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The Ambassadors' Club and IRGDD Inaugurated;
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Strengthening International Relations in Modern Era

Nepal's diplomatic landscape and international relations have been evolving steadily from the ancient times to the modern era. Often described as the 'yam between two boulders', Nepal, in the 21st century, is increasingly being seen as a vibrant bridge between the two global economic giants – India and China.

In the 20th century, French writer Leo E. Rose had underscored Nepal's geopolitical importance. Rose, in a book named 'Nepal: Strategy for survival', had described Nepal as a strategically located nation caught between two powerful neighbors. Nepal continues to be defined by its landlocked geography, as it is positioned between India to the south, east, and west, and China to the north.

Currently, in the 21st century, Nepal maintains bilateral relations with 183 countries and is a member of numerous multilateral institutions such as the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). It also actively engages as a crucial partner in regional organizations like SAARC and BIMSTEC. This network highlights Nepal's position as one of the active 'smaller' states in the Global South.

Nepal's foreign policy is grounded in neutrality, non-alignment, and a strong commitment to international law that can be understood as critical principles in an increasingly uncertain global environment. As the 21st century is often heralded as the Asian Century, Nepal, given its unique positioning, can utilize this momentum to advance its aspirations of economic progress and development.

Nepal must explore diverse diplomatic avenues to leverage her strategic and cultural advantages to move the foreign policy in the right direction. To do so, Nepal needs to enhance economic diplomacy, engage in Track II diplomacy, and actively become a vocal advocate for climate justice — through platforms such as the Sagarmatha Sambaad, Nepal's own global dialogue forum.

Equally important is the promotion of cultural exchanges based on a development-oriented approach. Likewise, Nepal's extensive migrant workforce, along with its potential in tourism, public engagement, and soft diplomacy, can be powerful tools for international outreach. The country's commitment to regionalism and multilateralism, along with strong engagement with the diaspora, can further enhance Nepal's global presence. Additionally, in today's digital age, technology is considered a vital domain for diplomacy. As Artificial Intelligence reshapes global interactions, Nepal must remain vigilant on how these tools impact foreign relations and security, with the rise in cyber threats across the globe.

Nepal must continue to assertively define its economic interest as economic diplomacy remains a key instrument in an era marked by trade agreements, tariffs, and mineral diplomacy. Trade wars between larger powers have had a strong impact on countries like ours. As Nepal continues to contribute actively to global diplomacy through multiple platforms, its role in international peacekeeping through the UN, deploying personnel to crisis zones and vulnerable regions worldwide, remains a significant achievement.

At last, it is vital that Nepal focuses on further strengthening her bilateral, regional, and multilateral relations. Doing so is not only essential for addressing existing geopolitical challenges, but also for placing the country back on the track of sustainable development and international relevance.

Jagdishor Panday
Editor
The Diplomat Nepal

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THE DIPLOMAT NEPAL

By Ambassadors Club

Bridging Diplomacy

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THE DIPLOMAT NEPAL is Nepal's first diplomatic magazine. Our primary goal is to offer comprehensive coverage of the country's foreign affairs and diplomacy, bringing news and stories that elevate Nepal's global diplomatic presence. The magazine highlights the key developments of national and international diplomatic communities, while offering in-depth coverage of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy across different dimensions. The Diplomat Nepal, a proud member of The Ambassadors Club, is here to foster Nepal's diplomatic presence in the world. We are also available online at www.diplomatnepal.com.



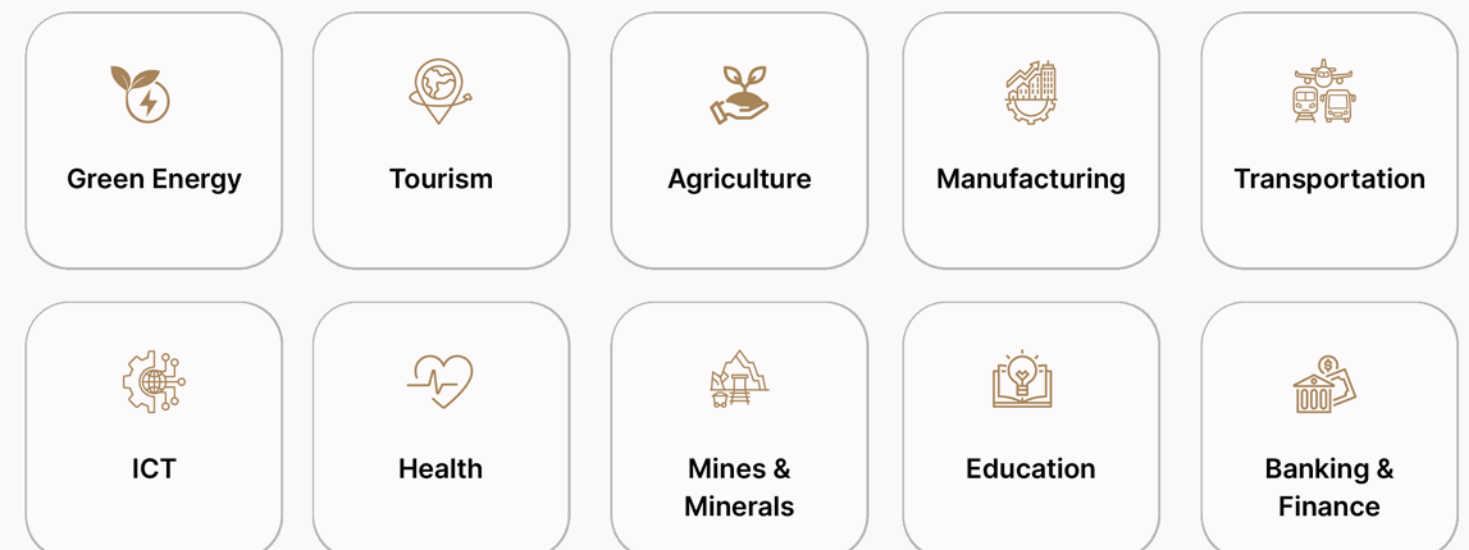
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highlights



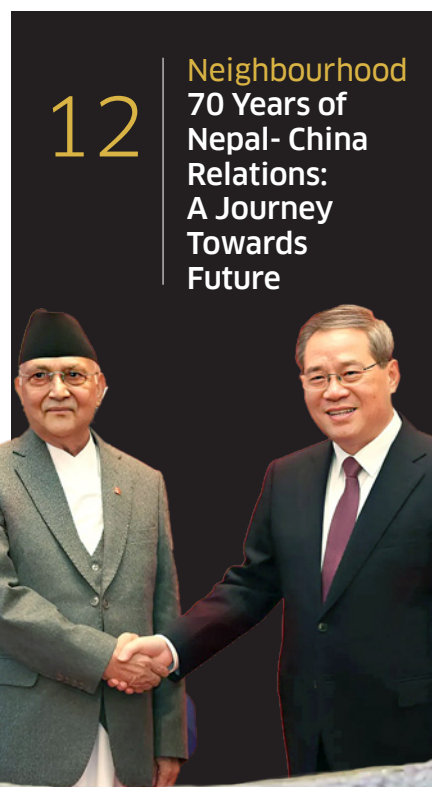
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Nepal's Journey to Economic Prosperity

From Himalayan Trade Routes to Global Investment Hubs



The report stated that economic diplomacy had been included as a critical aspect of overall foreign relations, **urging the government to prioritize and place economic diplomacy at the centre of foreign policy.**



A truck from Nepal passes through the Gyirong Port on the China-Nepal border. Photo: Xinhua

JAGDISHOR PANDAY

In today's volatile world filled with uncertainties, conducting economic diplomacy and securing advantages from it remains a challenge for nations around the world – especially countries like ours in the Global South. Increasing emphasis on trade, tariffs, and mineral diplomacies have only added to these complexities.

This leads to an interesting question: How can Nepal overcome these challenges and utilize economic diplomacy to make way for economic prosperity?

Nepal officially ventured into the arena of economic diplomacy in 1996, marking a journey that now spans nearly three decades. Apart from labor remittances, Nepal has yet to fully capitalize on larger opportunities and achieve broader goals of economic diplomacy.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, Nepal (the then Kathmandu valley) was a crucial transit hub between India and Lhasa (Tibet). Indian traders would pass through Nepal on their way to Lhasa, which facilitated commerce between Nepal and Tibet, thus strengthening their ties through these early trade interactions, setting in motion the essence of 'economic diplomacy' - though the term was not used back then. However, Nepal has yet to fully realise the significant

goals of economic diplomacy other than labour remittances.

Nepal, in the modern era, began taking steps toward economic diplomacy in 1996. That year, the Policy, Planning and Economic Analysis Division was established within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to address various calls of economic diplomacy in modern times.

A 15-member task force was formed under the coordination of National Assembly member and former Foreign Secretary Uddhav Dev Bhatta. That task force submitted a report on February 7, 1996, recommending the creation of an Economic Relations and Coordination Division (ERCD) under the leadership of a special or additional foreign secretary.

The report stated that economic diplomacy had been included as a critical aspect of overall foreign relations, urging the government to prioritize and place economic diplomacy at the centre of foreign policy.

It was only in recent times that the Government of Nepal added the Economic Diplomacy Division to the Foreign Ministry. In the fiscal year 2009, the government began allocating a modest budget to facilitate MOFA and its missions to accelerate economic diplomacy practices. Nepal's 31 embassies, three permanent UN missions (New York, Geneva, and Vienna), and nine consulates operate under financial and human



▲ A high-level delegation led by Minister for Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation, Badri Pandey, and Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak visited the Everest Base Camp to conduct an on-site inspection of the current mountaineering season. Photo: Nepal Tourism Board

resource constraints. Only around Rs. 16 million is allocated annually by the MoFA, which is not sufficient to invest in projects that could pave the way for foreign investment. Despite these limitations, the missions continue efforts to promote Nepal's economic interests via foreign investment, tourism, export trade promotion, development aid mobilization, and foreign employment management programs.

Former Finance Minister Yubaraj Khatiwada has remarked that economic diplomacy cannot be adequately handled by diplomatic missions alone. Khatiwada, during a recent public event, noted that a holistic approach should be adopted to deal with economic diplomacy, including trade, investment,

climate diplomacy, fintech, and labor migration. He also underscored the urgency for Nepal to exit the financial grey list to attract foreign investment.

In the year 2017, the MoFA introduced a 'Country Strategy for Economic Diplomacy' outlining Nepal's economic diplomacy approach toward 36 countries across the globe, including its two neighbours, India and China. The strategy serves as a guideline for newly appointed ambassadors, encouraging them to prioritize economic diplomacy during their tenure. To strengthen ties with China and to promote socio-economic cooperation, Nepal had established a Consulate General in Lhasa, in 1956. Prior to that, a 'lawyer's office' was operational in Lhasa from 1856, the main

objective of which was to facilitate trade between Nepal and Tibet. Subsequently, Nepal expanded its consular presence in China, with offices now operating in Chengdu, Hong Kong, and Guangzhou. Other consulates are located in Kolkata, Texas, California, New York, and Jeddah—the latter focusing primarily on supporting Nepali labour migrants.

Former Ambassador Mohan Prasad Lohani, member of the 1996 task force led by Bhatta, has stressed the need to activate diplomatic missions to promote economic diplomacy. Nepal currently maintains diplomatic ties with around 183 countries in the world, presenting significant opportunities to activate economic diplomacy with the right resources and policies in place.

However, it is essential for missions – that face ongoing challenges due to budget and staffing constraints – to collaborate with the Nepali business community and diaspora to achieve economic goals.

A recent report from the High-Level Economic Reforms Commission, led by former Finance Secretary Rameshwar Khanal, identified foreign investment as a key area for economic growth. In fact, foreign aid accounted for about 14.5% of Nepal's total estimated budget of \$14.1 billion for fiscal year 2024/25, underscoring the role of economic diplomacy.

In January, Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba reaffirmed Nepal's commitment to economic diplomacy as an integral part of foreign policy while briefing chiefs of Nepal's diplomatic missions abroad. The foreign minister underscored the importance of fostering foreign investment and promoting Nepal's economic potential globally, adding that Nepali missions need to focus on the promotion of economic diplomacy, exploring areas that drive investment and growth, and the protection of Nepali migrant workers.

Nepal's Foreign Policy-2077 document also outlines the importance of economic diplomacy. It defines economic diplomacy as the use of economic tools to pursue foreign policy goals, including trade negotiations, foreign aid coordination, labor mobility, and investment promotion. The policy notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has added new challenges to these efforts.

At present, Nepal aims to promote economic diplomacy at the bilateral, multilateral, and regional fronts. Economist Biswash Gauchan, executive

director of the Institute for Integrated Development Studies, argued that Nepal needs to broaden its economic diplomacy beyond its immediate neighbors, and move beyond the over-reliance on tourism and hydropower. According to Gauchan, Nepal should shift its focus toward a knowledge-based economy and prioritise the service sector for long-term development. "Our resource allocation has been inefficient for years. It's time for a major policy departure," he said.

While Nepal's two neighbours—India and China—rank among the world's largest economies, Nepal has yet to fully capitalize on her growth, capitalising the neighbours' prosperity.

Bhojraj Poudel, head of the Institute for Government and Public Affairs, recommended adopting a soft-power approach suited to small nations. He proposed five strategies to strengthen economic diplomacy in the 21st century.

Foremost, Paudel suggests investing in human capital to enhance the capability of the state actors as well as the workforce and making them more competitive so that FDI inflow increases, as investment goes after talent.

Secondly, Nepal should focus on cementing relations with key countries and leveraging neighbours' large markets to enhance trade and investment opportunities.

