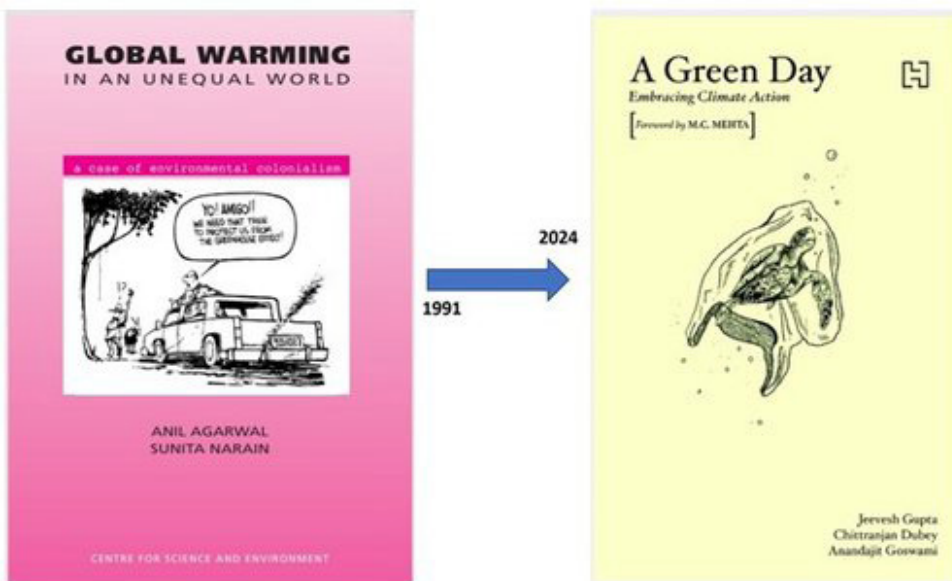
nificant shortcomings. It lacks a “roadmap” for easy reading which the editors should have provided. Nor is there a thematic thread between the different experiences. And it does not have a bio up front describing who the activists are, which does not often come out even after reading their pieces or the references listed. For a book on environmentalism coming out of India, neighbourhood views and success stories are sadly and completely missing. Nepal's success stories with community forestry, water supply and electricity distribution show how alliances of social as well as bureaucratic activism can completely change the ecological landscape: thanks to such measures Nepal today has more forest cover than it ever did in its recent history.

I remember late Ramaswamy Iyer telling me, when I described to him these success stories in Nepal, how it may have been possible in Nepal (which was not politically colonized) but was impos-

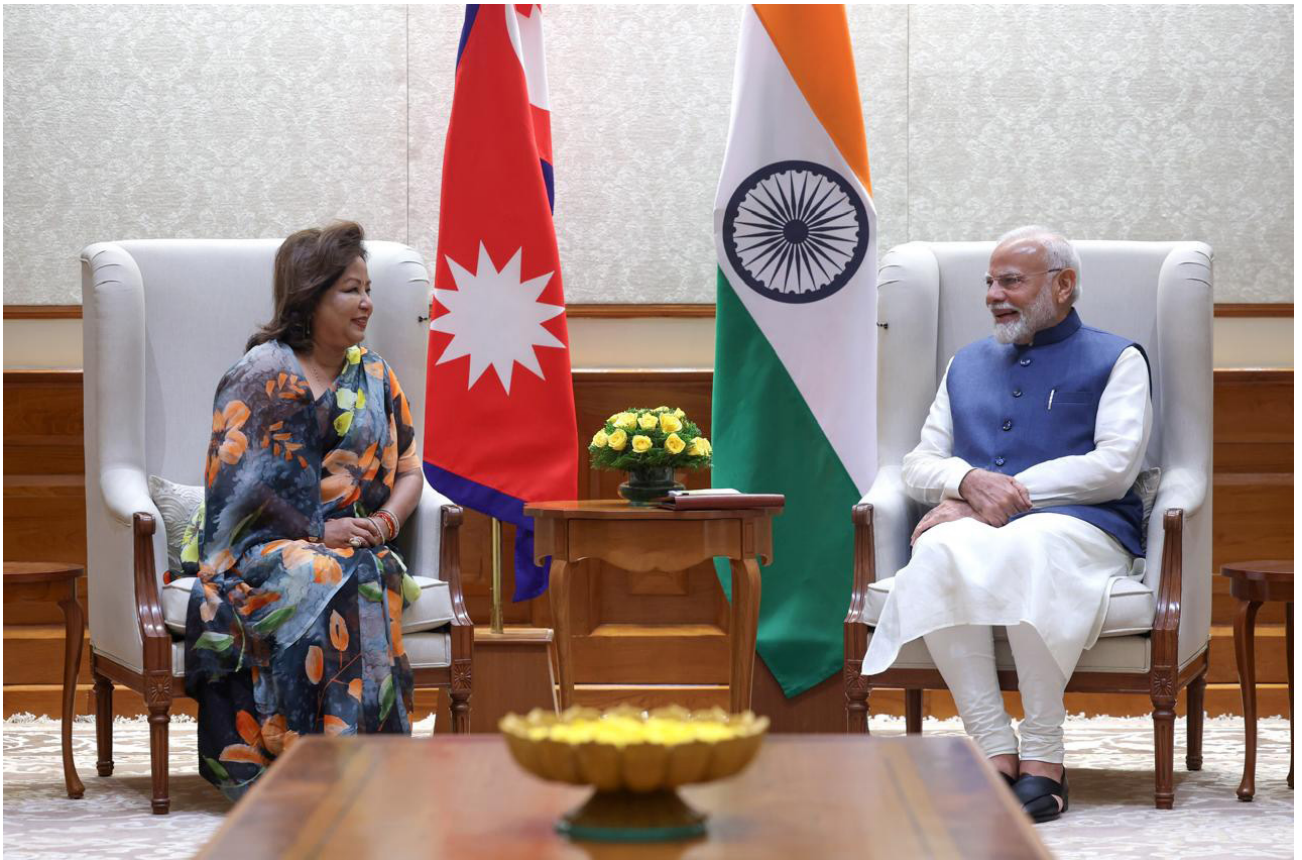
sible in India be-

cause the rigid resource exploiting laws of the British Raj, especially with forests and water, lives on. Pakistan's experiences – as well as the rich debates about environmentalism there recounted by me in a different essay – would have been more valuable to reflect on in the Indian context than the essay on Ukraine which even the Indian government – whose import of Russian oil has jumped up from 3% to 43% in the last three years – would probably disagree with.

Hopefully a second future edition of this exercise would address these lacunae since India is the big center of South Asian gravity, and the environmental damage done within India rarely stays only within India.



India's Environmental Activism: Three Decades But Much Further To Go



FM DR. ARZU DEUBA RANA'S INDIA VISIT

## Strengthening Diplomatic Ties

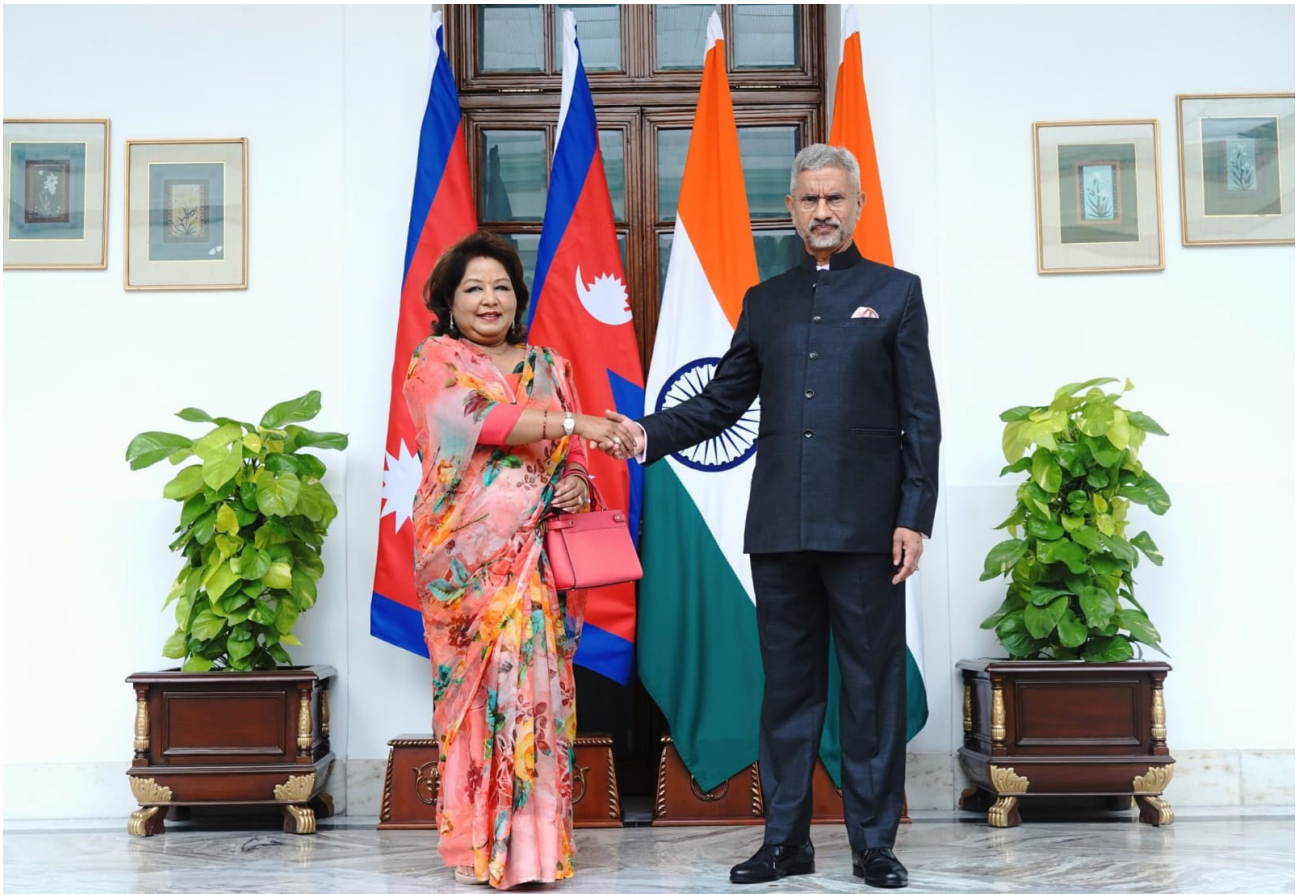
*Through skillful management and careful articulation of the prevailing issues between Nepal and India, Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Deuba Rana successfully completed her inaugural mid-term official visit to India, a close neighbor of Nepal. This visit was particularly timely, coinciding with significant unrest in Bangladesh that led to the ousting of a secular prime minister, alongside rising mob violence against minority Hindus and temples, which posed security concerns for both Nepal and India and raised the potential for a large-scale refugee crisis. India's decision to permit the export of 251 MW of electricity from Nepal reflects a positive gesture in response to Dr. Rana's visit.*

By KESHAB POUDEL

**D**r. Arzu Rana Deuba, who has previously visited India in her capacity as Nepal's First Lady, possesses a keen understanding of how to engage with foreign dignitaries and navigate the complexities and prospects associated with such

high-level discussions. For Foreign Minister Dr. Rana, who received her education at a convent school and graduated from Chandigarh, engaging formally with prominent political figures as a Foreign Minister represents a novel experience. The selection of Bhriгу Dhunga-

na, Joint Secretary and Head of the South Asia Division, along with Acting Ambassador of India to Nepal, Dr. Surendra Thapa, indicates that Dr. Rana has thoroughly prepared for her engagement. During her inaugural four-day visit to this strategically significant neighboring nation,



Dr. Rana likely acquired valuable insights. In addition to her discussions with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Shankar, as well as conducting bilateral meetings at the Foreign Secretary level, Dr. Rana presented herself with composure and provided a credible assurance regarding Nepal's dedication to its commitments with India.

### Initial Achievement

The announcement by India to import an additional 251 MW of electricity from Nepal marks a significant economic achievement for FM Dr. Rana. This decision reflects a positive gesture from India. Furthermore, although not yet officially confirmed, FM Rana is reported to have made another notable ad-

vancement by advocating for the reopening of Gurkha recruitment in the Indian Army. According to India Today TV, the visit of Nepal's Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba to India has reignited discussions surrounding Gurkha recruitment.

The Indian Army is currently experiencing a significant deficit of Nepalese Gurkhas within its traditional Gurkha battalions, with an estimated shortfall of approximately 15,000 personnel. Recruitment efforts have been stagnant for the past four years. Recent bilateral discussions between the foreign ministers of India and Nepal in Delhi have sparked optimism regarding the potential resolution of the halted Gurkha recruitment process. Since 2020, when recruitment activities were suspended due to

the COVID-19 pandemic, not a single Nepalese Gurkha has been enlisted in the Indian Army.

Following the resumption of recruitment rallies post-COVID, the Indian government introduced the Agni Path program in June 2022. However, Nepal has not consented to the short-term service of Gurkhas under the Agnipath scheme, resulting in a stalemate in recruitment efforts.

This marks her inaugural visit to India since assuming office, occurring shortly after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's trip to Kathmandu just a week prior. The Foreign Secretary's visit aligns with the established practice of regular high-level exchanges between India and Nepal, underscoring Nepal's status as a key partner in India's 'Neighborhood First' policy. This visit provided

## COVERSTORY

an opportunity for both nations to discuss and assess the advancements made in bilateral cooperation and to further enhance their relationship, as reported by India's ETV.

The discussion between the Nepalese Foreign Minister and EAM Jaishankar was centered on identifying methods to enhance and broaden the bilateral relationship between India and Nepal.

Former Indian Ambassador Anil Trigunayat remarked, "The ties between India and Nepal are rooted in civilization and moti-

prime minister's visit to India. When questioned about the nature of the India-Nepal relationship in light of China's regional influence, Trigunayat stated, "China will pose a challenge in every region; however, considering our constructive approach in contrast to aggressive tactics and debt diplomacy, I am optimistic that our neighbors will recognize what is advantageous for them, and the realities on the ground are evident to all."

India and Nepal possess profound historical, cultural, and

concerns regarding potential security threats emanating from China, making Nepal's proximity and its strategic position in the Himalayas crucial for India's political stability and alignment.

As Nepal's largest trading partner and a key source of foreign investment, India plays a pivotal role in the economic landscape of Nepal. The two countries have established numerous trade agreements to enhance bilateral trade. Furthermore, India extends significant assistance to Nepal across various sectors, including

infrastructure, health, education, and disaster relief.

The border issue between India and Nepal is intricate and longstanding, influenced by historical, political, and geographical elements. The treaty signed between the



vated by national interests, thus I do not anticipate any substantial deviation or reduction in India's significance within their framework." Regarding the visit, the expert noted that these interactions are ongoing, and numerous development initiatives in Nepal necessitate regular and timely consultations across all levels.

The Indian foreign secretary recently visited Nepal, and the foreign minister is expected to soon address the outcomes of her

geographical connections that render their strategic partnership highly significant. The two nations are united by strong historical, cultural, and religious bonds, which encompass shared cultural festivals, traditions, and religious practices.

Nepal, a landlocked nation positioned between India and China, holds a strategically vital role in relation to India's security and regional influence due to its geographic location. India harbors

British East India Company and the Kingdom of Nepal marked the inception of the modern borders.

During her inaugural official visit to India, Foreign Minister Dr. Rana Deuba paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday.

. In light of the current circumstances, the meeting between Nepal's Foreign Minister Dr. Rana and the Prime Minister of India holds considerable importance



for enhancing the civilizational connections between the two nations. Although this marks Dr. Rana's inaugural official meeting with PM Modi, she has previously engaged in multiple discussions with him during her husband Sher Bahadur Deuba's tenure as Prime Minister of Nepal.

Dr. Rana and India's Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, conducted a bilateral meeting in New Delhi. Prior to this, Foreign Minister Dr. Rana met with her Indian counterpart, Dr. Jaishankar, for an official-level discussion. "I had a fruitful meeting with India's Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar in New Delhi. We addressed bilateral interests, various dimensions of Nepal-India relations, and avenues for mutual cooperation. I am optimistic that this visit will

further solidify the longstanding relationship between Nepal and India," Dr. Rana shared on her X-wall.

Dr. Rana embarked on an official visit to New Delhi on Sunday, August 18, and commenced political discussions on the following day. In a post on X, Deuba reported that the meeting yielded positive outcomes. "I am optimistic that this visit will further enhance the long-standing relationship between Nepal and India."

On his X profile, Indian For-

eign Secretary Dr. Jaishankar expressed, "It is my pleasure to welcome FM Arzu Rana Deuba of Nepal during his inaugural official visit abroad. We engaged in discussions regarding the diverse cooperation between India and Nepal, particularly in the sectors of energy, trade, connectivity, and infrastructure development." "I am pleased to announce that Nepal is set to export nearly 1000 MW of electricity to India, marking a significant achievement. Our Neighborhood First policy, along with our unique cultural

towards the nation.

This development will facilitate Nepal's capacity to export a total of 1000 MW of electricity to India. Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's Minister of External Affairs, expressed his satisfaction on his X-Wall, stating, "I am pleased to announce that Nepal will be exporting nearly 1000 MW of electricity to India, achieving a new milestone."

He further emphasized that the 'Neighbourhood First' policy, along with the unique cultural and interpersonal connections,

is propelling the relationship between the two countries.

Despite Nepal's request for increased electricity exports, India made this announcement prior to the scheduled bilateral meeting in New Delhi. Navita Srikant, a Nepal expert based in New Delhi, tweeted about the meet-

ing between Dr. Rana Deuba, Nepal's Foreign Minister, and Honourable Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, where they discussed bilateral relations, particularly focusing on enhancing people-to-people connections and strengthening their multifaceted partnership.

During the occasion, Minister Dr. Deuba expressed the cordial greetings of Prime Minister Shri K P Sharma Oli to Prime Minister Modi and extended an invitation for a State Visit to Nepal from



and interpersonal connections, continues to propel our relationship forward."

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Sureendra Thapa, Charge d'Affaires a.i. of Nepal to India, Bhriгу Dhungana, Joint Secretary and Division Head for South Asia, and other senior officials, including Durapada Sapkota.

India has declared its intention to import an additional 251 MW of electricity from twelve hydro-power projects in Nepal, marking a significant gesture of goodwill

## COVERSTORY

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to Prime Minister Modi.

According to a press release from the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi, the two parties discussed ways to further enhance Nepal-India relations and to broaden mutually beneficial cooperation between the nations. The press release stated, “While delivering the warm regards and best wishes of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli of Nepal, she also conveyed his invitation to the Prime Minister of India for a state visit to Nepal.” Furthermore, it was noted that “Foreign Minister Dr. Rana is on an official visit to India from August 18-22. Earlier today, she met with India’s Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar for an official discussion. Minister of External Affairs Dr. Jaishankar also hosted a luncheon in honor of FM Dr. Rana,” as mentioned in the press release.