According to Paudel, leading regional organisations such as BIM-STEAC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) can help Nepal leverage collective bargaining power and promote regional economic integration.

Next, he states Nepal can establish itself as a talent supplier by lobbying to have more leadership roles for Nepali citizens in multilateral institutions.

And finally, investing in improving infrastructure, such as transportation and communication networks can facilitate trade and attract foreign investment, and emphasise sustainable practices in economic policies that can attract environmentally conscious investors and enhance Nepal's global image as a land of nature and organic lifestyle.

As Nepal strives for Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali, expanding and refining its economic diplomacy will be essential to achieving long-term development goals. ■

“ Nepal should focus on cementing relations with key countries and leveraging neighbours' large markets to enhance trade and investment opportunities.”

Asian Paradise Flycatcher in the Skies of Nepal



BISHNU PANDEY

The writer is a dedicated student of Environmental Science and a researcher.

Every year, as spring turns into summer, something quiet and magical happens in Nepal's forests. The ribbon-tailed beauty appears in two versions as it passes through the trees: either displaying white folds or revealing warm chestnut-brown feathers. You might think you saw something wrong at first, as its appearance is so fleeting — but with patience, its true presence is revealed. The silken figure soars through the open air once again.

Asian Paradise Flycatcher — that's what it is.

For bird lovers, this bird offers a special experience. During this time, nature puts on a small demonstration of its beauty. The flycatcher captivates with its graceful flight and visually striking tail. Nepal's green spaces regain life, color, and a sense of mystery when this special visitor arrives.

A Traveler with Purpose

The Asian Paradise Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) is an exceptional species of avian life. It spends its winters in tropical regions such as southern India, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia, then migrates north to breed across Nepal, northern India, and southern Kazakhstan, beginning in March or April each year. This timing overlaps with Nepal's tourist season, which runs from April through August and into early September.

The area where these birds can be found spans elevations from sea level up to 1,500 meters, with sightings most common around 1,000 meters. The bird thrives in dense forests with dark canopy coverage — habitats that include deciduous and evergreen species, bamboo stands, and shrublands. It prefers Nepal's mid-hill forests, where vegetation is thick and human

interference is minimal. These birds are often spotted in wooded mid-elevation regions such as Godavari, Phulchowki, and Shivapuri Nagarjun, along with other areas within the Kathmandu Valley. Chitwan and Bardia also attract flycatchers, primarily during their annual migration.

A Bird You Can't Miss

A glimpse of this bird explains why so many people are enchanted by it. The male flycatchers are especially striking. They appear in two distinct color variants — either white with a black head and long tail or chestnut-brown with a black head and long tail. Though their body mea-

sures only about 20 centimeters, the trailing streamers can extend the bird's full length up to 50 centimeters.

The female is smaller, less colorful in brown tones, and lacks the long tail, yet she shares the same elegant movement patterns. When perched, these birds maintain a straight posture. But as they launch into the air, they transform into silken ribbons, performing smooth and flowing aerial movements. Their body design allows them to hunt insects mid-air with sharp maneuvering. With quick, darting turns and sudden changes in direction, they catch prey in flight. Often, the bird's distinctive "zweet" call reaches your ears before your eyes can spot it through the treetops.

A Short Stay with a Big Purpose

Flycatchers stay in Nepal only during specific seasons, arriving with two main goals: mating and child-rearing. The breeding season stretches from March to August, with peak nesting activity in May and June. Males perform courtship displays with their long tails, showcasing acrobatic flight and dance-like fluttering. Birdwatchers in Nepal have observed males engaging in multi-partner mating and building multiple nests — suggesting that these birds do not strictly follow monogamy.

After pairing, both birds work together to build a cup-shaped nest made of twigs, spiderwebs, roots, and



environmental changes. They need peaceful woodlands and thriving insect populations to survive. In disturbed areas, nesting becomes challenging, and human activity may cause adult birds to abandon their eggs. While they're still relatively common, they need our protection — because stability today

doesn't guarantee safety tomorrow.

Thanks to national park and community forest protections, Nepal's habitats have so far remained relatively preserved. But continued urban expansion threatens the forest edges and may one day prevent these birds from returning.

Flying freely through tropical forests in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, this bird proves that ecosystems don't follow political borders.

A Bird Beyond Borders

The Asian Paradise Flycatcher's migration is more than a seasonal journey—it's a natural thread that weaves together nations across Asia. Flying freely through tropical forests in India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, this bird proves that ecosystems don't follow political borders. Its migration underscores the importance of regional cooperation in conservation efforts.

Countries across South and Southeast Asia must work together to protect shared forests and enforce hunting regulations to ensure the survival of these birds. Nature works best when human-imposed borders don't interfere with the flycatcher's path through an increasingly divided world.

The Asian Paradise Flycatcher reminds us that wild beauty still thrives. Every year, it travels over 1,000 kilometers, guided only by instinct, to return to the same forested landscapes. So, next time you find yourself under a leafy canopy, stop. Listen. Look up.

Above you, nature might unveil its wonder in the form of a ribbon-tailed ghost soaring through the trees. In that moment, you'll understand why wildlife sanctuaries—and the peace they offer—are worth protecting. ■

bark, usually tucked securely in a branching fork above the ground. Some flycatchers even build their nests near aggressive birds like drongos to benefit from additional protection against predators.

The female lays 2 to 4 pink eggs with reddish-brown spots. Both parents take turns incubating the eggs over the next two weeks. After hatching, the chicks remain in the nest for 10 to 18 days, during which both parents feed and guard them. Even after fledging, the young continue to receive care from their parents until they become more independent.

Why We Need to Pay Attention

At present, the Asian Paradise Flycatcher holds a "Least Concern" status on the IUCN Red List, thanks to its stable population. However, this doesn't mean it's free from danger. Real threats include deforestation, hunting, human noise pollution, and habitat encroachment.

These birds are highly sensitive to

Nepal and China share a relationship that spans centuries, rooted in geography, culture, and mutual respect. However, the modern diplomatic ties between these two nations were formalized on August 1, 1955. This marked a significant chapter in bilateral relations that have now remained in an excellent state for the last 70 years. As of April 7, 2025, this milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of Nepal-China relations over the past seven decades and to envision their trajectory into the future. Defined by mutual respect, deepening economic cooperation, and tremendous goodwill, this partnership

70 Years of Nepal- China Relations: A Journey Towards Future



H.E. DR. KRISHNA PRASAD OLI

The Writer is Nepal's Ambassador to China.

has endured historical shifts and geopolitical complexities, and has been navigated prudently to set ambitious developmental goals for a dynamic and vibrant future.

The establishment of diplomatic relations in 1955, guided by the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (Panchsheel), marked a new era of political and economic engagement, especially after Nepal's own journey to democracy in 1951, and China's foundation as the People's Republic in 1949.

Historical foundation

Modern Nepal-China relations stand on the firm base of cultural relations. The historical foundation

of Nepal-China relations predates their formal diplomatic establishment, with cultural exchanges dating back to the 5th century AD. Figures like Nepali monk Buddha Bhadra, who contributed to Buddhist scholarship in China, and Princess Bhrikuti, who married Tibetan King Songtsan Gampo in the 7th century and influenced the spread of Buddhism in China, exemplify early ties. The 13th-century journey of Nepali artisan Araniko, who constructed the White Stupa in Beijing, further cemented cultural bonds. These exchanges, facilitated by the Himalayan proximity, laid the groundwork for goodwill that modern diplomacy built upon.

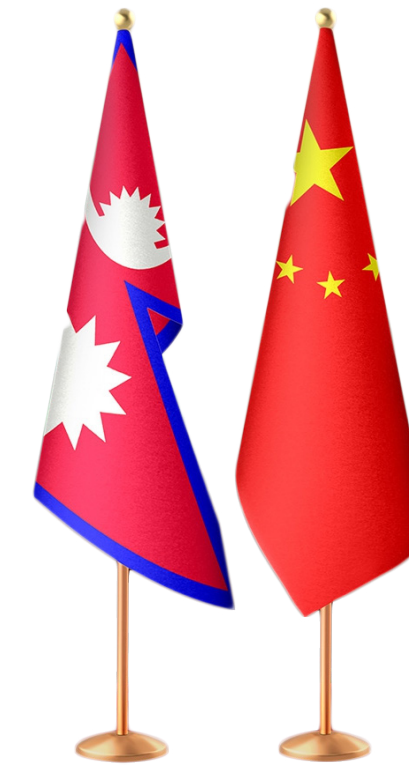
Milestones in the relationships

The first major milestone in this relationship came with the resolution of border issues. In 1960, Nepal became the first neighboring country to sign a boundary agreement with China, followed by the ratification of the Sino-Nepal Boundary Treaty in 1961. This agreement delineated a 1,414-kilometer-long border, fostering stability and trust in political relations. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Nepal pursued a policy of equidistance between China and its southern neighbor, India.

High-level visits, such as those by King Mahendra and Prime Minister B.P. Koirala to China in the past, reinforced a balanced and interest-based foreign policy. Infrastructure projects like the Kathmandu-Kodari Highway, completed with Chinese assistance in 1967, symbolized the beginning of practical cooperation.

Economic relations

Economically, the relationship has grown significantly over the decades. China's support initially focused on infrastructure — roads, bridges, and hospitals — aimed at enhancing Nepal's connectivity with China's Tibet Autonomous region and beyond. By the late 20th century, trade became a cornerstone, with China emerging as Nepal's second-largest trading partner by the 2010s. Bilateral trade reached NPR 183.09 billion in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, though heavily tilted toward imports from China. The 2016 transit agreement, signed during Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's visit to China, allowed Nepal access to Chinese ports, reducing its dependence on India — a move spurred by the 2015 highly controversial disruption at the border. Tourism also flourished, with over 150,000 Chinese visitors to Nepal in 2018,



Geopolitically, Nepal's position between India and China has shaped its conduct of foreign relations. While India remains Nepal's largest source of foreign direct investment, China's share has grown, particularly since 2015.

bolstered by visa fee waivers and direct air links to cities like Lhasa and Chengdu.

Evolving relations

The 21st century introduced new dimensions to this practical partnership, notably through China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which Nepal joined in 2017. Projects like the proposed Kerung-Kathmandu railway promise to transform trans-Himalayan connectivity, though progress has been slow due to confusion about funding and Nepal's preference for grants over loans. President Xi Jinping's 2019 visit to Nepal and visits by Nepal's President Vidya Devi

Bhandari to China in the same year elevated ties to a "Strategic Partnership of Cooperation," emphasizing development and prosperity. Recent agreements, such as those signed during Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's 2024 visit to China, including Nepal's inclusion in the Friends of the Global Development Initiative, underscore a deepening economic and strategic alignment.

Geopolitically, Nepal's position between India and China has shaped its conduct of foreign relations. While India remains Nepal's largest source of foreign direct investment, China's share has grown, particularly since 2015. China's support for infrastructure and Nepal's backing of the one-China principle regarding Taiwan and Tibet reflect mutual accommodation.

Future

Looking beyond 70 years, Nepal-China relations appear poised for further expansion. The trans-Himalayan multi-dimensional connectivity network, encompassing roads, railways, and digital infrastructure, and people-to-people contacts, could reshape regional trade dynamics, benefiting both nations. Nepal's aspirations for tourism development, hydropower, clean energy systems, healthcare, and agricultural development align with China's technological and financial capabilities, promising mutual gains. Cultural exchanges, bolstered by institutions like the Confucius Institutes and sister-city relationships, will likely strengthen people-to-people ties. Yet, challenges remain: Nepal must navigate its trade deficit with China, ensure sustainable financial management under BRI projects and maintain its non-aligned stance, and strive to become a land-linked nation between the Sino-Indian geography.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the 70-year diplomatic journey of Nepal and China reflects a blend of historical affinity, pragmatic cooperation, and strategic foresight. As both nations stand at the cusp of a new era in 2025, their relationship holds the potential to transcend geographical barriers, fostering a partnership that balances development with sovereignty. By leveraging past successes and addressing present hurdles, Nepal and China can chart a future of shared prosperity, proving that even the mighty Himalayas cannot hinder enduring friendship and ambition. ■