The Embassy of India in Nepal has released a statement regarding the official visit of Nepal’s Foreign Minister, Dr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, to India. “At the invitation of the Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, the Foreign Minister of Nepal, is visiting India from August 18 to August 22, 2024.”

“On August 19, the Foreign Ministers engaged in bilateral discussions that encompassed the full range of the partnership between

India and Nepal. They assessed the advancements made in various bilateral initiatives and development projects, while also exploring avenues for enhanced cooperation in both existing and new areas of mutual benefit.” “India and Nepal share a close and amicable relationship, underpinned by profound historical, civilizational, cultural, and interpersonal connections. In recent years, there has been a consistent momentum in the execution of India-supported initiatives in Nepal, particularly in the realms of connectivity—be it physical,



digital, or interpersonal—encompassing infrastructure and projects related to cross-border railways, roads, bridges, integrated check posts, petroleum pipelines, and digital financial connectivity.”

Both parties acknowledged the advancements achieved in their mutually advantageous partnership concerning power sector collaboration, with Nepal now capable of exporting nearly 1000 MW of electricity. This development not only generates additional revenue for Nepal but also

supplies clean energy to India. In this regard, both Foreign Ministers recognized the exceptional prospects for power sector collaboration that will arise from the execution of the Long Term Power Trade Agreement.

Additionally, it was noted that sports is emerging as another avenue for cooperation between India and Nepal, highlighted by the recent training facilitation for the Nepal Cricket Team at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

During her visit, the Foreign Minister of Nepal also met with the Prime Minister, where discussions focused on enhancing cooperation between India and Nepal across a variety of mutually beneficial sectors. Nepal is regarded as a priority partner for India under its ‘Neighborhood First’

policy. The Foreign Minister’s visit aligns with the established tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two nations and provided a platform to explore and identify new areas for cooperation to further strengthen bilateral relations.

During her inaugural official visit to India, Dr. Rana has showcased her capacity to enhance bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of both nations. India’s decision to suspend Gurkha recruitment and limit additional energy imports is a noteworthy gesture.



NEPAL - INDIA ENERGY TRADE

# A Significant Achievement

*Faced with the challenge of managing approximately 1100 MW of surplus electricity and mitigating potential losses during a five-month interim period, Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), expressed relief following India's approval to import electricity from Nepal at a rate of Rs 8.72 per unit. Indian Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar described the agreement to export 1000 MW of electricity to India as a significant achievement.*

By KESHAB POUDEL

“I am pleased to announce that Nepal will be exporting close to 1000 MW of electricity to India, marking a significant achievement. Our ‘Neighborhood First’ policy, along with our unique cultural and interpersonal connections, is propelling our relationship forward,” stated Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of State for External Affairs of India, during his meeting with visiting Nepalese Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba.

Dr. Jaishankar remarked that the recent decision by the Government of India to permit Nepal to export an additional 251 MW of electricity to India represents a significant achievement and a favorable development for the Nepal Electricity Authority, as well as for Nepal in its efforts to mitigate the trade imbalance with India.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba expressed her gratitude on her X wall, stating, “I extend my thanks to the Government of India

for granting additional approval for the export of 251 MW of power from 12 hydropower projects in Nepal to India during the wet season on a medium-term basis.

“With this addition, I am pleased to note that the Government of India has now approved a total hydropower export capacity of 941 MW from Nepal to India. I am optimistic that the collaboration in the power sector between our two nations will continue to flourish in the future.” Additionally, Dipak Khadka from



the Ministry of Power, Water Resources, and Irrigation shared his positive sentiments regarding the Government of India's decision on LinkedIn.

Minister Khadka expresses his heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Power, Government of India, for the recent approval of an additional export of 251 MW of electricity. This allocation includes 125 MW to Bihar via PTC India Limited and 126 MW through NTPC Vidyut Byapar Nigam, sourced from twelve hydropower projects in Nepal, and is set for mid-term export during the wet season months.

With this latest approval, the Government of India has now sanctioned the export of a total of 941.44 MW from 28 hydropower projects in Nepal to India. I eagerly anticipate further collaboration to enhance the partnership between Nepal and India in various sectors in the future.

For Kul Man Ghising, who assumed the role of Managing Director of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) three years ago amidst the diversion of over 700 MW of power, resulting in significant financial losses, this marks a significant achievement.

This marks a significant milestone in the history of power trade between

Nepal and India. "By exporting more than 1000 MW of surplus electricity, which will remain after fulfilling Nepal's total domestic demand, the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) stands to generate revenue exceeding Rs. 18 to 20 billion this year," stated Managing Director Ghising.

"Without India's agreement to import this surplus electricity, NEA would have faced the necessity of spilling energy, resulting in substantial revenue losses." The primary challenge during his second term was to identify a market for surplus power during the rainy season, thereby minimizing revenue losses and ensuring sufficient funds for imports in winter.

With the backing of then Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, who addressed these issues at a political level during a bilateral meeting, the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, along with NEA, laid the groundwork for the export initiative. As Prime Minister Deuba engaged with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who responded favorably to Nepal's appeal, the prolonged impasse in power trade was finally resolved.

The installed capacity stands at 3156 MW, with hydropower contributing

2990 MW, resulting in over 3000 MW available in the grid. Nevertheless, the average demand during peak hours in the domestic market is approximately 1800 MW.

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) sells electricity at Rs.6 per unit in the domestic market, while the export rate to India is Rs.8.72 per unit. Following domestic supply, NEA possesses a surplus exceeding 1100 MW. If Nepal had not permitted exports to India, NEA would have to waste over 1100 MW daily, leading to significant financial losses.

Despite electricity coverage exceeding 90 percent and NEA's ongoing efforts to achieve universal access, domestic demand remains insufficient. As reported by NEA, 539 out of 753 local levels have achieved full electrification, while 196 have been partially electrified. The Electrification Data-2081 BS from NEA indicates that 99 percent of the total population has access to electricity services, based on an extensive study conducted at the ward level.

The economic downturn has significantly impacted the construction industry, leading to a substantial decline in electricity demand from cement and iron, which are the two primary sectors with the highest electricity consumption.

A statement from the Embassy of India indicates that India's Designated Authority for International Trade has sanctioned an additional 251 MW of electricity from 12 hydropower projects in Nepal. This marks the inaugural occasion on which Nepal will export electricity to Bihar under a medium-term power purchase agreement.

Consequently, the total approved capacity has risen from 690 MW (across 16 projects) to 941 MW (across 28 projects). Previously, an approval for 251 MW had been granted, as noted by Nehru. With electricity sales amounting to Rs. 16.93 billion, Nepal has transitioned into a net exporter of electricity, gen-

erating net revenue.

In October 2021, India first authorized the export of 39 MW of electricity from Nepal, and in less than three years, this figure has surged more than 24 times.

Nepal has commenced its energy export journey by participating in the day-ahead market on the Indian Energy Exchange. Following this initial step, India has granted access to the real-time market as well.

The Nepal Electricity Authority has also established a medium-term power purchase agreement with distribution companies in Haryana and Bihar. Furthermore, India has introduced a provision allowing Indian buyers to include hydropower imports from Nepal in their Hydro-power Purchase Obligation (HPO), thereby incentivizing the procurement of power from Nepal.

The long-term energy agreement between the two nations facilitates the export of up to 10,000 megawatts of electricity from Nepal to India over the next decade. In this inaugural year of the agreement, nearly 1,000 megawatts have already been exported. Consequently, Nepal is poised to emerge as the foremost exporter of hydropower in the South Asian region.

An agreement to sell 40 megawatts of power to Bangladesh was intended to be finalized on 13 Shrawan 2081; however, it was postponed due to recent political changes in Bangladesh.

Nepal has recently obtained authorization to export 251 megawatts of electricity to the Indian states of Bihar and Haryana, with a pricing rate of Rs.8.72 per unit.

The Central Electricity Authority, part of India's Ministry of Power, has granted the Nepal Electricity Authority permission to export an additional 125.89 MW to Haryana and 125 MW to Bihar, in accordance with a medium-term agreement.

The 125 MW allocated to Bihar will be sourced from ten hydropower projects, while the additional 125.89



MW for Haryana will come from two hydropower projects. Currently, the Nepal Electricity Authority exports 109 MW of electricity to Haryana.

Consequently, the total electricity to be supplied to Indian state distribution companies under the Mid Term Agreement will amount to 360 MW. The surplus electricity generated during the monsoon season, after meeting domestic consumption in Nepal, will be sold to Bihar and Haryana annually from June to October.

The tariff set for the sale of 109 megawatts to Haryana last year is 8.40 rupees per unit. Under this arrangement, the NEA is exempt from paying various taxes and charges, including transmission line fees, leakage costs, and trading margins to India.

India's Energy Exchange Ltd (IEX) is providing electricity to Haryana at competitive prices through the real-time market, day-ahead market, and medium-term power contracts. Additionally, with India's consent, power sales to Bihar are set to commence.

According to the competitive market and medium-term agreement, 941 megawatts generated from 28

projects will be sold in the Indian market. Managing Director Ghising indicated that with the Indian approval, power exports to both Bihar and Haryana will begin shortly.

"Given that we can export 10 percent more than the approved capacity, we are now able to export over 1,000 megawatts. Furthermore, an additional 200 megawatts are awaiting export approval. We are optimistic about receiving this approval soon," stated MD Ghising.