International Relations
& Global Diplomacy Dialogue



AN EVENING OF DIPLOMACY AND FRIENDSHIP

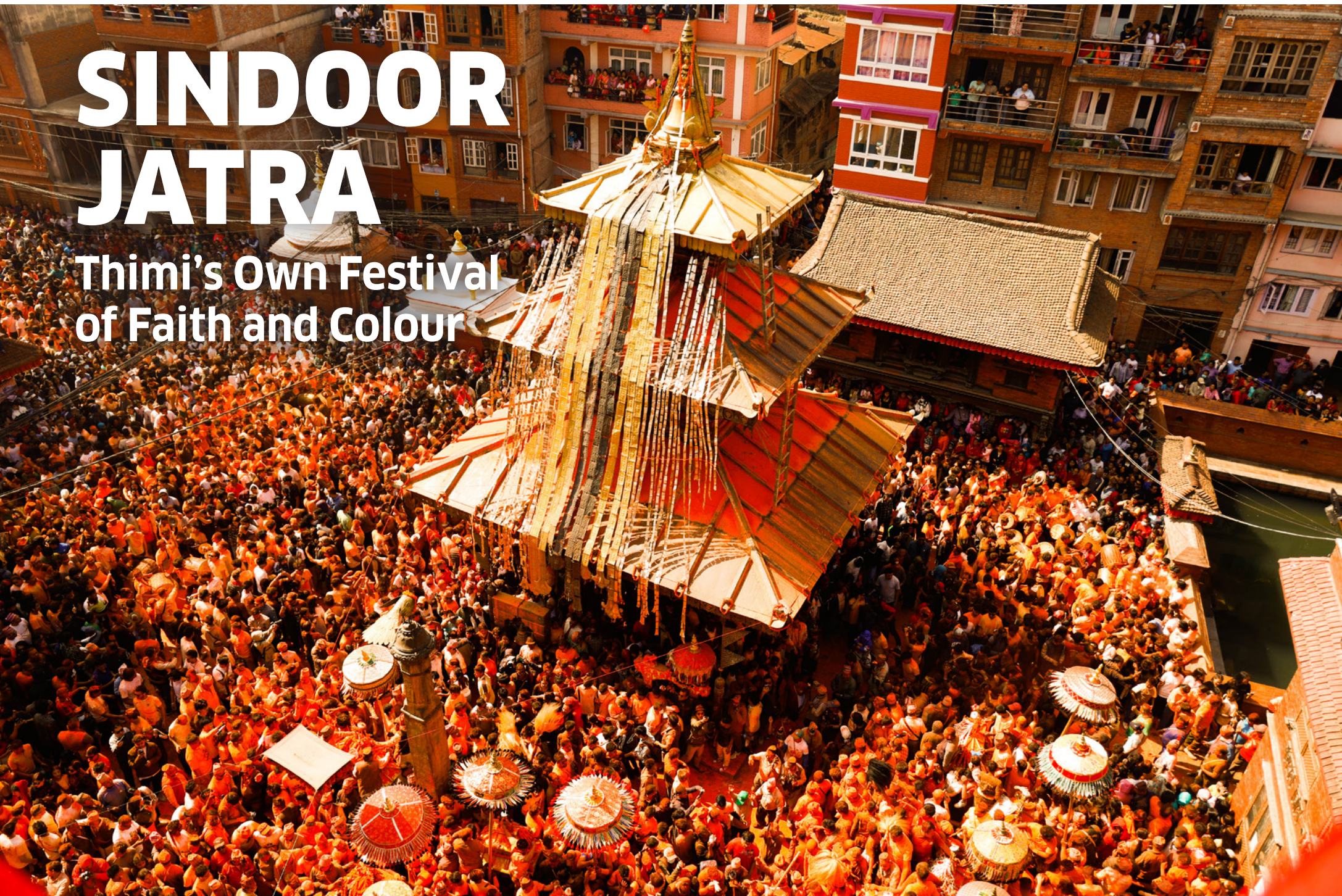
An Evening of Diplomacy and Friendship

Joint Secretaries of Foreign Ministry of Nepal (from right), Puspa Raj Bhattarai, Amb. Gehendra Rajbhandari, Durapada Sapkota, Roshan Khanal, Amb. Tapas Adhikari, Rojina Tamrakar, Amb. Ganesh Dhakal, Kumar Kharel, Amb. Ramkaji Khadka, Dipak B.K., along with Vice-President-International Relations Amb. Kaji Prasad Pokhrel, publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal and President of Ambassadors' Club and IRGDD Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal gracing the "An evening of diplomacy and friendship" event organized by the Ambassadors' Club and International Relations and Global Diplomacy Dialogue (IRGDD) at the office premises in Bishalnagar.



SINDOOR JATRA

Thimi's Own Festival of Faith and Colour



PHOTO/TEXT: BEEJU MAHARJAN

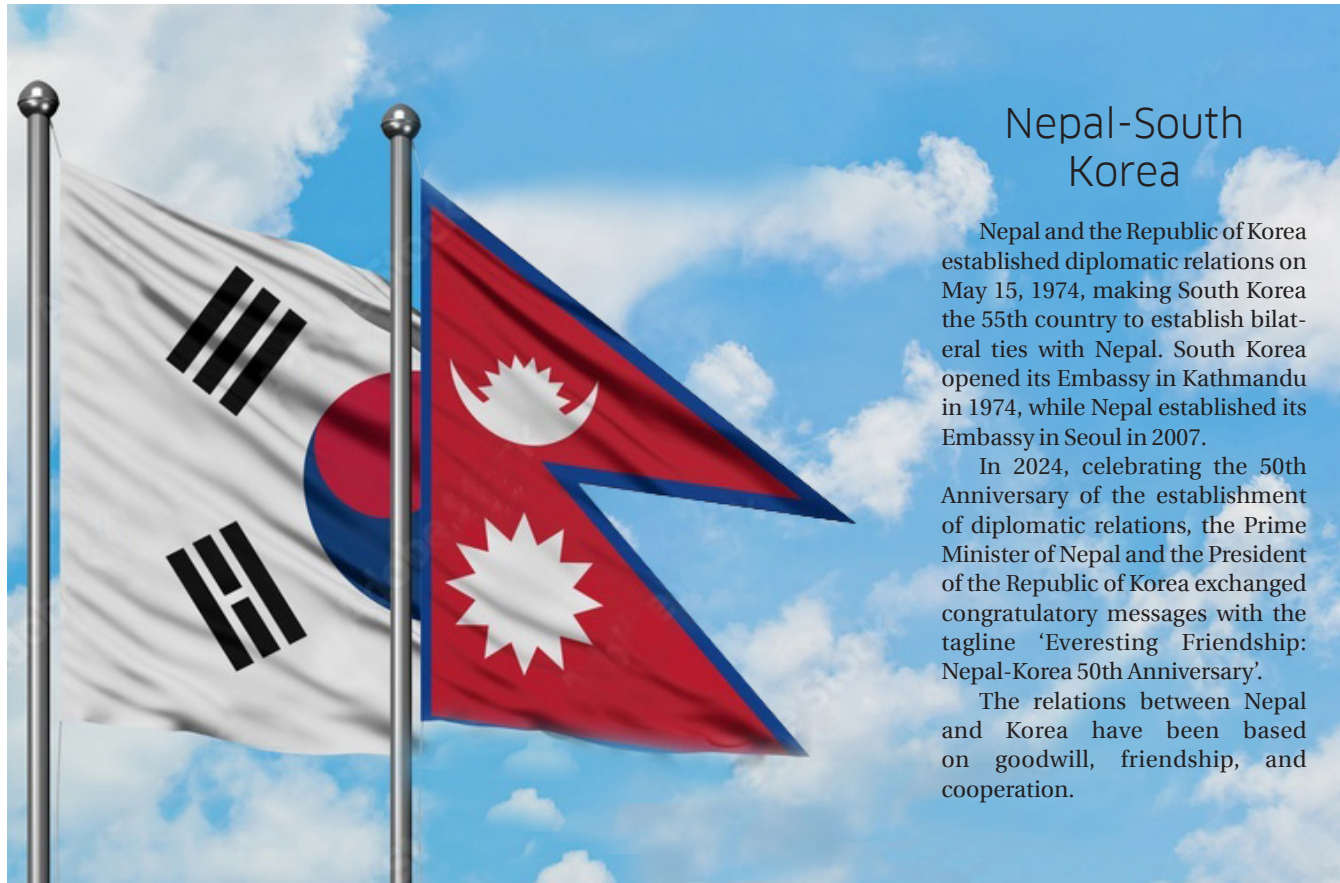
Sindoore Jatra (also spelled Shindur Jatra) is a local Newar festival celebrated primarily in Thimi, a historic town in Bhaktapur District. Held on New Year's Day of the Nepali calendar (Baisakh 1st), the jatra is famous for the tossing of bright red-orange sindoor (vermilion powder), which gives the event its name.

The word Sindoor refers to the red/orange vermilion powder traditionally used in Hindu rituals, while Jatra means procession or festival. The celebrations are centred in Madhyapur Thimi, especially in the neighbourhoods of Balkumari, Nagadesh, Lokanthali, and Chapacho. Over 30 palanquins (Khat) bearing local deities from different toles (neighbourhoods) are carried to Layeku Thimi, the main square. These palanquins are

hoisted by groups of young men, who often move around, running and dancing. As they make their way towards the square, the jatra participants throw sindoor powder into the air and at one another. By the end, participants are entirely coated in the vivid orange hue—a symbol of power, purity, and joy. The atmosphere is intense, loud, and chaotic in a festive way, with drums and music amplifying the energy.

Sindoore Jatra is more than a street celebration— it is deeply embedded in Newar traditions, mythology, the lunar calendar, and centuries-old rituals. The festival has been observed for generations, possibly dating back to the Licchavi or Malla periods (roughly the 4th to 18th century). It is an integrated part of the larger Biska: Jatra, which, according to local legend, commemorates the slaying of a demon and the restoration of peace in the region. ■





Nepal-South Korea

Nepal and the Republic of Korea established diplomatic relations on May 15, 1974, making South Korea the 55th country to establish bilateral ties with Nepal. South Korea opened its Embassy in Kathmandu in 1974, while Nepal established its Embassy in Seoul in 2007.

In 2024, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the Prime Minister of Nepal and the President of the Republic of Korea exchanged congratulatory messages with the tagline 'Everesting Friendship: Nepal-Korea 50th Anniversary'.

The relations between Nepal and Korea have been based on goodwill, friendship, and cooperation.

Nepal-New Zealand



Nepal and New Zealand established diplomatic relations on May 1, 1961, making New Zealand the 29th country to establish bilateral ties with Nepal. The historic ascent of Mt Everest in 1953 by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay was a key moment connecting Nepal and New Zealand. Since then, they have collaborated in international forums, especially in areas like sustainable development and peacekeeping. The New Zealand Government makes annual contributions to the Himalayan Trust in Nepal.

Nepal and New Zealand continue their partnership through the desire to understand each other's culture.

Nepal-North Korea



Nepal and North Korea established diplomatic relations on May 15, 1974. The residential Embassy of North Korea was established in Kathmandu in the same year, but was later closed in November, 2023. The Nepali Embassy in Beijing is concurrently accredited to North Korea. The relations between Nepal and North Korea have remained cordial and friendly.

Nepal-Albania



Nepal and Albania established diplomatic relations on May 23, 1972. The Ambassador of Albania resident in Delhi is concurrently accredited to Nepal, while the permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN and other International Organizations, Vienna, is concurrently accredited to Albania. The 52nd country to establish bilateral ties with Nepal, Albania maintains contact and cooperation with Nepal through the United Nations, international organizations, international conferences, and meetings. The relations between Nepal and Albania have been based on goodwill, friendship, and mutual understanding.

Nepal-Haiti



Nepal and Haiti established diplomatic relations on May 23, 2007. Haiti is the 127th country to form bilateral ties with Nepal. Multilaterally, the two countries have been working closely at the United Nations and other intergovernmental processes, including the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77. Nepali peacekeepers have served under the aegis of the UN during the conflict era of Haiti. Nepal and Haiti have shared cordial and friendly relations.



Nepal-Colombia

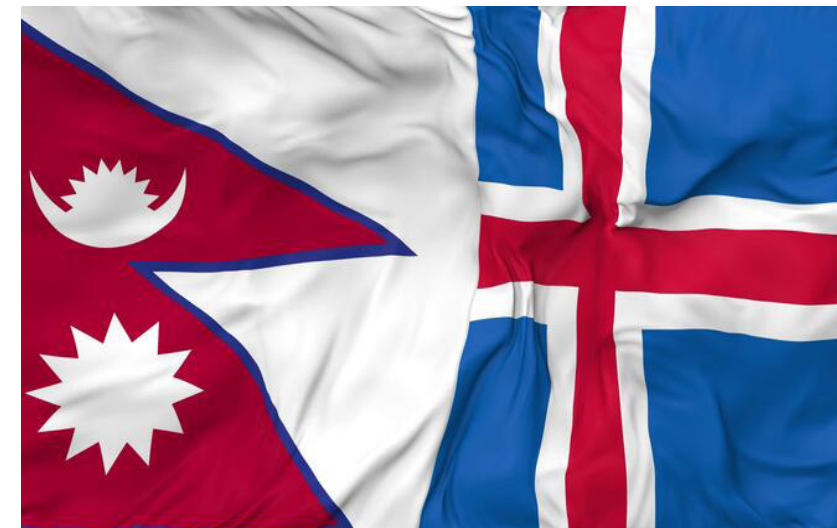
Nepal and the Republic of Colombia established diplomatic relations on May 7, 1987. Colombia is the 95th country to form bilateral ties with Nepal. The Nepali Ambassador to Brazil resident in Brasilia is accredited to Colombia and Colombian Ambassador to India resident in New Delhi is accredited to Nepal. Multilaterally, Nepal and Colombia share common views on many international relations. Both countries are part of G-77. In response to Nepal's call for international support in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquakes, Colombia extended support through the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. The relations between the countries have been based on confidence and goodwill.

Nepal-Iceland

Nepal and Iceland established diplomatic relations on May 25, 1981. Iceland is the 79th country to form bilateral ties with Nepal. The Embassy of Nepal in Copenhagen, Denmark, is concurrently accredited to Iceland, whereas the Embassy of Iceland in New Delhi, India, is concurrently accredited to Nepal. The President of Nepal received the Letters of Credence from the non-resident Ambassador of Iceland to Nepal Guðmundur Árni

Stefánsson, on February 14, 2020, bringing the countries closer.

Iceland extended humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquakes. Iceland donated 10 million Icelandic Kronas through the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Nepal and Iceland have worked together on issues of mutual interest, including climate change and sustainable development, in international forums.



Nepal-Bolivia



Nepal and Bolivia established their diplomatic relations on May 21, 1987, making Bolivia the 96th country to form bilateral ties with Nepal. The Nepali Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations is concurrently accredited to the Republic of Bolivia, while the Ambassador of Bolivia to the Russian Federation resident in Moscow is accredited to Nepal.