"The increase in power generation will lead to a rise in exports, with a target set to export electricity valued at 25 billion rupees this year," stated Managing Director Ghising. The electricity will be transmitted through the Kataiya, Raxaul, and Ramnagar points, which are linked to Bihar via transmission lines.

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) imported 1.89 billion units of electricity at a cost of Rs. 16.93 billion. During the same timeframe, however, 195 million units were exported to India, generating revenue of Rs. 17.6 billion. In the previous fiscal year, the revenue from electricity exports exceeded imports by 13 million rupees, marking a significant achievement for Nepal as it transitioned into a net exporter of



the Morang Industry and Trade Association, noted that despite the country's surplus electricity leading to exports, load shedding persists in older industries. Rakesh Surana, president of the Morang Industrial Association, highlighted that the industries in Morang and Sunsari are incurring losses due to load shedding and power tripping issues. The fruit and plastic melting sectors, in particular, are facing significant challenges related to the loss of raw materials. In response, Saroj Sah, head of the NEA's Biratnagar branch, refuted these claims, asserting

electricity.

The NEA has indicated that electricity will be exported to Bihar through 132 kV transmission lines at Kataiya, Raxaul, and Ramnagar. The authority plans to sell the surplus power, which remains after domestic consumption, to Bihar and Haryana annually from June to October. Under the competitive market framework and medium-term agreements, 941 megawatts of electricity produced by 28 projects will be offered in the Indian market.

Nepal joined the day-ahead market of the Indian Energy Exchange on May 1, 2021. Initially permitted to import electricity, Nepal transitioned to an exporter status on November 3, 2021. At present, the country exports approximately 700 megawatts of electricity daily across the intermediate, day-ahead, and real-time markets.

Additionally, Nepal has initiated efforts to sell power to Bangladesh, with a final agreement signed on July 13 to supply 40 megawatts of electricity. However, recent political changes in Bangladesh have introduced uncertainty regarding this ar-

rangement.

### Criticism of Export

Industrialists from eastern Nepal, particularly those who have declined to pay for electricity supplied through a dedicated feeder line, have voiced their discontent regarding the export of electricity to India, viewing it as detrimental to the Nepali industrial sector.

They contend that the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has been implementing daily load-shedding of six hours in the industrial sector to facilitate electricity exports to India. Furthermore, industrialists from the Sunsari Industrial Corridor and Kathari Industrial Area have reported that they have had to reduce their production by one-third due to issues related to low yield and frequent power interruptions.

Pawan Kumar Sharda, the president of the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) in Koshi Province, has accused the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) of compelling Nepali citizens to endure load shedding while exporting electricity to India. Anupam Rathi, president of

that the NEA is providing sufficient electricity in the region.

Sah explained that the overload issues arise from low power consumption by industries and mentioned that a recent power outage was caused by an unexpected fault in the power line, which the authority promptly repaired.

Roshan Khadka, the head of the Duhbi Grid at NEA, stated that the transmission line is operating at its full capacity, supplying adequate power to the industries. Occasionally, technical issues may arise with the transmission line; however, our teams address these problems promptly.

Contrary to the claims of industrialists, there is no occurrence of 5-6 hour load shedding. Regardless of personal opinions, Managing Director Ghising has successfully transformed Nepal into a net exporter of electricity since the last fiscal year, and the recent approval for an additional 251 MW for export to India will enhance the financial margins.

Felicity Volk

# An Envoy Of Compassion

*Felicity Volk, the Australian ambassador to Nepal, commenced her tenure three years ago with little known person. Through her gentle demeanor, sociable character, and community-focused initiatives, Ambassador Volk has effectively demonstrated the significance of Australian support for Nepal, thereby earning the admiration and trust of the Nepali people.*

By KESHAB POUDEL

Ambassadors frequently rotate in and out of their positions. Nevertheless, certain ambassadors leave a lasting impact on the nations they represent. The Australian ambassador to Nepal, Volk, is a notable example.

Upon her arrival in Nepal during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country was gradually and cautiously reopening to the world. One of her most significant contributions as ambassador was her role in facilitating the delivery of essential COVID-19 vaccines through Australian Aid.

With extensive experience in the cultural and ethnic diversity of South Asia and the Indian subcontinent,





Volk, who is also an accomplished fiction writer, immersed herself in the rich cultural and natural diversity of Nepal, engaging with individuals from various backgrounds.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations on February 15, 1960, Nepal has benefited from Australian development assistance in various sectors, including forest and natural resource management, health, humanitarian efforts, aviation navigation, and governance.

The relationship between the people of Nepal and Australia has consistently been strong. Each year, more than 6,000 Australian tourists travel to Nepal. Additionally, there is a significant Nepalese diaspora residing in Australia, which has further enhanced the exchange of visits between the two nations.

As the Australian envoy to Nepal, Ambassador Volks made efforts to strengthen bilateral relations by en-

gaging with various communities and showcasing cultural, natural, and social activities through social media platforms.

Throughout her time in Nepal, she



explored all three ecological zones, including the Himalayas, hills, and the Terai plains. By deepening her engagement at the grassroots level, Ambassador Volks facilitated support from Australian Aid for individuals with Autism.

This initiative, launched on a larger scale for the first time, aimed to pro-

mote meaningful participation and inclusivity for persons with Autism in society. Her social media posts over the past three years significantly contributed to raising awareness of Nepal's rich cultural and natural diversity.

During her tenure, Australia returned a 13th-century tundaal (temple strut) to Nepal. This significant event was marked by a ceremony led by Dr. Michael Brand, the Director of the Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW), and attended by Tim Watts, Australia's Assistant Foreign Minister, highlighting a pivotal moment in the relations between Nepal and Australia.

In a notable development, an Australian parliamentary delegation, headed by Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, visited Nepal for the first time, despite the long-standing diplomatic relations between the two nations.

This visit represents the inaugural



Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Nepal in over sixty years of diplomatic engagement, indicating a strengthening bilateral relationship. Additionally, Nepalese Foreign Minister NP Saud also made an official visit to Australia, during which the two countries formalized the Australia-Nepal Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) in the presence of Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Penny Wong.

In addition to her role as Australia's ambassador to Nepal, Felicity Volk is also a novelist. She began her writing journey long before her tenure with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Raised by parents who were writers, Volk developed a passion for writing from a young age and has authored several novels. Her background as a writer enables her to keenly observe her surroundings and empathize with the emotions of others. With a degree in English literature, she has also produced numerous short stories and poems.

Her extensive travels as a diplomat have provided Volk with unique insights into the experience of being an outsider in a foreign land, as well as feeling like a stranger in her own



life.

Appointed as ambassador to Nepal during the pandemic, this unprecedented situation has significantly influenced her time in office. "Covid-19 made for a very stop-start experience of settling into my role as ambassador and getting to know Nepal," she remarks.

She expressed to Nepali Times, "The current opportunities to travel to the remote regions of the country, to engage with locals, to witness unmasked interactions, and to explore Kathmandu have become even more invaluable."

It has been 62 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations

between the two nations, during which Australia has played a significant role in supporting Nepal, notably through its community forestry initiative that has been instrumental in doubling the nation's forest cover within a span of two decades. Prior

to her appointment as ambassador to Nepal, she had visited the country multiple times as a tourist, and last year marked the first visit for her daughters.

Volk told Nepali Times, "I cherished the experience of discovering Nepal alongside my daughters, observing the country through their fresh perspectives. However, the most memorable moments were spent by the fire in my residence, sharing meals, enjoying drinks, and playing cards. It was during those times that my house in Kathmandu truly transformed into a home."

The role is designated as that of an extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador, currently occupied by Felicity Volk since March 19, 2021. "Our relationship is supported by a dynamic Nepalese community in Australia, with over 150,000 individuals of Nepalese descent residing in the country," she stated to Nepali Times.

As Volk prepares to depart from Nepal next week, concluding her successful term as ambassador, her contributions to enhancing both people to people and diplomatic level will be remembered. Notably, the relationship between Nepal and Australia has progressed to a new height in their bilateral engagements.



## NEPALESE ECONOMY

# Rebounding

*After years of recession, Nepalese economy rebounds from post-COVID slump*

By A CORRESPONDENT

Though it is too early to say that Nepal's economy is recovering, the economic indicator shows that the national economy is recovering from the post-COVID-19 sluggishness.

According to the recently released data of Nepal Rastra Bank, the economy has come out of the prolonged recession that plagued the business and financial sector in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The annual statistics of fiscal year 2023/24 released by Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) show that foreign exchange reserves, current account, remittances and credit to the private sector witnessed impressive growth while inflation came down significantly.

Gross foreign exchange reserves increased by 32.6 percent to Rs. 2041.10 billion at the end of the last fiscal year, mid-July 2024, from Rs. 1539.36 billion in mid-July 2023.

Out of the total foreign exchange reserves, the reserves held by the NRB increased by 37.4 percent to Rs. 1848.55 billion in mid-July 2024 from Rs. 1345.78 billion in mid-July 2023. Reserves held by banks and financial institutions (BFIs) declined by 0.5 percent to Rs. 192.55 billion in mid-July 2024 from Rs. 193.59 billion in mid-July 2023.

Based on 2023/24 imports, the for-

ign exchange reserves of the banking sector are sufficient to cover 15.6 months of projected merchandise imports and 13 months of merchandise and services imports, the NRB said in its annual report on the macroeconomic and financial situation of the country.