Being land-locked mountainous countries, Bolivia and Nepal share similar views on many global concerns. They have worked together on these common agendas at multilateral forums.

Nepal-Saint Kitts



Nepal and Saint Kitts and Nevis established formal diplomatic relations on May 30, 2018. Saint Kitts and Nevis is the 159th country to establish bilateral ties with Nepal. Ambassador Durga

Prasad Bhattarai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, and Ambassador Sam Terence Condor, Permanent Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations

signed the agreement in New York. Multilaterally, contacts between the two countries primarily take place in international forums such as the United Nations. Both Nepal and Saint Kitts and Nevis are members of the Group of 77 and the NAM, and share the sentiments of smaller nations. Nepal and Saint Kitts and Nevis relations have been marked by friendship, mutual respect, and understanding.

Nepal-Monaco



Nepal and Monaco established diplomatic relations on May 15, 2012, making Monaco the 136th country to form bilateral ties with Nepal. The Embassy of Nepal in France is concurrently accredited to Monaco. The Government of Nepal has also appointed an Honorary Consul in Monaco.

As small countries, both have similar aspirations and sentiments that bind them closer in international forums. Monaco's policy of neutrality between two big neighbours and Nepal's quest for peace and freedom have some elements of commonality. Nepal and Monaco have enjoyed friendly bilateral relations.

Nepal-Guinea



Nepal and Guinea established formal diplomatic relations on May 12, 2016. The Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations (UN), Durga Prasad Bhattarai, and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guinea to the United Nations (UN), Mamadi Touré signed the agreement at the Permanent Mission of Nepal in New York. The dignitaries also informed Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of UN, about the establishment of relations. Multilaterally, Nepal and the Republic of Guinea are part of G-77, and the Least Developed Countries. The relations between the countries have been friendly and cordial.

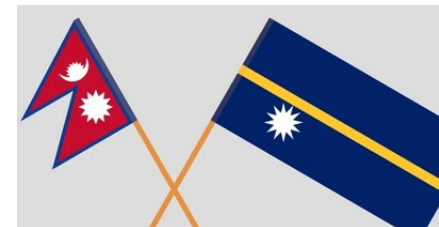
Nepal-Eswatini



Nepal and the Kingdom of Eswatini established diplomatic relations on May 9, 2019, making Eswatini the 166th country to establish bilateral ties with Nepal.

The Permanent Representatives of Nepal and Eswatini to the United Nations, Ambassadors Amrit Bahadur Rai and Melusi Martin Masukurespectively, signed a Joint Communiqué to this effect in New York, together with a joint letter informing the United Nations Secretary-General about the development. Multilaterally, they share views through organisations like the United Nations, Landlocked Developing Countries, the Non-Aligned Movement and the G77 and China.

Nepal-Nauru



Nepal and Nauru established diplomatic relations on May 5, 2023. Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, Amrit Bahadur Rai, and his Nauruan counterpart Margo Reminisse Deiye signed a Joint Communiqué to this effect in a brief ceremony held at the Permanent Mission of Nepal in New York. The two ambassadors also signed a joint letter informing the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, about the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Since then, both countries have been enjoying healthy and cordial relations.



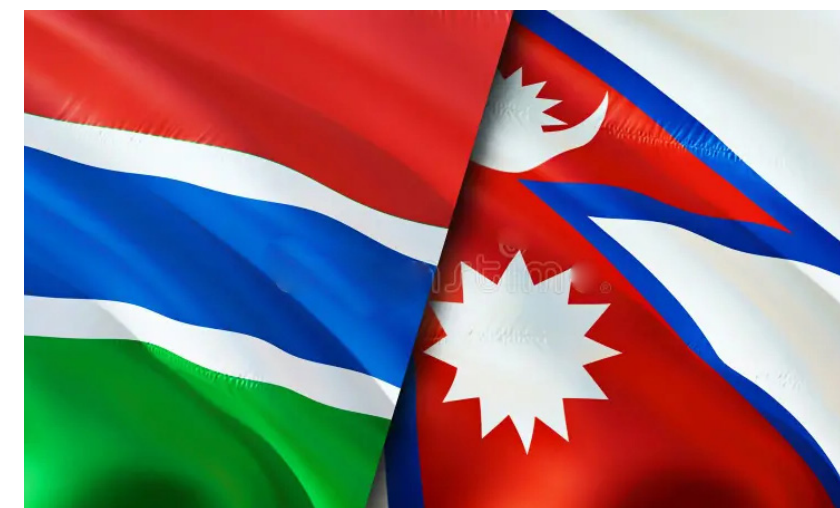
Nepal-Vietnam

Nepal and Vietnam started bilateral relations on May 15, 1995. After the diplomatic relations between the two countries, they have enjoyed cordial relations. Both countries have shared a forum in multilateral organizations like the United Nations. Moreover, Vietnam is a Southeast Asian country, and Nepal is a South Asian country. Although both countries are far apart and don't share a fiscal border, they are close in relation.

Nepal-Gambia

Nepal and the Gambia established diplomatic relations on May 24, 2021. The Gambia is the 170th country with which Nepal has established diplomatic relations. Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations Amrit Bahadur Rai and Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations Lang Yabou signed a Joint Communiqué to this effect in a brief ceremony held at the Permanent Mission Nepal to the United Nations,

New York. The two Ambassadors also signed a joint letter informing Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres about the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. On the occasion, the two Ambassadors exchanged views to strengthen bilateral cooperation at national and multilateral settings, particularly at UN forums for the mutual benefit of the two countries. Since then, both countries have enjoyed healthy relations.



Nepal-Spain

Nepal and Spain entered into diplomatic relations on May 13, 1968. Nepal opened its embassy in Madrid in January 2018 and came into operation from May 2018. Bharat Bahadur Rayamajhi served as the first ambassador of Nepal to Spain. The Residential Embassy of Spain in Delhi is concurrently accredited to Nepal. Likewise, Spain has its Honorary Consulate in Kathmandu. Both countries have the

similarities of democratic system of governance, exchange of visits at various levels and appreciation of each other's aspirations and sensitivities in international forums, the common position on global issues, in upholding the Principles and Purposes of the United Nations and their commitment towards global peace and harmony, the relations between Nepal and Spain have witnessed further consolidation in the years gone by.

Nepal-Lesotho



Nepal and Lesotho established diplomatic relations on May 18, 2010. The relationship between the two countries is mainly based on a multinational level. They have also worked in international bodies like the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Moreover, Nepal has welcomed Lesotho's participation in the UPR. Lesotho is a landlocked kingdom encircled by South Africa.

Source: MoFA



Nepal's Global Humanitarian Diplomacy: A Gesture of Solidarity in the Face of Crisis



TDN CORRESPONDENT

Known for its diverse identities on the international stage, Nepal is home to Mount Everest, the world's highest peak; Pashupatinath Temple, one of the most revered sites of Hindu pilgrimage; and Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. Rich in arts, culture, and heritage, the country offers refreshing indulgence in cultural experiences, scenic views, and historic landmarks for tourists.

In recent years, Nepal has expanded her long-standing image, adding a new dimension to her existing global identity by making relevant contributions during humanitarian crises that has helped solidify her diplomatic ties. This development has helped establish a message that Nepal is not only a recipient of aid during emergencies, such as the 2015 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic, but also a country that steps up to help others in times of need.

Over the past six years, Nepal has extended humanitarian assistance to Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China. The Government of Nepal, through special flights of Nepal Airlines, airlifted aid materials to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

On March 28 this year, the East-Asian nation of Myanmar was struck by a devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake, which claimed at least 3,000 lives, leaving more than 4,500 injured. In a gesture of solidarity and compassion, the Nepal government sent 27 tons of relief materials to the earthquake-struck nation. A team from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by joint secretary Tapas Adhikari, handed over

the humanitarian aid, including food supplies, medicine, clothing, tents, and other essential supplies, collected under the joint effect of the Government of Nepal and the private sector.

According to Nepal's Ambassador to Myanmar, Harish Chandra Ghimire, a team from the Nepal Army also assisted the Government of Myanmar in carrying out rescue operations and providing humanitarian assistance.



Over the past six years, Nepal has extended humanitarian assistance to Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China.

Prior to this, in the year 2022, Nepal had also sent relief materials to flood-affected Pakistan. On September 13, 2022, Nepal government, as a gesture of solidarity, dispatched over 22 tonnes of humanitarian assistance to Pakistan. The then Joint Secretary of MoFA Sewa Lamsal formally handed over the relief material, to Sindh Provincial Social Welfare Minister Sajid Jokhio, in Karachi, Pakistan. The relief materials included food supplies, medicines, clothes, and other essential items.

Likewise, in January of 2022, Nepal sent over 14 tonnes of humanitarian relief assistance to Kabul. After the US-led forces withdrew from



Afghanistan in late 2021 and the Taliban returned to power in Kabul for a second time, the country has been grappling with a severe humanitarian crisis. The Foreign Affairs Ministry briefed that the economic hardship and harsh weather conditions in Afghanistan necessitated humanitarian assistance and support from the international community to the Afghans.

The humanitarian assistance provided to Kabul included medicines, garments, and household supplies. The materials were handed over by Sewa Lamsal, the then joint secretary of the MoFA, to Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, amid a brief program organized at the Kabul Airport.

Private sector apex bodies, organizations, and individuals, including the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Nepal Chamber of Commerce, the Confederation of Nepalese Industries, Honorary Consular Corps-Nepal, Agrawal Sewa Kendra, and Himalaya Airlines, extended their generous hands in support of the Mission. The then Minister for Foreign Affairs Narayan Khadka had noted that humanitarian assistance was provided keeping in mind the commonality of such crises in South Asian nations.

Further back in the past – during the coronavirus outbreak – Nepal had provided 100,000 protective masks to immediate neighbour China. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal announced the donation on February 8, 2020. The then Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Health

and Population Minister Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal handed over the masks to the Chinese Ambassador to Nepal, Hou Yanqi. As per the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 100,000 units of protective masks were donated to the government of China as a gesture of friendship to the Chinese people and the government, and in solidarity with China's fight against the Coronavirus outbreak.

Former Ambassador Rajeshwor Acharya remarked that Nepal's support to other nations during the humanitarian crisis was a gesture of goodwill and solidarity. He further stressed that extension of support during times of need also helps reinvigorate bilateral ties and strengthen friendship between the engaging nations.

The goodwill and support shown during times of distress emphasise Nepal's commitment to stand in solidarity with the nations facing crisis. The relief materials and aid may be relatively small in quantity, but the message that gets across, and its lasting impact in terms of diplomatic relations, is definitely huge. ■

“ In recent years, Nepal has expanded her long-standing image, adding a new dimension to her existing global identity by making relevant contributions during humanitarian crises that has helped solidify her diplomatic ties. ”

Nepal Army Solidarity in International Humanitarian Crisis

In the aftermath of a powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake in Myanmar, the Government of Nepal extended humanitarian support to the nation in crisis – a medical team from the Nepali Army was swiftly deployed to support relief efforts on the ground. The devastating earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28 claimed more than 3,000 lives and left over 4,500 people injured.

On April 2, the Nepal Army dispatched a humanitarian mission to Myanmar, flying aboard aircraft NA-062 (CN235-220M, CASA). The team, led by Lt. Colonel Ram Chandra Shrestha, included doctors, nurses, paramedics, administrative personnel, and six crew members. The delegation was welcomed by Nepal's Ambassador to Myanmar, Harish Chandra Ghimire, and Myanmar's Ambassador to Nepal, U Wai Lwin upon arrival at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport,

“This was one of the most critical moments for us,” said Lt. Colonel Shrestha. “The Government of Nepal made the decision to send us, and we were fully prepared to respond. It was a matter of pride to represent the country and the Army during such a crisis and to offer help to those in need,” he elaborated.

In Myanmar, the Nepali Army team was received by the government officials from Myanmar's relevant ministries. The team immediately set out to do their work after landing in the capital. Over the course of a week, they provided medical treatment to 1348 earthquake victims, including 27 critical surgeries. They held medical camps for seven days and returned home after ten days.

Despite initial language barriers, communication was eased



by the presence of Nepali-origin residents in Myanmar who spoke the Nepali language, enabling the team to navigate the emergency with greater efficiency.

“In Nepal, the Army is always the first responder in times of humanitarian crisis. We carried out similar responsibilities in Myanmar and demonstrated our capabilities during crisis,” Lt. Colonel Shrestha added.

According to Nepal's Embassy in Myanmar, the scale and scope of damages and destruction caused by the earthquake and

its aftershocks have been devastating, resulting in significant loss of lives and properties. In response, the Government of Nepal mobilised the army medical team equipped with essential supplies and medical provisions, to be deployed at hospitals in affected areas for rapid response, medical assistance, and to provide early treatment to the victims.

This mission underscores Nepal Army's growing role beyond domestic duties, highlighting its readiness and commitment to contributing to international humanitarian efforts in times of need. ■





Sagarmatha Sambaad: Nepal's Global Dialogue Platform Takes Off

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged the world to act without delay to take immediate action to keep global warming below 1.5°C

TDN CORRESPONDENT

The Sagarmatha Sambaad, held from May 16 to 18 in Kathmandu, has emerged as a prominent dialogue forum to foster Nepal's soft power on the international stage. With its inaugural theme, "Climate Change, Mountains, and the Future of Humanity" taking off successfully, the forum highlighted the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to safeguard the planet and secure the future of humankind.

The Sambaad was jointly organised by the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Forests and Environment. Among the attendees were 350 high-level dignitaries and participants, including 175 international delegates. The participants, over the course of three days, held discussions and exchanged ideas across 12 thematic sessions.

As a nation situated between the two geopolitical giants- India and China- Nepal seeks to leverage forums like the Sagarmatha Sambaad to amplify its voice in the global arena, asserting its soft power to complement her economic and strategic ambitions.

During the opening session of the Sambaad, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli underscored the significance of dialogue to address the challenges facing the world. He also stressed the vital role of mountain ecosystems and the need to preserve it in sustaining the Earth's environment and humanity. On the occasion, the PM also officially launched the Government's Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0 and handed it over to the COP-29 President Mukhtar Baybayev.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba briefed that the Sambaad is a global platform for discussion and

deliberation on pressing issues facing humanity. She emphasized that those least responsible for climate change often suffer its harshest consequences, and hence, called for urgent and collective global action for a just and sustainable future.

The forum also featured remarks from key dignitaries including Mukhtar Babayev, COP-29 Presidency Representative of the President of Azerbaijan on Climate Issues; Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Government of India; and Xiao Jie, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), China. The speakers highlighted various aspects of the climate crisis and potential collaborative solutions.

In a video message, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres



Sagarmatha Sambaad Flag Waves on 'Sagarmatha'

Kathmandu: Sub Inspector Danta Bahadur Chantyal scaled Sagarmatha – the world's highest peak, popularly known as Mt. Everest – on the morning of May 18, 2025. Sub Inspector Chantyal unveiled Sagarmatha Sambaad's flag that was handed to him by the Prime Minister KP Oli on the summit on the last day of the International Dialogue.

Mr. Chantyal left the base camp of Sagarmatha on May 13, 2025. He was awarded by the Nepal Police for his triumph on the highest mountain peak.

urged the world to act without delay to take immediate action to keep global warming below 1.5°C, stressing that the world's biggest emitters must lead the way.

Erik Solheim of Norway, a green politician, noted that Nepal holds a central role in the global fight against climate change. "This forum was a huge opportunity to better understand the role of the Himalayas in the global ecosystem. We could explore pathways for Nepal's green growth—through hydropower, solar energy, eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, and forest preservation backed by carbon markets," he said. Solheim also highlighted that the Himalayas, often referred to as the "Third Pole", hold the largest volume of glaciers outside the North and South Poles (the Arctic and Antarctic). These glaciers feed major rivers such as the Ganges, Indus,

Mekong, and Yangtze—lifelines for nearly two billion people.

A major highlight of the event was a mountain flight of dignitaries and delegates to the Himalayas, including the Mt. Sagarmatha area, to observe our receding glaciers, expanding glacier lakes, and bare mountains as reminders of the climate crisis, and the need to take immediate action.

In his closing statement, Foreign Secretary Amrit Kumar Rai remarked that Nepal had succeeded in bringing together a diverse spectrum of voices - from the highlands to the islands, from mountain communities to coastal nations, from policymakers to scientists, youth, civil society, and indigenous leaders. "And what we witnessed was extraordinary: a convergence of knowledge, empathy and commitment," he concluded. ■



Sagarmatha Call for Action

The first edition of the Sagarmatha Sambaad was held in Kathmandu from 16 to 18 May 2025, under the overarching theme of “Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity”. This Sagarmatha Call for Action is issued as an outcome document:

RECOGNIZING that climate change is an unprecedented challenge and that the well-being of present and future generations of humankind depends on immediate and urgent response;

REAFFIRMING the commitments to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

RECALLING the United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/158 of 14 December 2022, which declared 2025 as the “International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation” and proclaimed 21 March as the “World Day for Glaciers” to be observed annually;

RECALLING also the United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/172 of 14 December 2022, which proclaimed 2023–2027 as the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions, reaffirming the international community’s commitment to sustainable mountain development as part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

RECOGNIZING the role of mountain glaciers in regulating hydrological cycles and providing essential environmental services to mountain communities and

the billions who live downstream in glacier-fed river basins;

ACKNOWLEDGING the urgency to maintain environmental integrity as mountain glaciers and cryosphere are receding, putting pressure on snow-fed river systems that constitute the life-line to species, ecosystems and genetic resources;

RECOGNIZING that loss of glaciers, snow and ice sheets due to climate change will have severe negative impacts on both natural and human systems, if allowed to continue, ultimately threatening the well-being of humanity;

REALIZING the essential role of mountain ecosystems to safeguard civilizational heritages, species, biodiversity and genetic resources, while also ensuring reliable supplies of

freshwater, clean air and the sustainable livelihoods;

RECOGNIZING that loss of mountain glaciers, besides also contributing to sea-level rise, lead to cascading effects such as landslides, floods, droughts and extreme weather events, adversely impacting mountainous to low-lying countries; and that, while mountain communities contribute negligibly to global greenhouse gases emissions, they continue to bear a disproportionate level of such climate impacts;

RECOGNIZING further the critical role of mountains in ensuring water security and maintaining climate-resilient agriculture and food security, clean energy, nature-based tourism, and of effective governance in driving transformation towards a sustainable mountain economy;



Do hereby:

1. Reaffirm the urgency to hold the increase in the global average temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by accelerating mitigation actions, building adaptive capacity and resilience, addressing loss and damage, and strengthening partnerships to ensure a sustainable future for all.
2. Encourage countries to set ambitious emissions reduction targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) 3.0 to keep 1.5°C alive, aligned with the latest science that calls for urgent and transformative global action.
3. Further encourage countries to develop and implement National Adaptation Plans to respond to country-specific adaptation needs.
4. Call for enhanced provision and mobilization of international financial support, particularly through grants and concessional financing for implementation of climate actions in developing countries, including countries in special situations.
5. Encourage collective efforts to ensure equitable and simplified access for the developing countries, particularly those vulnerable to climate change, to the international climate finance from bilateral, multilateral and alternative sources, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanisms and the Funds under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.
6. Support the call for the establishment of a dedicated fund for the development of mountain countries to mobilize targeted financial resources for climate action and sustainable development in mountainous regions.
7. Prioritize the recognition, respect, and rewarding of mountain ecosystem services through leveraging existing and innovative financing sources.
8. Emphasize the role of private sector finance and carbon markets in scaling up sustainable climate actions.
9. Strengthen global and regional partnerships to facilitate access to climate-friendly technologies and enhance capacity building.
10. Reaffirm the need for collaboration among the policymakers, scientific institutions, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to drive innovation and mutual learning to formulate appropriate policies and programmes that address the inherent vulnerabilities to climate change.
11. Acknowledge the importance of promoting green, resilient and inclusive development, ranging from small to large-scale infrastructures, in both rural and urban communities, as appropriate.
12. Stress the significance of clean energy, energy efficiency and just energy transitions, recognizing the importance of powering the future through clean energy as well as green, circular and bio-economies.
13. Promote science, technology and innovation-based solutions for addressing climate-induced disasters, and conserving glaciers, water resources, forests and agricultural system.
14. Encourage dialogues on mountains and climate change agenda with special focus on triple planetary crisis and short-lived climate forcers, given their profound impact on regional climate, monsoons, cryosphere and public health.
15. Recognize the urgency of strengthening data systems, ensuring data sharing and interoperability, and developing climate attribution and early warning mechanisms tailored to the needs of developing countries.
16. Underscore the need to establish a robust linkage between mountain and ocean-specific risk assessment, monitoring, and early warning systems using advanced science, technology, and innovation.
17. Promote climate justice across all climate actions by ensuring fair, inclusive and evidence-based solutions to the developing countries, that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.
18. Foster inclusive climate actions through active participation of children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and maintain gender balance while upholding intra- and inter-generational equity.
19. Call to initiate the creation of a multi-stakeholder international platform on mountain and climate change for dialogue, innovation and empowerment, with the aim of amplifying the voices of mountain communities in global climate processes.
20. Recognize the role of local and indigenous communities in climate policies, programmes and actions, including adaptation and conservation initiatives.
21. Emphasize the need to develop mechanisms for payment of environmental services, enabling them to adopt innovative climate financing.
22. Emphasize the need for developing knowledge centres, sharing best practices, and enhancing the roles of local communities in climate policies, programmes and actions.
23. Resolve to forging a common voice for urgent climate action that resonates from the Sagarmatha to the seas, and from highlands to islands.
24. Acknowledge the relevance of the theme of the first edition of the Sagarmatha Sambaad in highlighting the adverse impacts of climate change from mountains to lowlands; forging common understanding and actions to uplift communities in vulnerable situations; and reaffirming commitment to continue working for a just, resilient and sustainable future for all.
25. Express appreciation to all the dignitaries and delegates for attending the Sagarmatha Sambaad, a permanent forum to foster global dialogue on key issues of national, regional and global significance and look forward to its continuity ahead. ■

Climate Change is the Greatest Challenge of Our Time

Sagarmatha Sambaad is Nepal's global dialogue initiative—a platform for thoughtful reflection, for principled engagement, and for addressing the most urgent challenges of our time.

Today, the line between local and global has all but vanished. What happens in one corner of the world echoes across the rest. The fire that rages in one land darkens the skies of others. The melting of distant glaciers shifts the rains, floods the fields, and parches the plains far away.

The decisions of a few can shape the destiny of many. It is within this deeply interconnected reality that the Sagarmatha Sambaad was born—a space for honest dialogue. For shared wisdom. For collective action.

We have named it after Sagarmatha—the highest point on earth. And we hope this Sambaad—our dialogue—will rise



RT. HON'BLE K.P. SHARMA OLI

The writer is the Prime Minister of Nepal

just as high. High in moral clarity. Bold in intellectual courage. Steady in our shared vision for a better world.

Today, the world stands before towering, metaphorical mountains. Challenges loom—vast and urgent. The

recovery from the pandemic is still fragile. The climate crisis is speeding up. In many corners of the world, peace feels more distant than ever.

Trust in global institutions is weakening. Inequalities—within countries and across borders—are growing deeper. Multilateralism, once a guiding light, now sways under heavy storms. And yet—amidst this uncertainty, we hold on to a simple, powerful belief: the power of dialogue.

Nepal is not just a piece of geography. It is a sacred land—where wisdom breathes through every stone and stream. Here, the spirit of awakening was born. This is the land of Lord Buddha. From this soil, a light emerged—guiding humanity toward peace, compassion, and harmony.

It is a soil where sages meditated. Where seekers found truth. Where rishis offered the world a wealth of knowledge

that still uplifts the human soul. Nepal has always been a place of seekers. Not of conquerors, but of contemplators. Not of battles, but of dialogue.

Our tradition is rooted in listening—with respect. In speaking—with sincerity. And in seeking truth—together. Sagarmatha Sambaad is born from that very spirit. It is a gentle revival of our ancient ways. A space where wisdom bows to humility. Where many voices come together—with reverence.

Where we look for answers—not with ego, but with empathy. We are reminded of an ancient truth: “ ” —Through dialogue, truth shines. Even in moments of deep division, it is not silence or shouting that helps us. It is honest conversation. It is listening. It is speaking from the heart.

Sagarmatha Sambaad is our humble attempt to carry this sacred legacy forward. Our first theme speaks to our soul: “Climate Change, Mountains, and the Future of Humanity.” As a Himalayan nation, this is not a distant issue. It is our daily reality. But it is not just ours.

It is the world's. Can humanity survive without its mountains? Can we protect the future without protecting these ancient guardians? Mountains may seem far away. But their breath keeps half the world alive. From the Arctic to the Andes, from the Alps to the Himalayas—They are the Earth's water towers. They are our climate's pulse. And they are in danger. Their fragility is our shared vulnerability. From the lap of Sagarmatha, the world's highest peak, We send this message—laud and clear: to protect the mountains is to protect the planet, to protect the mountains is to protect our seas, and to protect the mountains is to protect humanity itself.

Let this Sambaad be not just a dialogue—but a determination. A determination to listen. To act. And to walk together—towards a gentler, wiser, and more compassionate world. Climate change is no longer a distant threat. It is the greatest challenge of our time.

It touches everything—our planet, our people, our shared prosperity. No nation is untouched. No society is safe. But the heaviest burden falls on those least responsible. The poorest. The most vulnerable. The mountainous and the least developed. Nepal stands among them. We have done little to cause this crisis. Yet, we face its harshest consequences.

Glaciers are melting. Rains are uncertain. Landslides sweep away homes. Floods and droughts come without warning. And still, we stand firm. Our emissions are small—almost negligible.

But our contributions are meaningful. Our Himalaya cool the region—nature's own climate stabilizer. Our forests cover nearly half our land—breathing in carbon, breathing out hope.

Our rivers flow from the high snows—quenching the thirst of millions. Our protected areas are sanctuaries—guarding the planet's rich biodiversity. Nepal has pledged net-zero emissions by 2045. Five years ahead of the global target. We are advancing adaptation plans. We are greening our economy. We are weaving sustainability into our national vision. Yet we cannot do it alone. No country can. Climate change is a global emergency. It calls for a global response. A response anchored in justice. Rooted in responsibility.

Fuelled by solidarity. Climate justice must lead the way. Those who pollute the most—must do the most. They must support the most vulnerable—with finance, with technology, with capacity.

And let us not forget the mountains. Too often, they are ignored in global talks. Yet, they regulate climate. They store water. They recharge the land.

They cradle life. When mountains fall, valleys suffer. Rivers dry up. Crops fail. Oceans rise. Lives unravel. The Himalaya—our Third Pole—are warming faster than the global average.

Glaciers are vanishing. Glacial lakes are swelling. Millions downstream are at risk. We need a

bold, integrated vision. A “mountains-to-oceans” approach. We must give mountains the attention they deserve—with special financing. With tailored policies. We must invest in clean energy. Grow climate-resilient crops. Uplift women and youth. And protect those forced to move.