The ratio of reserves to GDP and reserves to imports stood at 35.8 percent and 108.6 percent, respectively, at the end of 2023/24. A year before, such ratios were 28.8 per cent and 83

ceived first-time approval for overseas employment stood at 460,103 and those who received approval for reentry stood at 281,199.

Similarly, consumer price inflation has come down to 3.57 percent in mid-July from 7.44 percent a year ago, while the annual average consumer price inflation was 5.44 percent last year.

"The annual average food and beverage inflation stood at 6.47 percent



per cent.

While the country's export trade remained negligible, remittances supported foreign exchange reserves. Remittance inflows increased by 16.5 percent to Rs. 1445.32 billion in 2023/24 compared to an increase of 23.2 percent in the previous year. The number of Nepali workers, both institutional and individual, who re-

in FY 2023/24, compared to 6.62 percent a year ago. This inflation declined to 4.10 per cent in mid-July compared to 7.38 per cent a year ago," the central bank said.

The annual average inflation in the non-food and services category stood at 4.64 percent in FY 2023/24 compared to 8.62 percent a year ago.

## Current account in surplus

The current account remained in surplus of Rs. 221.34 billion last year against a deficit of Rs. 46.57 billion in FY 2022/23. Last year, capital transfer declined by 22.9 percent to Rs. 5.81 billion and net foreign direct investment (FDI) remained at Rs. 8.40 billion.

A year earlier, capital transfer and net FDI stood at Rs. 7.54 billion and Rs. 6.17 billion respectively.

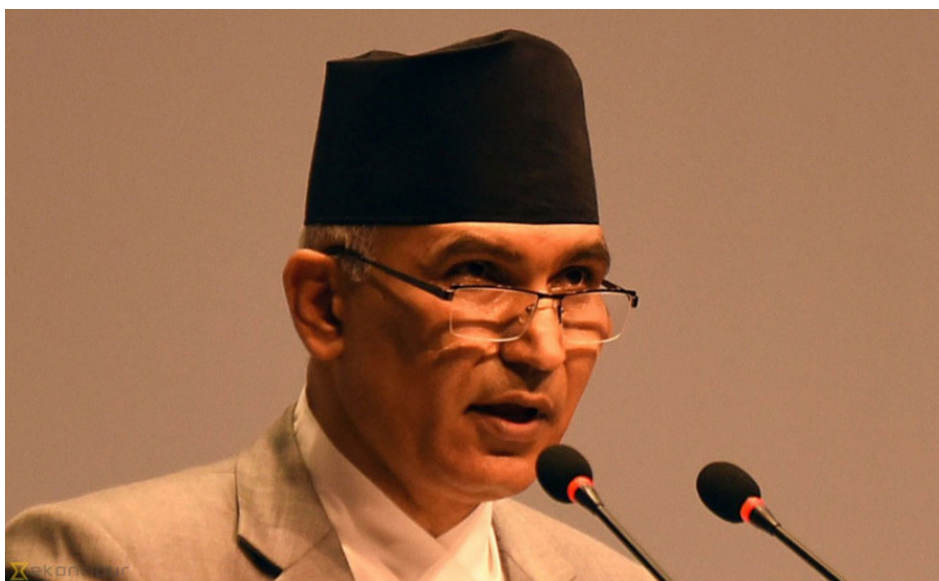
Similarly, the Balance of Payments (BOP) remained at a surplus of Rs. 502.49 billion in 203/24 compared to a surplus of Rs. 285.82 billion in 2022/23.

Meanwhile, the Nepali currency depreciated by 1.64 percent against the US dollar in mid-July 2024 compared to mid-July 2023. It had depreciated by 2.79 percent in the previous year, NRB informed.

The Government of Nepal mobilized domestic debt of Rs. 234.42 billion and made principal repayment of Rs. 182.62 billion, resulting in net domestic debt mobilization of Rs. 51.80 billion in 2023/24.

Net domestic debt mobilization was 0.9 percent of GDP. The GoN mobilized external loans of Rs. 123.61 billion during the period under review. The outstanding public debt stood at Rs. 2433.24 billion as of mid-July 2024. Of this, Rs. 1252.34 billion were external loans and Rs. 1180.90 billion were domestic loans. The ratio of total outstanding public debt to GDP came down to 42.65 percent last year, which was 42.99 percent in 2022/23.

## Deposits, loans go up



Deposits with BFIs increased by Rs. 742.37 billion (13.0 percent) during the year under review compared to an increase of Rs. 627.25 billion (12.3 percent) in the previous year.

The share of demand, savings and time deposits in total deposits was 5.8 percent, 30.3 percent and 56.4 percent respectively in mid-July 2024. A year ago, these shares were 7.7 percent, 26.6 percent, and 58.9 percent, respectively.

Private sector credit from BFIs increased to Rs. 276.94 billion (5.8 percent) last year, compared to an increase of Rs. 175.94 billion (3.8 percent) in FY 2022/23. The share of private sector credit from BFIs to non-financial corporations and households stood at 63.3 percent and 36.7 percent, respectively, in mid-July 2024 compared to 62.7 percent and 37.3 percent, respectively, a year ago.

Similarly, the interest subsidized loan facility has been extended to 120,274 borrowers with the mobilization of Rs. 126.82 billion as on mid-July 2024. Out of this amount, Rs. 86.90 billion was extended to 46,356 borrowers for commercial agriculture and animal husbandry and Rs. 38.29 billion was extended to 71,883 women entrepreneurs.

## Base rate moderated

According to NRB, the base rate of BFIs has come down significantly.

The average base rate of commercial banks, development banks and finance companies was 8.00 percent, 9.71 per cent and 11.21 per cent respectively in the last month of 2023/24. These rates were 10.03 percent, 12.15 percent and 13.41 percent, respectively, in the corresponding month of the previous year.

The weighted average deposit rate of commercial banks, development banks and finance companies was 5.77 percent, 6.63 percent and 7.93 percent respectively in the last month of 2023/24. In 2022/23, these rates were 7.86 percent, 9.14 percent and 9.79 percent, respectively.

Similarly, the weighted average lending rate of commercial banks, development banks and finance companies was 9.93 per cent, 11.34 per cent and 12.55 per cent respectively in the last month of 2023/24. These rates were 12.30 percent, 14.10 percent and 14.82 percent, respectively, in the corresponding month of the previous year.

# Rahughat Project Is On The right Track:

## GANESH KC

*As the project has made many breakthroughs in recent times, GANESH KC, Managing Director of Raghuganga Hydropower Limited, spoke to New Spotlight on various issues related to the 40 MW Rahughat Hydropower Project. At a time when Nepal and India have set milestones in the trade of hydropower generated in Nepal, the progress made by the Exim Bank of India funded project is remarkable.*

### What is the Rahughat Hydropower Project?

Rahughat is a 40 MW Peaking Hydropower Project. Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of India is providing a concessional loan investment of \$67 million and Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) is bearing the remaining cost. The project is divided into two lots. Indian construction company Jaiprasad (JP) Associates is responsible for civil works and Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL), which is engaged by Jaiprasad on EPC model, will work on electro-mechanical side like installation, supply and transportation of civil and hydro mechanical equipment and switchgear. If we work on this model, the price will be adjusted only if there is any geological defect except as mentioned in the layout.

### What about the progress?

Overall 80 percent physical progress has been made towards Lot-1 including dam, tunnel, lining, search tank, powerhouse, tailrace. Similarly, there is good physical progress towards Lot-2 including generator, turbine, switchyard, transmission within the powerhouse. Overall, there is 80 percent physical progress and 65 percent financial progress.

### How is the tunneling progressing?

The breakthrough of the 6,270 meter long main tunnel in July was a major milestone in the project. Starting from the dam at the foot of Dagnam in Raghuganga Rural Municipality-4, the tunnel ends at Tilkenichaur in Raghuganga Rural Municipality-3. This was a difficult but essential part of the project. We made the breakthrough by dividing the tunnel into four bores. The latest breakthrough was made in the 2,332 meter section. The tunnel connecting the dam and Audit-2 at Agheri Khola has already started. Lining work is underway on the 3,836-meter Audit 2 and 3 tunnels, where breakthroughs were made in March last year.

### Why is civil engineering critical?

Civil works is one of the most complex and challenging lots involving multiple components. It is critical in all hydropower projects. In our project, the dam side works including the spillway have been completed. We will start

the gate installation after the rainy season. Sixty percent of the water diversion intake is almost completed. In July, there was a heavy flood in the river beyond our capacity. However, it was managed and our dam was tested. About 30 percent work on diversion is already completed and remaining work will start after monsoon. Due to heavy landslide in Pukla areas, the road is now closed. Due to this, our activities at the dam site have stopped. Last year there was no landslide and less rain, we worked in full scale. After October, we will start work in October. The tunnel line is already finished. The work of water diversion intake and pressure shaft has already been completed. The pressure shaft is 1050 meters long. All the materials for the still pipe have arrived and the workshop for bending and forging has been established. They have already completed 70 meters. There are only two critical works concrete lining.

### What about the power house?

In the power house, 95 percent of the construction work has been completed. The VERO has started to install the turbine of one unit. The equipment for the second unit is on its way. The work on the tail race is almost finished.

### Why breakthrough in different phases?

The last tunnel breakthrough was significant because the tunnel was dug in different packages and with different tests. The project has completed an important task. We have successfully constructed the tunnel even in the erosion-prone terrain with flowing soil. We made the tunnel breakthrough. This means that almost 80 percent of the construction work has already been completed. The financial progress is about 65 percent.