Let us strengthen risk assessments. Build early warning systems.

Share data. Work together across borders. And most importantly—let us bridge ancient wisdom with modern innovation. This is how we build resilience. This is how we honour the Earth. This is how we protect our shared future.

The mountains inspire us. Not because they stand apart—but because they rise above. They offer perspective. They teach us to think beyond ourselves. In that spirit, our dialogue must rise too—above narrow interests. Toward a higher, shared purpose. Let us join hands. Let us act with courage and care. For a future that is just. For a planet that is sustainable. We need fresh resolve. Bold ideas. New investments. And deep cooperation—across regions, across the world. A green, resilient, and sustainable future is not a choice. It is the only path forward.

Sagarmatha Sambaad is our humble offering. A global platform to listen, to speak, and to understand. A space to build trust. To imagine a world where harmony with nature—and equity among people—is not a distant dream, but a living reality.

Together, let us climb—toward the summit of resilience. Toward the peak of justice. Toward a future built on shared hope. We look forward to your wisdom. To your voices. To your vision—throughout this Sambaad. May your time in Nepal be joyful and inspiring. In the land of Sagarmatha. In the land of Buddha. ■

(The article is an edited version of the inaugural address of Rt. Hon'ble PM Oli at the opening session of the Sagarmatha Sambaad-2025.)

Sagarmatha Sambaad is our humble attempt to carry this sacred legacy forward. Our first theme speaks to our soul: **“Climate Change, Mountains, and the Future of Humanity.”**





HON. DR. ARZU
RANA DEUBA

The writer is the
Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Nepal

Climate Justice For Every Person

Sagarmatha Sambaad' is inspired by the motto of This ancient maxim enjoins us to seek truth in a spirit of debate and dialogue, and through the exchange of differing ideas and points of view.

The Sambaad provides an occasion for reflection and introspection and aims to encourage meaningful conversations on matters that matter to us all, from the mountains to the seas, and from the Global North to the Global South.

The theme of the Sagarmatha Sambaad this year is "Climate change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity." As a land of delicate mountain ecosystems, Nepal is already facing the full force of

climate change. As conscientious custodians of our rivers, forests, and mountains, we contribute more than our due share to the health of the planet. However, we are forced to face a heavy and disproportionate burden of the negative impacts of climate change.

The absence of honest dialogue and impactful action not only heightens the risk on the environment – in Nepal and elsewhere – but also puts the future of humanity itself at great peril.

This is grave injustice and must be addressed promptly lest it become too late. Over the next three days, we will ask ourselves how best to tackle the existential threat of climate crisis, restore

the health of the planet, and ensure the well-being of the people who live in it.

Mountains are humanity's shared global resources. They store and supply freshwater, act as natural carbon sinks and are home to breathtaking biodiversity and abundant natural resources. They offer an array of sustainable climate solutions in the form of reforestation, watershed protection and eco-tourism.

The Himalayas, in particular, are integral to the Earth's natural cooling system as they serve as a natural climate stabilizer. There are organic links and complementarities between mountains and oceans. A climate distress in the mountains finds a parallel echo on the sea coasts; the fates of the two are closely intertwined.

For the people of Nepal, the Himalayas are not only an embodiment of an ancient culture and heritage, but are also a central pillar of our national pride and identity.

The tragedy is that the Himalayas are facing an unprecedented stress test in real time today, exposing not only the fragile nature of our mountain ecosystems but also glaring evidence of the lack of meaningful global climate action.

As a mountainous country with high disaster risk vulnerability, Nepal faces a stark predicament.

Nepal has experienced a series of severe weather events in the recent past with devastating impacts on people and their livelihoods. Floods and glacial lake outbursts have caused large-scale destruction and damage, and droughts, water scarcity, and forest fires have brought untold suffering to the people across the country.

We are the trustees of a planet we were fortunate to inherit whole and healthy from our forebears. We must act now to make sure that we pass it on to our future generations just as green, beautiful, and robust as we received it from them.

The Himalayas are shouldering the heaviest weight of climate-induced disruption today.

Our glaciers, the fragile yet timeless symbols of a healthy planet, are retreating at an alarming pace. What took millennia to form is melting away in silence just in front of our eyes.

Mountain communities everywhere are especially vulnerable as they depend on nature for their daily lives. Climate-induced disasters are shaking

the very foundations of their existence and livelihoods.

Yet, there are incredible examples of many local communities fighting strenuously against climate change. Women, indigenous people, youth, and marginalized groups — especially in mountain regions — are the gentle caretakers of our natural world. They fight on the home ground, and they know how to fight a long fight.

Recognizing and giving value to their local knowledge and lived experience is critical to building adaptive and sustainable communities, as is empowering them with resources and opportunities for finding sustainable solutions to an existential crisis.

This cannot happen without concomitant cooperation among governments, corporations, and civil society at the international level.



Climate change is a global crisis transcending national boundaries. Nothing less than a global alliance based on justice and solidarity can hope to make a dent on the existential crisis that climate change brings in its wake.

The Atharva Veda proclaims: Maata Bhoomi Putrohuh Prithiviyah! The Earth is my mother; I am her child. Inspired by this ancient maxim, Nepal remains deeply committed to tackling climate change by aligning itself with international efforts aimed at combating climate change.

As per our commitment to the Paris Agreement, we are working towards lowering emissions, exploring local climate solutions, and nurturing a sustainable and resilient Earth.

Nepal has committed to achieving the target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. Hydropower, a clean form of energy, has remained Nepal's

largest source of electricity. Community forestry, a natural resource management program pioneered by Nepal, has not only helped Nepal enlarge its forest cover significantly but has also emerged as a model of participatory conservation the world over.

We have embraced initiatives like the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) and Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPA). These empower local communities to design solutions that fit their unique needs and realities.

Nevertheless, the cascading impacts of global warming and climate change far exceed our capacity and resources to mitigate them. We call for predictable and adequate climate finance as we require greater resources to implement our national and local adaptation plans.

Climate change is a global crisis transcending national boundaries. Nothing less than a global alliance based on justice and solidarity can hope to make a dent on the existential crisis that climate change brings in its wake. Thus, we call for a sufficient and effective loss and damage fund that can be easily accessed by countries in crisis.

Nepal has therefore been consistently at the forefront of advocating for climate justice in international forums and multilateral institutions.

It is essential that the world acknowledges the vulnerabilities of countries like Nepal and supports targeted mitigation and adaptation strategies through the provision of climate finance, adaptation support, and technology transfer.

As we engage in dialogue, I kindly invite you to reflect on how we can connect mountains to oceans, advance the green economy, and uphold climate justice for every person.

I also hope that this forum will be an opportunity to contemplate on the linkages between climate change and regional and international peace, security, and stability, as well as the impacts of climate change on migration, food security, humanitarian crises, and disaster risks.

I hope this Dialogue will help spark fresh ideas, foster cooperation, and mobilize greater political will in combating the specter of climate change and the existential threat to the future of humanity. ■

(The article is an edited version of Hon. Foreign Minister Deuba's address at the opening session of the Sagarmatha Sambaad-2025)



Ambassadors Club



International Relations
& Global Diplomacy Dialogue

THE **DIPL**OMAT
By Ambassadors Club



A New Avenue in Diplomacy

The Ambassadors' Club and IRGDD Inaugurated;
The Diplomat Nepal Magazine Launched

From right, Minister for Youth and Sports Teju Lal Chaudhary; Minister for Labor, Employment and Social Security Sarad Singh Bhandari; Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal Bimal Dhakal; the chief guest former Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai; former Foreign Minister Rameshnath Pandey; Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak; UN Resident Coordinator to Nepal Hanaa Singer-Hamdy; President of Ambassadors' Club and the IRGDD Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal; Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Egypt to Nepal Noha Hamdy Ahmed; and Acting Chair of Rastriya Swatantra Party D.P. Aryal, inaugurating the three new initiatives-- The Ambassadors' Club, IRGDD and The Diplomat Nepal-- with the cake-cutting ceremony in Kathmandu.

TDN CORRESPONDENT

The inaugural ceremony of the Ambassadors' Club and the International Relations and Global Diplomacy Dialogue (IRGDD) was held in Kathmandu on May 18, 2025. At the same event, Nepal's first diplomatic magazine and media platform, The Diplomat Nepal, was also launched.

The chief guest of the event, former Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, said the inauguration of the International Relations and Global Diplomacy Dialogue (IRGDD), the

Ambassadors' Club, and the launch of a dedicated The Diplomat Nepal magazine represent a crucial moment in Nepal's evolving global role.

Dr. Bhattarai shared that the global order is beginning to change rapidly and that Nepal must no longer remain on the sidelines. "This initiative is a timely and necessary response at a moment when the world demands more dialogue and decisive action—rooted in peace, proactive sovereignty, and meaningful contributions to justice," he added.

Dr. Bhattarai explained that the IRGDD, the Ambassadors' Club, and The Diplomat Nepal provide exactly

the kind of "soft space" where trust is fostered and foreign policy is influenced with vision and inclusivity. He said, "These platforms address critical issues such as labor rights, climate change, and the empowerment of women and youth—not simply reacting to global intimacies, but actively shaping Nepal's future."

During the event, President of the Ambassadors' Club and IRGDD former ambassador Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal stated that this is not just the launch of an initiative — it is the beginning of a journey. "A journey that takes Nepal to the heart of global conversations.



Inaugural Ceremony

Ambassadors Club

International Relations & Global Diplomacy Dialogue

THE **DIPL + MAT** NEPAL
By Ambassadors Club

From right, Minister for Forest and Environment Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri; former Deputy Prime Minister Sujata Koirala; Minister for Youth and Sports Teju Lal Chaudhary; Minister for Labor, Employment and Social Security Sarad Singh Bhandari; President of Ambassadors' Club and the IRGDD Amb. Dr. Sarma/la Parajuli Dhakal; the chief guest former Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai; Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal Bimal Dhakal; former Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey; Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak; UN Resident Coordinator to Nepal Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, and Acting Chair of Rastriya Swatantra Party D.P. Aryal, officially unveiling The Diplomat Nepal magazine in Kathmandu.

Nepal's voice, rooted in peace and resilience, is stepping onto the world stage. In the global arena, Nepal carries the voice of hope, of clarity, and of courage. Small nations must rise — not in conflict, but in conviction. We must speak with clarity, engage with compassion, and continue forward with courage. In the face of global change, we must help shape it — not just react to it," she said.

Dr. Dhakal added, "Diplomacy must be inclusive. It does not follow colors, borders, or status. It follows values. We speak with one voice. And with this promise, we let Nepal rise beyond maps — to become a voice for the world."

Former Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey said every decision Nepal makes must address the hard questions — questions tied not just to policy, but

to our identity, history, and survival. He added that today, Nepal's most important task is to redefine that presence — not through passivity, but through strategic engagement, multilateral partnerships, and a clear diplomatic voice. "The IRGDD is the answer to that challenge — a platform where Nepal does not wait to be spoken for, but speaks with conviction, purpose, and principle," he said.

Likewise, former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Honourable Sujata Koirala said the IRGDD and the Ambassadors' Club are "timely and transformative" platforms, emphasizing their importance in a world grappling with interconnected crises and increasing climate vulnerability. She stressed that for Nepal, initiatives like this are crucial — not only to navigate global challenges but also to amplify its

role in international diplomacy. Citing Nepal's longstanding contributions to UN peacekeeping, global advocacy, and principled foreign policy, Koirala highlighted that Nepal's ancient cultural heritage positions it to offer unique moral and diplomatic leadership on the world stage.

Acting President of Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), Honourable DP Aryal, mentioned that these initiatives will help improve the complex diplomatic practices taking place in Nepal and the world. "At present, when the world is evolving at a fast pace with the challenges of the climate crisis, artificial intelligence, and migration, traditional practices should be replaced by new ones. These initiatives will play a major role in bringing and promoting these new ideas," he said.

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Egypt to Nepal, Her Excellency Noha Hamdy Ahmed, gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the organizing committee. She emphasized that the IRGDD Ambassadors' Club offers a vital platform to enhance international cooperation, allowing diplomats to share experiences and knowledge while promoting both bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

Highlighting Nepal's diplomatic tradition, she praised Nepali diplomacy for its professionalism, warmth, and hospitality—qualities that have helped Nepal play an important role in promoting peace and addressing global challenges in an equitable and just manner. Her remarks underscored the significance of such initiatives in strengthening Nepal's voice and partnerships in the

international community. UN Resident Coordinator to Nepal, Her Excellency Hanaa Singer Hamdy, said, "After days of devastation, it's time to celebrate — and we bring you not one, not two, but three reasons to be inspired. Three powerful stories of creativity. Three bold glimpses into the future. This issue is rich with thoughtful articles and beautiful photographs — a visual and intellectual celebration of resilience and vision," she said.

"The cover story dives into the heart of global diplomacy, with a special emphasis on multilateralism in the context of climate change and diaspora engagement. It carries the energy and momentum of Sagarmatha Sambaad — a space where ideas flow freely, and voices, especially from the Global South, are amplified."

During the event, The Diplomat Nepal magazine was jointly unveiled by the chief guest Right Honourable Dr. Bhattarai; Home Minister Honourable Ramesh Lekhak; former Deputy Prime Minister Koirala; former Foreign Minister Pandey; President of the Ambassadors' Club and IRGDD; Minister for Forest and Environment Honourable Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri; Minister for Labor, Employment and Social Security Honourable Sarad Singh Bhandari; Minister for Youth and Sports Honourable Teju Lal Chaudhary; Acting Chair of RSP Aryal; publisher of The Diplomat Nepal Bimal Dhakal; Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Egypt to Nepal, Ahmed; and UN Resident Coordinator to Nepal, Hamdy. To launch the new initiative, they jointly cut the cake alongside other ambassadors and guests. ■

Nepal Must Not Just Witness Global Change, We Must Help Shape It

Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal
President, Ambassadors' Club and IRGDD



ors Club

A journey of dialogue over distance, of connection over silence, of Nepal stepping forward with grace and purpose, into the heart of global conversation. And, to raise Nepal's voice, strengthen her presence, and share her story with the world.