### What is the likelihood of meeting the current completion schedule?

Our current schedule is July 25, 2025, and we are making every effort to meet that schedule. However, there are certain hindrances like quarrying of stones and sand from Kaligandaki river and lack of inter-departmental coordination. We now need huge amount of concrete and sand for concrete lining, power house construction

and other works. More than 100,000 cubic meters of stone and sand are required for all these works. Since there are no other sources for such materials, quarrying is a major challenge.

**What is your experience?**

I joined the project five years ago. Now I am happy to tell you that the project has completed more than 80 percent of the progress. Now all that is left is the finishing work. All the major works have been completed.

**What are the challenges now?**

As I mentioned, there are problems with the materials to line the 6 km tunnel. The interim order of the Supreme Court is hampering the excavation from the nearby Kaligandaki River. The work of the project will be more affected in case of any delay. There is a problem in bringing the equipment because of the CIAA order of June. Although there is a provision in the Financial Act to bring equipment from abroad subject to a bank guarantee, the recent CIAA directive has stopped the process of bringing permissible equipment.

**What about other works?**

At the same time, the concrete lining of the completed tunnel package, the installation of the penstock and the installation of the turbine in the power house are being started. The hydrostatic pressure test of the river diversion and distribution pipe inside the powerhouse was successfully completed. A 6-node manifold has been tested to turn the two turbines in the powerhouse. Work has also started on the installation of the penstock pipe in the 811 meter slope and 196 meter vertical tunnel from the powerhouse to the shaft.

**How will it be connected?**

The power generated from the Rahughat Hydro-power Project will be evacuated through the Dana-Kusma 220 kVA transmission line, which is located about 700 meters east of the project's switchyard.

**When has the project work started?**

NEA started the civil works of Rahuganga in 2065. According to the terms of the loan, a contract was signed with the Indian company IVRCL Infrastructure Projects India Limited in October 2067 to complete the construction in two years. But the NEA terminated the contract in 2070 when the contractor could not work.

**Why was the project delayed for so long?**

After the cancellation of the contract with IVRCL, Rahughat Hydro Project changed the design and mod-



el of Rahughat Hydro and increased its capacity from 32 to 40 MW. According to the new model, NEA holds 70 percent share and 30 percent by the general public.

**When will the project be completed?**

As the construction of the project's tunnel, powerhouse, and the supply and connection of hydromechanical and electromechanical equipment are underway, the project is on track. A 1.04 km long 'pressure shaft' tunnel, which will house a pipeline to convey water from the outlet of the main tunnel at Raghuganga-3 to the under-construction powerhouse at Tilkenichaur. The pipeline was connected in May last year.

**What is the size of the reservoir?**

A 17 meter high and 31 meter long semi reservoir technology dam and a power plant have already been completed on the border of Ward No. 4, Dagnam and Ward No. 5, Jhinko of Raghuganga.

**What is the power generation of the project?**

The annual energy generation from the plant is about 247.89 GWh, of which 137.71 GWh is firm energy in 90% reliable year. The plant is capable of producing peak power during the dry season during a 6 hour peak period at its full installed capacity.

# Improvement Of EIA Report: Need For A Clarity



BY: BATU UPRETY

The competent government authority for the approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports of all sectors in any geographical areas - the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) - has enjoyed in approving EIA reports and regulating EIA process since the last 7 years as the government established MoFE. Some of the officers working in the Environmental Assessment Section of the then Ministry of Population and Environment are engaged in reviewing and approving processes of the EIA and its associated reports. MoFE is legally empowered to approve the EIA reports and provide forests and/or conservation areas for the construction and operation of the proposed project. As the same ministry has these two roles, once the EIA report is legally approved it is most likely that the project proposed for construction and operation in the forests and watersheds, and conservation and protected areas gets proposed land area and resources of such areas. On 9 August 2024, UML Secretary-General Mr. Shankar Pokhrel said that there is no need for a plan to increase forest area in Nepal (<https://deshsanchar.com/2024/08/09/946303/>). This indicates the possible use more forest areas and additional environmental disasters from likely deforestation and forest degradation.

As per the Environment Protection Act (EPA, 2019) and the Environment Protection Rules (EPA, 2020), MoFE is empowered to approve project-specific scoping document (SD), terms of reference (ToR) and the EIA reports. In principle, SD outlines priority issues that must be considered during EIA report preparation, and ToR provides guidance to the proponent to identify, predict and evaluate impacts of the project activities on the environment.

As understood from the last four-and-half decades, EIA report is multi-stakeholder owned. Although the project proponent prepares it, project beneficiaries and affected communities are well informed about the benefits and adverse impacts of the project on the environment, people and resources and proposed measures to enhance beneficial and mitigate the adverse impacts. Concerned ministries and departments are fully engaged in reviewing the SD, ToR, and the EIA report while MoFE ensures review and compliance with the legal provision and approves the EIA and its associated reports.

On 11 July 2024, MoFE made the EIA report of the 45 MW ChumchetSyarkhola Hydroelectric Project (CSHEP) public to collect multi-stakeholders' suggestions. The Chilime Hydropower Company Ltd., the proponent of this CSHEP, has planned to construct and operate this project within the Manaslu Conservation Area (MCA), Gorkha, and prepared this EIA

report to comply with the provisions of Schedule 3 of the EPR (2020) and the approved ToR.

The EIA team conducted the field study between BS 2080/06/16 and BS 2080/06/29.

The proponent organised a public hearing on BS 2080/06/19 in Chumnubri Rural Municipality (CRM) - 6 and collected the recommendation letters from CRM on BS 2080/07/03 and from MCA liaison office on BS 2080/09/29 to comply with the legal provisions. The EIA report uploaded in MoFE's website to collect suggestions confirms that the EIA report was discussed with the MCA officials before collecting the recommendation letter. It also confirms public hearing in the project site, and recommendation letter of the CRM.

Review of the EIA report of this HEP raises concerns and urges the competent authority to reconsider the basics of introducing public hearing and need for recommendation letters as legal requirements.

In mid-1990s, EIA was clearly understood as a planning and predictive tool that identifies and predicts the impacts of the project on the environment (physical, chemical, biological, social, economic and cultural domains) and evaluates the significance of the identified and predicted impacts. In the EPA (1996) and EPR (1997), repealed by the EPA (2019) and EPR (2020), the provision on public hearing was made legally mandatory to inform the project affected people and multi-stakeholders, along with the competent authorities, about the beneficial and adverse impacts of the project activities along with the corresponding benefits enhancement and adverse impacts mitigation measures, a plan for the implementation of proposed measures, monitoring and auditing. It means, public hearing should be conducted at the project site once the draft EIA report is ready for sharing. This was well practiced. Based on the inputs received from the public hearing, the draft EIA report was finalised and sent to the concerned local level (municipality or the rural municipality) for a recommendation letter. The municipality was considered the 'guardian' of the project affected people and local resources and should confirm the inclusion of appropriate concerns raised during the public hearing and issue the recommendation letter(s). However, the present legal regime undermines it and considers organising 'public hearing' anytime is valid, and 'recommendation letters' before draft report preparation is also valid. The present practice on public hearing provides concerns, issues, views and demands which were previously included in the scoping document. Recommendation letters include concerns and demands.

In general, the EIA report of this CSHEP attempts to comply

with the approved ToR, and report quality is considered improved. The EIA team has made its effort to make a comprehensive report with lots of information which are neither used to identify, predict and evaluate the significance of impacts nor to propose enhancement and mitigation measures and/or environmental monitoring and auditing. The team has analysed flood and sediment load, landslides susceptibility, and seismic intensity and assessed GLOF risks unlike previous EIA reports. Alternative analysis has adopted sequential approach to select most appropriate alternative. However, EIA report does not clarify beneficial and adverse impacts and a plan for measures implementation, monitoring and auditing of only the selected alternative.

Several impacts are qualified. Policies, laws and guidelines which are not directly related to the project and its location are reviewed and some mitigation measures proposed are difficult to relate with project-induced impacts. Linkage of project site with wildlife 'core habitat' is unclear but cost estimate for wildlife welfare and treatment centres and an ambulance deserves special attention. Review of EIA report of this CS HEP raises several issues. Only few issues are given below as an example:

1. The issued ToR simply recognised the need for 'prediction and analysis' and focused on 'effects'. In general understanding, EIA being the predictive tool should focus on 'impact' and 'identification and prediction of impacts' and significance evaluation of both 'identified and predicted impacts'.

2. Conservation area is understood a legally designated area for the conservation of natural environment and balanced utilisation of natural resources and is managed through an integrated plan. This HEP is proposed for construction and operation within MCA by using its 21.08 ha. Change in locations of the weir, intake, tunnel inlet and outlet, access road etc. may affect to optimise project's installed capacity but there is a possibility to manage the muck, operate the worker's camp, and collect and store construction materials outside the MCA. If such activities are implemented outside the MCA, land use of over 12 ha of the MCA will not be changed.

3. Collection and storage of construction materials and implementation of a quarry plan should be a part of the project than environmental measures. It calls for clarity on project activities and environmental impacts, and separate costs for project activities and environmental measures.

4. Adoption of a total score of magnitude, extent and duration of impact to evaluate the impact significance does not provide a realistic outcome. Significance should also consider the nature of impact (direct or indirect). Site-specific and construction-related impacts 'will occur' but will be rated 'low significance' by adopting such a 'blanket' approach.



5. The EIA report mentions several types of environmental auditing but does not specify the type of auditing that should be conducted for this project.