Why Now? Why Us? Why Nepal? The world today is shifting, swiftly and deeply. Borders are tightening, and conversations are growing complex. But within this global noise, Nepal carries a still, steady voice—the voice of peace, of resilience, of quiet strength. In this moment of uncertainty, small nations like ours must rise, not with volume, but with vision.

We must speak with clarity, engage with compassion, and contribute with courage. And that is why these initiatives are not only timely but deeply necessary. Nepal must not just witness global change, we must help shape it.

The Ambassadors' Club – A Circle of Trust and Friendship. The Ambassadors' Club is more than a gathering, it is a circle of trust. A gentle space where titles give way to togetherness. Where ideas flow freely, and friendships are formed beyond protocol. Where the spirit of diplomacy beats not just in speeches, but in sincere conversations.

And tonight, with immense honor, I make this proud announcement: All residents and non-resident Ambassadors and Heads of Missions accredited to Nepal are our Honorary Members of the Ambassadors' Club.

IRGDD – Where Thought Meets Action. The International Relations and Global Diplomacy Dialogue (IRGDD) is Nepal's non-partisan home of ideas and foresight. In a world that moves fast, we must pause to think. In a world divided, we must dare to listen. IRGDD is where knowledge flows, minds meet, and strategies are born to uplift

not just Nepal but all nations that believe in diplomacy as a force for good.

Furthermore, IRGDD will focus on Peacebuilding and Multilateral Diplomacy, Trade and Economic Cooperation, Human Rights, Labor Migration, Diaspora, Climate Action, Cultural and Public Diplomacy, Leadership for Women and Youth, and capacity-building for tomorrow's peacemakers and policymakers.

Through research, dialogue, and partnerships with global think tanks and institutions, IRGDD will make sure Nepal is not only informed by the world, but also informs it too.

The Diplomat Nepal – Nepal's Voice to the World. And today, shortly, with pride wrapped in poetry, we unveil Diplomat Nepal, the first diplomatic magazine of its kind from our land. A window for the world to see Nepal.

A mirror in which we see ourselves dignified, diverse, and determined. The Diplomat Nepal will tell our stories, softly but powerfully. Celebrate our culture's rich, ancient, and alive. Share ambassadorial insights, policy reflections, and human connections. Highlight our commitment to peace, cooperation, and shared progress

In a world that listens to stories before statistics, Diplomat Nepal is Nepal's voice: Clear, Confident, and Compassionate.

These platforms are for everyone — leaders of all parties, thinkers of all minds, diplomats from every direction. Business communities, aspiring diplomats students. It is non-partisan, because diplomacy does not wear colors. It is inclusive because dialogue demands diversity.

Nepal's foreign policy must rise above election cycles. It must carry one consistent voice — a voice of peace, of sovereignty, of shared global responsibility.

Together, through diplomacy, ideas, and stories, we will let Nepal be seen, heard, and respected. We will make Nepal not just a country in the world— but a voice for the world. ■



1. Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, President of Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal, and Transformational Speaker Mansi Agrawal.
2. Director of the ILO Country Office in Nepal, Numan Özcan and President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Ambassador of Australia to Nepal Leann Johnston.

Inaugural Ceremony



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1. Guest attending the inaugural program.
2. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, with former foreign secretary of Nepal Amb. Kedar Bhakta Shrestha, the Executive Director of the Institute of Foreign Affairs Amb. Prakash Kumar Suvedi, Ambassador Jhabintra Prasad Aryal, and businessman Rajendra Khetan, along with other guests.
3. Vice Chancellor of Nepal Open University Prof. Dr. Shilu Manandhar Bajracharya.
4. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal with the Executive Director of the Institute of Foreign Affairs Amb. Prakash Kumar Suvedi.
5. Guest observing the program.
6. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal with media personalities Anil Giri and Hom Karki.
7. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal with Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak.
8. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal with Chargé d'Affaires of the Malaysian Embassy Mohd Firdaus bin Azman along with his spouse.
9. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, with the guest.



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1. Guests are observing the program.
2. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, with former Deputy Prime Minister Upendra Yadav and Ministry for Forests and Environment Ain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri, along with guest.
3. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, with media personalities.
4. Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal welcoming the former Deputy Prime Minister Upendra Yadav.
5. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal welcoming Israeli Ambassador to Nepal Shmulik Arie Bass.
6. Program host and media personality Shivane Thapa.
7. President of the Ambassadors' Club President Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal with Vice President of the FNCCI Jyotsna Shrestha, senior beautician Kamala Shrestha, Chair of Ghost Writing Nepal Kamal Dhakal along with other guests.



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Inaugural Ceremony



1. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, welcoming guest.
2. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal, Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, and Bandana Rana, a member of the CEDAW.
3. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Non-Resident Ambassador of Denmark to Nepal Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen.
4. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, welcoming the Secretary General of SAARC Amb. Md. Golam Sarwar.
5. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal welcoming the Chief of Protocol of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kumar Kharel.
6. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, welcoming guest.
7. Guests are standing during the national anthem.
8. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal with Amb. Dawa Futi Shrepa.
9. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, welcoming British Ambassador to Nepal Rob Finn.
10. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal welcoming Director General of Department of Passport Nepal Tirtha Raj Aryal.



1. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal along with a member of the National Assembly Amb. Anjan Shakya and other guests.
2. Guest at the program.
3. Guest at the program.
4. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal, Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal and National Assembly Amb. Anjan Shakya.
5. Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal with guests.
6. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal along with Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak and the member of House of Representatives Chanda Chaudhary.
7. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal welcoming former national football player and President of ANFA Ganesh Thapa.
8. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal, Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal and former minister and President of the Nepali Pariwar Dal, Ek Nath Dhakal.

Inaugural Ceremony



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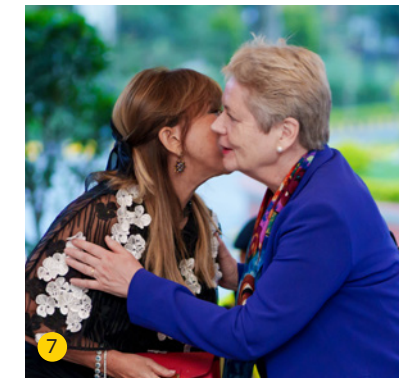


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1. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal welcoming Dr. Gobinda KC.
2. Guests are reading The Diplomat Nepal magazine at the program.
3. Guest are interacting during the program.
4. Ambassador of Norway to Nepal Dramdal, Ambassador of Egypt to Nepal Noha Hamdy Ahmed ElGebaly, and Ambassador of Australia to Nepal Leann Johnston during the program.
5. Acting Chair of Rastriya Swatantra Party DP Aryal addressing the program.
6. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal, Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal welcoming the Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak.
7. The UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal Hanaa Singer-Hamdy and Ambassador of Norway to Nepal Torun Dramdal exchanging greetings each other.
8. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal welcoming former Deputy Prime Minister Sujata Koirala.



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Inaugural Ceremony



1. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal welcoming Amb. Bhagirath Basnet and Amb. Sundarnath Bhattarai.
2. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal welcoming Amb. Ganesh Dhakal.
3. Guests are observing the program.
4. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal welcoming the non-resident ambassador of Oman to Nepal Issa Saleh Abdullah Alshibani.
5. Ambassador of Myanmar to Nepal Myo Myint Maung, Amb. Mohan Krishna Shrestha and Youth and Sports Minister Teju Lal Chaudhary.
6. Guests at the program.



1. Guests are observing the program.
2. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal welcoming the guest.
3. Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal and joint secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hari Odari.
4. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal welcoming Home Secretary Gokarna Mani Duwadi.
5. The UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal Hanaa Singer-Hamdy addressing the program.



Cake cutting ceremony



Inaugural Ceremony



1. Guests at the program.
2. Amb. Dr. Arjun Karki and Director of the ILO Country Office in Nepal Numan Özcan.
3. Managing Director at Nepal Electricity Authority, Hitendra Dev Shakya, interacting with other guests.
4. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal with Amb. Gehendra Rajbhandari and along other guests.
5. Guests at the program.
6. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Home Secretary Gokarna Mani Duwadi.
7. Guests are observing the program.
8. Guests are observing the program.
9. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal, Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, the Chief of Protocol of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kumar Kharel and Joint Secretary of Foreign Ministry Laxman Khanal.
10. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal, Amb. Deepak Adhikari and other guests.
11. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal with guest



1. Ambassadors trio - Bhagirath Basnet, Rajeshwor Acharya, and Sundarnath Bhattarai.
2. Businessperson Karan Baidya.
3. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal, Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal, Vice President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chandi Raj Dhakal and other guests.
4. Guests are observing the program.
5. Guests are observing the program.
6. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Energy Secretary Suresh Acharya.
7. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal with Amb. Kailash Raj Pokharel.
8. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal with Ambassador of Egypt to Nepal Noha Hamdy Ahmed ElGebaly.

Inaugural Ceremony



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1. Guest are in the program.
2. Journalist Bibita Basnet.
3. Guest are at the program.
4. Guest are at the program.
5. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal welcoming the first Omani woman to climb Mount Everest was Nadhira Al Harthy.
6. Communication and Information Specialist Simrika Sharma.
7. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb.

8. President of the Ambassadors' Club Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal and Publisher of The Diplomat Nepal magazine Bimal Dhakal welcoming the guest
9. Home Secretary Gokarna Mani Duwadi interacting with former Minister Jitendra Narayan Dev.



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UN Resident Coordinator Hamdy Congratulates Amb. Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal on Launch of Diplomatic Initiatives

KATHMANDU: United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nepal, Hanaa Singer Hamdy, has extended heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal, Former Ambassador of Nepal to Oman and Spain, for her leadership in launching The Diplomat Nepal, the International Relations & Global Diplomacy Dialogue think tank, and the Ambassadors Club.

In a congratulatory message, Hamdy praised Dr. Dhakal's timely and visionary initiative, calling it a significant contribution to Nepal's global engagement and international thought leadership.

"Your leadership in bringing these ideas to fruition reflects a deep commitment to strengthening Nepal's voice and visibility on the global stage," Hamdy stated.

She further emphasized the importance of platforms like these in promoting

multilateralism, fostering diplomatic dialogue, and addressing pressing global challenges.

Hamdy also expressed gratitude for being featured in the inaugural issue of The Diplomat Nepal, where she shared insights on the United Nations' priorities for 2025, including climate action, peacebuilding, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the 70-year partnership between the UN and Nepal.

"In an era of complex and interlinked crises, multilateralism is not a choice, it is a necessity," she emphasized, highlighting the role of such initiatives in building inclusive and sustainable futures.

The launch of these three platforms is expected to bring together policymakers, diplomats, scholars, and civil society actors in fostering Nepal's global connections and making meaningful contributions to international diplomacy.

Real Madrid President Sends Congratulatory Message

Kathmandu: Florentino Pérez, president of football club Real Madrid, sent a congratulatory message to Dr. Sharmila Parajuli Dhakal, the President of the Ambassadors Club and a Former Ambassador of Nepal to Spain and Oman.

President of one of the most popular club in the world Perez sent congratulatory message to Amb. Dhakal for the two new initiatives-- the Ambassadors Club and International Relations and Global Diplomacy Dialogue (IRGDD).

"I would like to congratulate you on the successful organization of this event, whose goal us to enhance international relations among countries and promote the



values that help build a better, more supportive society," reads the message of Florentino Pérez, the Spanish Club president.

His message further added, "I fully agree with you on the key role played by football as the most global sport in the world. As such, we are encouraged to continue striving to make football an ideal channel for conveying values such as solidarity."

A LIFE BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

Sangita Soto Torres' Journey from Chitwan to Spain

TDN CORRESPONDENT

In the heart of Spain, where the vibrant pulse of Madrid beats alongside centuries of history, lives a young woman who carries two worlds in her heart. Sangita Soto Torres, a name that now echoes through diplomatic halls and cross-cultural forums, began her extraordinary journey in the humble surroundings of Chitwan, Nepal. Adopted at the age of six, Sangita's story is one of resilience, reinvention, and a rare grace that emerges when love transcends borders.

The Beginning: Chosen, Not Lost

Sangita doesn't speak of her adoption with sorrow or bitterness. On the contrary, she calls it the "most sublime act of love" — a decision made not from abandonment, but from hope. "Only I was adopted because I was the smallest," Sangita, the youngest of four siblings, recalls.

She shares, "From the very beginning, I understood the profound reason behind my adoption, and I never felt deprived, but rather chosen. I consider myself not just fortunate, but privileged, to have been the one selected to undertake this journey to Spain, a destination that offered me opportunities to grow in ways I could never have imagined." Hearing the journey in her own words, she expresses no trace of resentment — only gratitude for a life that could have looked vastly different had she stayed.

In her quiet village in Chitwan, Sangita's future was as uncertain as that of many rural Nepali girls — marriage at a young age, limited education, and confined aspirations. But fate had something else in store.

After a year in a Kathmandu orphanage filled with stories, games, and the silent love of fellow sisters,



Sangita embarked on a journey to Galicia, Spain, with new parents who would teach her more than just language and customs — they'd gift her values that would shape her destiny.