6. The approved ToR instructs to study breeding potential of endangered species of fish, crocodile and dolphin and other aquatic life with a view to promote species conservation and tourism. The EIA report mentions no fish species and fisherman within the project site. It calls for being realistic while approving the ToR.

7. The practice of providing recommendation letters with lots of conditions needs rectification. The MCA in its recommendation letter mentions, inter alia, adoption of upstream-downstream impacts mitigation measures, and inclusion of 'payment for environmental services'. Who ensures inclusion of such conditions in the EIA report and their implementation is unclear.

8. Ownership of the EIA report must be with the proponent. Consultants should be considered only the 'technical arm' of the proponent to prepare the EIA report, if involved.

The EIA team has provided a clear picture of environmental investment for this HEP. This environmental cost includes estimated budget for the implementation of enhancement and mitigation measures, environmental monitoring and auditing. Environmental cost is estimated at 0.521 percent of the total project cost. In addition, EIA report commits 0.75 percent of the total project cost for

community support programmes. The former cost is for restoration and/or mitigation of project-induced environmental damages and enhancement of benefits, and later is purely a support to the local communities which might or might not be related to environmental safeguards. Hence, budget estimation for environmental improvement programmes is only NRs 50 paissa of each NRs 100 spent for the project construction and operation. This cost would be even low if project-related activities, mentioned above, and environmental measures are clearly separated.

In many projects, Nepal's EIA reports have estimated cost for environmental enhancement and mitigation measures, including monitoring and auditing at the range of 0.5 to 2.5 percent of the total project cost to offset environmental damages. Taking note of nearly 3 decades of Nepal's involvement in preparing and approving EIA reports legally, timely amendment of the EPR (2020) would facilitate to make the development projects environment-friendly and sustainable - the main purpose of the EIA tool - by rectifying existing complications, separating project-related activities and project-induced environmental impacts, and making EIAs project-specific, cost-effective and implementable.

# World Humanitarian Day 2024: Committing To Peace And Accountability



BY: DR. PRABIN MANANDHAR

World Humanitarian Day is an opportunity to acknowledge the work of humanitarian workers around the world who bring assistance, relief, and hope to the millions of people affected by crises.

Humanitarian workers operate on the frontlines, managing emergency responses that rebuild communities, strengthen resilience, and promote peace. Despite these efforts, they often risk their lives, facing minimal protection and significant political, legal, and security threats, including being targeted for attention.

As of 2024, over 362 million people worldwide need humanitarian assistance, according to the UN OCHA. This figure reflects the growing scale of crises globally, driven by conflict, natural disasters, and other challenges. This year, the theme #ActForHumanity serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of the protection and treatment of civilians caught in conflict and disaster zones.

Today's geopolitical tensions have made humanitarian work even more difficult. In conflict zones like Gaza and Ukraine, delivering aid is incredibly challenging due to violence and damaged infrastructure. Civilians are often trapped in the middle, making the situation even more dire. On top of this, recurring natural disasters like floods and landslides continue to worsen crises, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable communities the hardest.

Beyond these, other pressing humanitarian issues, such as famine in parts of Africa, the impact of climate change on small island nations, and displacement crises in regions like the Sahel, require urgent attention. In Asia, similar challenges are seen with climate-related disasters and rising displacement issues. These problems are exacerbated by shrinking democratic and civic space, which limits access to affected areas and impedes effective aid delivery. Additionally, funding shortages and complex coordination efforts make it even harder to ensure that aid reaches those who need it most.

The United Nations has played a central role in addressing these humanitarian crises. However, the UN's role in humanitarian action is not without its challenges and criticisms. In some instances, the UN's ability to act is ham-

pered by political considerations, as powerful member states exert influence over its operations, leading to delays or inadequate responses in critical situations.

To prevent future conflicts and build resilient communities, development efforts need to focus on peacebuilding and social cohesion from the start. It's not just about reacting to crises but addressing the root causes of violence and instability. This means promoting dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among different groups and tackling economic and social inequalities.

Development programs should strengthen community bonds, support local initiatives, and ensure all voices are heard to foster peace and social cohesion. This approach helps resolve disputes peacefully, promotes dialogue, and prevents conflicts from escalating. On an international level, there is a shared responsibility to support these efforts and ensure that resources are directed towards development and peacebuilding rather than conflict.

Additionally, reducing the impact of the war economy where conflict drives economic activity can help redirect resources towards constructive and sustainable development, rather than perpetuating violence. International collaboration and commitment are crucial in addressing these issues and promoting a more peaceful and stable world.

World Humanitarian Day highlights our shared responsibility to make a difference, echoing Ban Ki-moon's belief that "Humanitarian work is a moral imperative." It also resonates with the words of Kofi Annan, who said, "We will not enjoy the luxury of peace if we are not willing to work for justice." This day calls for improved quality, compliance, and accountability in crisis response, ensuring that all efforts are both effective and ethical.

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IFAD/MOICS

## Promoting Youth In Agriculture

*Desperate for employment, over 700,00 young people are migrating to different parts of the world. Additionally, over 500,000 youths are returning to Nepal after working abroad for a certain period. Nepal is now focusing on reintegrating these returnees, utilizing their savings, and providing employment opportunities within the country. Implemented jointly by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supply (MoICS), the Rural Enterprises and Remittances Project (RERP) Samridhi has demonstrated that youth can earn a decent income back home. The mass movement of youth has created a scarcity of agricultural laborers in rural areas, negatively impacting agricultural production. However, a group of 27 youths in Arundada, Bardibas Municipality Ward 10 of Mahottari district, has shown a successful venture, preventing youth from migrating abroad and integrating returning migrants into the local agricultural economy.*

By KESHAB POUDEL

White tunnels can be seen everywhere in Arun Dada village of Bardibas Municipality Ward 10. As part of their daily schedule, the farmers gather at the collection center to engage in commercial vegetable farming. They hold meetings twice a day: in the afternoon to set the prices of their products and in the morning to

arrange for delivery.

With the motto “Move forward together for prosperity through commercializing agriculture and generating employment opportunities back home,” 27 farmers, led by young returnees from foreign employment, formed the Arun Dada Krishi Samuha in Bardibas Municipality Ward 10, Mahottari, in the Madhesh province, 200 kilometers

southeast of Kathmandu.

Recognizing the high demand for tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, chilies, and other seasonal vegetables in major markets such as Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Narayanghat, they started farming with personal investments. Initially, the lack of technical knowledge resulted in poor-quality produce. However, after joining the



Samriddhi project and receiving technical and financial support, their production gradually improved.

Marketing posed another challenge. Despite producing ample vegetables, unhealthy competition led to poor pricing. Farmers would undercut each other, selling at half the price to outdo one another. The Samriddhi project facilitated discussions on collective farming and marketing, leading to the establishment of a collection center and the formation of a cooperative group. This initiative solved pricing issues and stabilized the market.

Supported by the Samriddhi project, the youth group achieved their goal of bringing prosperity through the commercialization of agriculture, employing new technologies, and acquiring essential skills.

Led by 29-year-old Bimla Kumar Shrestha, who abandoned his plan to go to Qatar five years ago, a group of farmers has transformed the agricultural landscape in Bardibas Municipality Ward 10. Using the money he had allocated for migration, Shrestha started vegetable farming. With

no prior skills, he organized a group of seven individuals, including five returnee migrants, who were willing to invest in the venture.

The first year was frustrating due to poor yields, leaving the group disheartened and contemplating migration again. However, their fortunes changed after meeting experts from the Samriddhi project through Bardibas Municipality. Following the advice from Samriddhi, Shrestha and his six colleagues formed the Kharima Arun Dada Kishan Samuha and participated in training on plastic tunnel construction and modern farming methods.

For the past four years, the farmers' group has been associated with Samriddhi, focusing on developing the supply chain and market linkages. The group has grown to 27 members with a savings of Rs. 300,000 (USD 2,200). Each member contributes Rs. 500 monthly to the savings fund.

"The members can obtain loans from this savings fund at an interest rate of 12 percent, compared to up to 36 percent charged by village moneylenders," Shrestha explained.

With improved skills, technology, and market connections, group members now make an annual net income ranging from Rs. 300,000 (USD 2,500) to Rs. 700,000 (USD 5,500), depending on their land size.

"I focus on vegetable farming, planting tomatoes, green chilies, and beans on my 3 bighas of land," said Tek Bahadur Shrestha, a 50-year-old returnee migrant who invested his savings from Saudi Arabia.

"Learning from our first year's failure, we have all focused on market linkage. Thanks to Samriddhi, we also gained access to technology, markets, and loan guarantees from Women Multi-purpose Cooperative Centers."

Over the past four years, Shrestha and his group members have become a perfect example of how the SAMRIDDHI project is transforming the livelihoods of rural communities.

"The meeting with Samriddhi was a turning point for us. After that meeting, I put my new passport away and decided not to go abroad. Following the advice we received, we bought plastic tunnels, changed our planting methods, and adjusted our crop patterns," said Shrestha. Their group alone cultivates vegetables on 20 bighas of land, while non-members farm an additional 5 bighas.

Laxman Shrestha, a 28-year-old returnee migrant, attends the group meetings daily. He invested his savings from foreign employment to purchase land and further invested some of his money into farming. "My hard-earned money from abroad has produced good returns from agriculture and also generated employment for me," he said. Alongside the 27 group members, 35 families are now growing vegetables on a total of 25 bighas (about 18 hectares) of land.

## Farming Amidst Climate Change

Like all districts in the Madhesh Province, Mahottari district is grappling with the adverse effects of climate change. Changing rainfall patterns and increasing temperatures are affecting agriculture, making it difficult for farmers to sustain their livelihoods and plan their crops. The skills and techniques learned from SAMRIDDHI have been instrumental in helping them mitigate these impacts.

Additionally, the warming climate has created more hospitable conditions for crop pests and diseases that were not previously a problem, posing a significant challenge for smallholder farmers like Shrestha, whose families rely on agriculture.



Shrestha and his group members have implemented modern climate-resilient practices with support from the SAMRIDDHI project, significantly improving their productivity.

Shrestha's group has also drilled a borehole to irrigate their land and

are using environmentally friendly bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers instead of expensive chemical alternatives. These practices have strengthened their farms' resilience to climate shocks and changes.

Facing a shortage of regular pesticides, Shrestha and his group members have prepared and used "jholmol"—homemade bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides. Jholmol is not only cost-effective but also eco-friendly, reducing the need for expensive and environmentally damaging chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

These sustainable practices have increased the household incomes of Shrestha and his group members. Last year, each family generated nearly NPR 300,000 to 700,000 (approximately USD 3,050 to USD 5,500) in revenue from selling seasonal vegetables. Connected to the market chain, vendors send vehicles to transport vegetables to wholesale markets in Kathmandu and Pokhara.

Eager to share their success, the group often invites other farmers





from nearby areas to visit their farm, where Samriddhi has established a community learning center. Their goal is to raise awareness among fellow farmers about market chain solutions that help increase production and introduce the latest skills and crops.

“The passion and dedication of group members like Shrestha have inspired others to embrace sustainable commercial farming practices. I was unsure about new technology and market access, but when I visited Bimal’s group farm and saw the incredible results firsthand, my doubts vanished,” said Pralahad Kumar Chhetri, Mayor of Bardibas Municipality. “RERP and SAMRID-DHI have made a great contribution to making the community prosper by commercializing agriculture. The municipality works in close collaboration with the project.”

This success story is not unique. The Rural Enterprises and Remittances Project (RERP) Samriddhi has supported 13,000 households through value chain activities, including 1,400 women social mentors. Of these households, 55 percent are

returnee migrants and their families across three provinces.

“The project covers 3 provinces, 16 districts, and 208 local governments, including Bardibas,” said Jiban Shrestha, Migration Coordinator of the RERP/SAMRID-DHI Project. Farmers believe in the immense potential of commercializing agriculture to prevent youth from going abroad and to invest remittances in productive sectors.

“While competitive market prices pose significant threats to small farmers, they confront these challenges head-on with the support of RERP-Samriddhi. With the right measures and sustainable practices, agriculture not only survives but also provides employment opportunities for youth and integrates returnee migrants through their own investments. This is the lesson learned here,” said Sanjeev Kumar Shrestha, National Consultant (Value Chain & Markets) at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Through their work, the group demonstrates that by prioritizing

market access and technology, agriculture can become a force for positive change. Group leader Shrestha also encourages other young individuals to consider pursuing a future in agriculture, emphasizing the importance of commercial farming practices.

At a time when many young people are abandoning agriculture, Shrestha’s story serves as an inspiration, showcasing the potential of using and promoting agricultural practices at home and in the community.

Laxman Shrestha, a 35-year-old returnee migrant, joined the group last year and decided not to go back to Oman. “I came home for a two-month vacation after four years, but seeing the group’s success, I decided not to return abroad. If I can make money here, there is no reason to go abroad,” he said.

Not only Laxman Shrestha but also Hira Sunuwar, a 38-year-old returnee migrant, has reintegrated into society by joining the group. “After working for 12 long years in Gulf countries, I purchased some land and joined the group. With 2 bighas of land, I am making an annual income of around NPR 600,000 (USD 5,500). This is more than what I made in Oman,” said Hira.

The orientation from the project gave him renewed energy. Through the project, he learned that animal insurance is essential to reduce business risks, along with cage improvement, breed improvement, and feed management, transforming traditional goat rearing into a modern practice.

In Nepal, 65.6 percent of the population is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.

The National Youth Policy 2015 also emphasizes the need to encourage youth in the agriculture sector. Approximately 40.35 percent of Nepal's total population falls within the age range of 16-40. This "youth bulge" can serve as a demographic dividend, yet over 14 percent of the youth population is living abroad for employment. Given this situation, youth engagement in agriculture is a prerequisite for sustainable development.

By funding Samriddhi, IFAD has been supporting the Nepal government's target to engage more youth in modern agriculture to increase production and income.

"There is an urgent need to address this situation and ensure that youths work in the country with their futures guaranteed. Youths should be seen as assets for transforming Nepal, utilizing their unique skills and talents in agriculture, instead of pushing them abroad for remittance," said Sanjeev Kumar Shrestha.

"If agriculture is made remunerative and rewarding in terms of income and profitability, youths will indeed be attracted to the sector," said the Mayor of Bardibas Municipality. "We highly appreciate the Samriddhi project for encouraging youth in agriculture. Our partnership with Samriddhi is working perfectly."

"In the last seven years, our project has reintegrated hundreds of migrant returnees into society through agriculture and engaged the youth population in this sector," said Saroj Prasad Guragain, Project Manager of SAMRIDDHI. "Many still don't consider it a viable sector for employment, viewing it as highly unattractive due to its associated risks, intensive nature, and low profitability. However, with our project, many young people from our project areas now see a future for themselves in agriculture. Our experience shows that one cannot expect youths to be-



come involved in agriculture without first making it attractive in terms of its image and economic returns."

To promote youth engagement in agriculture, the first step is to improve its image. Many adults have earned a substantial income through agriculture. These model farms and farmers need to be identified, and their information and experiences shared through various media. Fortunately, there are many educated adults engaged in this sector because they see a promising future in it.

Youth farmers in Bardibas have successfully utilized modern technology and machinery to manage sophisticated farms. They have increased access to information and communications technology, gained knowledge and experience, and observed successful farms abroad. This exposure has given them a keen desire to join the agricultural sector.

The youth farmers in Bardibas have managed to harvest more than traditional farmers per unit area of land. The adoption of high-yield varieties, increased use of fertilizers and irrigation, well-managed plant protection measures, and product selection based on market trends have contrib-

uted to their success.

Recognizing that a lack of capital has hindered many youths who have good ideas and knowledge and wish to work in agriculture, the SAMRIDDHI project links youth farmers with cooperatives to address this problem.

The SAMRIDDHI project has successfully integrated an approach to the much-needed revitalization of Nepal's agricultural sector by implementing initiatives aimed at retaining the youth demographic, particularly those aged 21 to 35 years. A significant number of these individuals have pursued employment abroad as migrant laborers, resulting in a substantial brain drain. It is imperative to harness this pool of human resources within the country to drive the broader development of agro-based activities.

Given that a considerable portion of Nepal's dynamic youth has migrated abroad, the government must take proactive measures to encourage their return and provide viable employment opportunities in agriculture.

# सर्पको टोकाईबाट बचाऔं

- घरवरिपरि सफा राखौं, प्वालहरू टालौं,
- झाडी एवं खुलास्थानमा शौच नगरौं,
- खाली खुट्टा नहिडौं, जुत्ता वा गमबुट लगाऔं,
- लट्टी लिएर हिँडौं,
- सम्भव भएसम्म खाटमा सुतौं,
- सुत्दा झुलको प्रयोग गरौं,
- सुत्ने बेलामा ओछ्यान राम्ररी हेरौं,
- राती हिँड्दा टर्च लाईटको प्रयोग गरौं,
- पराल, दाउरा आदि निकाल्दा होसियारी अपनाऔं,

यदि सर्पले टोकेमा नजिकको सर्पदंश केन्द्र वा अस्पतालमा लैजाऔं ।



नेपाल सरकार  
विज्ञापन बोर्ड



# RAGHUGANGA HYDROPOWER LIMITED

## Piple, Myagdi

Raghuganga Hydropower Limited was established as subsidiary company of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) on March, 2017 with an aim of construction of Rahughat Hydroelectric Project (40 MW) in Mygdi District, Gandaki Province, Nepal. The financing of the project has been managed by EXIM Bank's GOI-supported LOC to GoN, GoN and NEA. The project is at implementation stage with overall progress of 79%.

Salient Features	
<b>Project Location</b>	
Province	Gandaki
District	Myagdi
Intake Site	Jhi, Raghuganga Rural Municipality -05
Power House Site	Tilkane chaur, Raghuganga Rural Municipality -03
<b>General</b>	
Name of River	Raghuganga
Nearest Town	Beni
Type of Scheme	Peaking run -off- river scheme
Gross Head (m)	292.83
Net Rated Head (m)	281.56
Installed Capacity (MW)	2*20=40 MW
Average Annual Energy after Outage	238.59 GWh (Peaking Energy =27.95GWh, Non Peaking Energy =50.26GWh and Wet Energy =160.37GWh)



Spillway



Headworks u/s view and intake d/s view



HRT Lining



Pressure Shaft Steel Lining



Power House



Power Machine Floors

# NIMB

## Green Future Savings Account

### एक खाता एक रूख, दुवै भविष्यको लागि

यस योजनाबाट संकलित  
निक्षेपलाई बैंकले दिगो र  
वातावरणमैत्री आयोजनामा  
लगानी गर्नेछ ।



\*शर्मा राना, हुबेला



**NIMB**  
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समृद्धिको पथमा सँगै अघि बढ्दै