Roots and Wings

From the misty green hills of Galicia to the bustling streets of Madrid, Sangita grew up under the careful guidance of her adoptive parents — her mother, a tenacious lawyer, and her father, a sensitive teacher who taught her Spanish in just three months.

"They never tried to erase my past," Sangita says. "They kept my Nepali name as a gesture of respect." Her father often told her, "If the roots are not strong, the tree will always sway with the slightest wind of life." That philosophy became a compass as she navigated a multicultural identity and ambitious academic pursuits.

She studied law at Universidad Carlos III in Madrid, then ventured to Sweden's Örebro University, and later completed a Master's in European and Global Law in Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. A prestigious government scholarship followed — an MBA in International and Business Management — which led her to her current role at the Economic and Commercial Office of Spain in Mumbai, where she helps Spanish companies navigate the Asian market.

But no matter how far she goes, Nepal is never left behind.

"I dream of starting educational programs for children, and entrepreneurship projects for youth in Nepal."

Nepal in Her Soul

Nepali music, especially the soulful notes of Phoolko Aankhama by Ani Choying Drolma, remains her spiritual anchor. "It's my mantra," she says. "That song taught me the world reflects what we carry inside."

Sangita also remarks, "Nepali music, with its sarangi and bansuri, is the whisper of the mountains and the ancient villages that have not lost their soul."

This deep connection inspired Sangita to return to Nepal three times. On her first trip at 18, she reunited with her biological family. The second journey was a two-month soul-searching backpacking trip that took her from the streets of Kathmandu to the sacred heights of Muktinath. The third, just a month ago, was to revisit her roots and explore ways to support the very orphanage that once nurtured her.

If there's one place she calls sacred, it's Mustang. "There, the air feels like a prayer," she says. "It reconnects me with the deepest part of who I am."

From One to Many: Building 'Nepaspa'

At 17, Sangita realized she wasn't alone. "Many adopted Nepali youths in Spain felt confused about their identity," she explains. So she started a WhatsApp group. From a modest gathering of 15 at a Nepali restaurant in Madrid, the community — now called 'Nepaspa' — has grown to over 70 members now. Their second reunion, hosted at the Nepali ambassador's residence, reflected not just numbers, but the need for shared narratives.

"Many of us have returned to Nepal, sought our roots, and yet remain fully Spanish and European," Sangita shares. It's a community born from the same threads of displacement and discovery that have woven her own identity.

The Bridge Builder

When asked if she considers herself a bridge between Nepal and Spain, Sangita hesitates. "That title feels too grand," she says modestly. But her actions suggest otherwise. From speaking about Nepal in Spanish classrooms as a child to working with the Nepali Embassy and dreaming of cross-national projects, she's living that role every day.

Her plans are as ambitious as they are altruistic: to specialize in the Asian market, to help European companies engage with Nepal, and to foster investment that lifts local communities. "I dream of starting educational programs for children, and entrepreneurship projects for youth in Nepal," she says. "To build a bridge of mutual understanding and development."

Conclusion: A Life Not Divided, But Enriched

At just 25, Sangita Soto Torres stands at the crossroads of two rich cultures — not torn between them, but strengthened by both. Her life is not a tale of rescue, but one of self-discovery. It is a story that reminds us that where we come from matters just as much as where we're going, and that love — be it from a mother in Chitwan or parents in Galicia — can span oceans.

Sangita's journey is not defined by adoption but by adaptation, not by what she left behind, but by what she carries forward.

And if you ever hear her speak about Nepal, you'll know — she didn't leave her homeland. She simply learned to carry it differently. ■

Nepal Receives WHO ‘World No Tobacco Day-2025’ Award



Kathmandu: Nepal received WHO ‘World No Tobacco Day 2025’ Award in recognition of Nepal’s exemplary efforts on tobacco control on May 19 in Geneva. Minister for Health and Population of Nepal, Pradip Paudel, received the award on behalf of Nepal.

Addressing the 78th World Health Assembly at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Minister Paudel welcomed the adoption of the WHO Pandemic Agreement. In his statement, he called for equitable healthcare systems, strong global cooperation, and stand together as “one world for health.” He emphasized that health is not only a moral imperative but also a foundation for peace and security. In view of new and existing challenges, the Minister noted that the role of WHO is more critical than ever and stressed health as the common good, reads the press statement of

the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations in Geneva.

Minister Paudel also met with Ashley Dalton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention of the United Kingdom, on the sidelines of the assembly. Likewise, he met with Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary of India, later in the afternoon.

Earlier, Minister Paudel visited the Permanent Mission and took stock of the priorities, activities, and engagements of Nepal in Geneva. Minister Paudel addressed the side event ‘Improving Universal Health Coverage through the implementation of WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy: 2025 - 2034’ co-hosted by Nepal in Geneva.

Minister Paudel met with Elisabeth Baume-Schneider, Federal Councilor of the Department of Home Affairs of Switzerland, on the Margins of the 78th

Nepal Elects a Member of the Executive Board of the WHO

Kathmandu: Nepal has reached another milestone in multilateral diplomacy after electing a member of the executive board of the WHO. According to the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, Nepal was elected as a Member of the Executive Board of the WHO for a three-year term (2025–2028) by the 78th World Health Assembly. The Nepali delegation team was led by Minister for Health and Population Pradip Paudel. This is good news for Nepal to get a chance to serve in the executive board of WHO.

World Health Assembly in Geneva. Likewise, the Health Minister met with WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister of Health of Sri Lanka, Nalinda Jayatissa, and Minister of Health of Maldives, Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim, on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Earlier on May 17, Minister Paudel addressed the Ministerial Roundtable on the Impact and Response to ODA cuts on Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival and Health (MNCH).

IPU Health Committee Member Gautam at World Health Assembly

Kathmandu: Sobita Gautam, a member of the parliament, a Health Committee member at the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) and the World Health Organization (WHO), addressing the event, emphasized the importance of creating a vital platform at the World Health Assembly.

In Nepal, the WHO had previously

supported vaccine rollouts, improved surveillance, and equipped frontline workers with timely guidance, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic as well. “This further underscored the high need for a strong, well-funded WHO,” she stressed.

“We’ve been reminded by the pandemic that health is not a cost; it is the

most vital investment for our societies,” she further added.

She, furthermore, warned against the dangers of reduced global funding, and emphasized that health crises transcended borders and require collective actions both by the nation itself together with the international institutions.



New Zealand DPM Peters meets President Poudel

Kathmandu: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of New Zealand Winston Peters met Nepal’s President Ram Chandra Poudel on May 28 at the President’s Office, Sital Niwas. During the meeting, President Poudel welcomed DPM Peters and stated that people-to-people engagement between Nepal and New Zealand have been growing day by day.

According to the Foreign Affairs

Adviser of the President, Suresh Chandra Chalise, who was also present at the meeting, said that the President conveyed the harmonious relation the two countries share with each other since their diplomatic relations from 1961.

President Poudel further highlighted the growing Nepali students going abroad to study in New Zealand and the large number of tourists from New Zealand. Interacting with President Poudel,

DPM Peters replied that his country has been encouraging Nepali students through more scholarships in the coming days. He shared, “Nepal and Nepalis are in the heart of New Zealanders.”

Moreover, President Poudel praised DPM Peters and said there will be more high-level visits in the coming years.

DPM Peters visit to Nepal is the first high-level visit from New Zealand to Nepal since their diplomatic relations.



Japanese Ambassador Toru Meets PM Oli

Kathmandu: The Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, Maeda Toru, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Nepal, KP Sharma Oli, on May 4. According to the Office of the Prime Minister, the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest, including the celebration of the upcoming 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

New Zealand DPM Meets Nepal's PM Oli

Kathmandu: Visiting New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Winston Peters met Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli on May 28. During the meeting held at the Prime Minister's residence in Baluwatar, they discussed issues related to enhancing bilateral interests, mutual relations and cooperation.

According to the Secretariat of PM Oli, they shared the view that there is ample potential for cooperation

in the fields of agriculture, tourism, education, trade, and investment.

Prime Minister Oli informed that the current government has prioritized stability, development, good governance, social justice and social transformation along with the national aspiration of a "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepalis". Deputy Prime Minister Peters praised the efforts made for Nepal's development and prosperity and emphasized on cooperation on

issues of common interest among small countries in the international forum.

High-ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and others participated in the meeting. The relationship between the two countries has also grown closer since Nepal's Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary were the first to successfully climb Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, on May 29, 1953.



Indian Ambassador Srivastava Meets PM Oli

Kathmandu: The Ambassador of India to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Nepal, K.P. Sharma Oli, on May 9. According to the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Srivastava apprised the Prime Minister about the tensions between India and Pakistan. In response, PM Oli reiterated Nepal's unwavering commitment to global peace.



Azerbaijan DFM Meets Foreign Minister Dr. Rana

Kathmandu: Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elnur Mammadov paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister of Nepal, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, on May 2. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the leaders discussed matters to strengthen Nepal-Azerbaijan relations

bilaterally, as well as multilaterally.

They also touched upon the upcoming Sagarmatha Sambaad. DFM Mammadov also had an official visit with the Prime Minister of Nepal, KP Sharma Oli. The leaders discussed ways to bring Nepal and Azerbaijan closer together.



Slovenian Ambassador Ghosh Meets Foreign Minister Dr. Rana

Kathmandu: The non-resident Ambassador of Slovenia to Nepal, Mateja Vodeb Ghosh, paid a farewell call on Foreign Minister, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, on May 13. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the occasion, Foreign Minister Deuba thanked the Ambassador

for her efforts in further strengthening Nepal-Slovenia relations during her tenure. Ambassador Ghosh also paid a visit to Foreign Secretary Amrit Bahadur Rai. The Foreign Secretary thanked and appreciated the Ambassador's contribution to Nepal-Slovenia diplomacy.

EU Ambassador Lorenzo Meets Foreign Minister Dr. Rana



Kathmandu: The EU Ambassador to Nepal, Veronique Lorenzo, along with both resident and non-resident ambassadors of EU member countries, paid a joint courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba. The meeting covered a wide range of topics related to Nepal-EU relations, including climate change, green energy, foreign investment, Nepal's graduation from LDC status, foreign employment, and technology transfer.

UNESCO Representative Presents Credentials



Kathmandu: Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, received the Credentials from the newly appointed UNESCO Representative to Nepal, Jaco Du Toit, on May 6.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the dignitaries discussed matters relating to strengthening Nepal-UNESCO cooperation during the occasion.



Foreign Minister Dr. Rana Holds Bilateral Meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Hong Kong

KATHMANDU: Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, held a bilateral meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Hong Kong today. The meeting took place during Dr. Deuba's visit to attend, as an observer, the signing ceremony of the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation, at the invitation of Minister Wang.

The two ministers discussed Nepal-China relations, mutual interests, and cooperation on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Minister Deuba highlighted Nepal's strong commitment to its friendship with China and expressed gratitude for China's continued support in Nepal's

economic and social development. She emphasized Nepal's interest in further cooperation in areas such as economic development, technology transfer, and foreign investment. Reaffirming Nepal's commitment to the One-China policy, Dr. Deuba assured that Nepali territory would not be used against China. She also thanked China for its participation in the recently concluded Sagarmatha Dialogue and recalled the growing momentum of high-level exchanges, including Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's visit to China last December.

Similarly, as both nations mark 70 years of diplomatic relations this year, Dr. Deuba invited Foreign Minister Wang to visit Nepal. She also expressed Nepal's readiness to welcome more Chinese

tourists in 2025, which has been declared Visit Nepal Year.

Minister Wang congratulated Nepal on successfully hosting the Sagarmatha Dialogue and assured continued Chinese support in areas such as climate change mitigation and environmental protection. He emphasized China's willingness to work with Nepal through the newly established mediation organization and reiterated the importance of implementing agreements reached during past bilateral visits.

Minister Wang accepted the invitation to visit Nepal and praised Dr. Deuba's leadership in advancing Nepal's diplomatic initiatives. He also extended a special invitation to Dr. Deuba to participate in the upcoming Global Women's Leadership Forum.



"We Must Equip Ourselves With Strategic Foresight" – Secretary Rai

Kathmandu: The Foreign Ministry of Nepal has celebrated Jestha 10 as the Nepal Foreign Service Day on May 24. During the program, the Foreign Secretary Amrit Kumar Rai stated that we are navigating an era of intensifying global uncertainty, where alliances are shifting, institutions are under strain, and rules of global engagement are constantly being rewritten. He further added that from wars and economic upheavals to technological disruption and climate crisis, the world around us is in flux.

"In such turbulence, some ask: Does diplomacy still matter? Yes, it matters now more than ever. In fact, it may be the only profession that can bring adversaries to the same table," he said. "As a Polish poet, Wislawa Szymborska once wrote, after every war, someone has to clean up. Things won't straighten themselves up, after all. Someone is often a

diplomat. Diplomacy is both a steady hand in a storm and a shield against it." He explained we must equip ourselves with strategic foresight, solution-oriented thinking, and bridge-building skills. We must continue to uphold our independent foreign policy, rooted in the UN Charter, non-alignment Panchsheel, and our constitutional values.

Secretary Rai said the institution of Nepal's foreign office is one of the few oldest in Asia -- a legacy that deserves reverence and revival. "While we must reflect and learn from our past and take inspiration from the road traversed by those who came before us, today I want to focus on what lies ahead of us," he added. Rai also shared his vision on how we should prepare ourselves to serve the nation in the rapidly changing world-- pervaded with both opportunities and challenges. "The foreign service

is not just a profession -- but it is a calling for solemn duty to safeguard Nepal's national interest. It is not the privileges bestowed upon us that define the essence of diplomatic service -- it is our unwavering commitment to the nation," he said, "Whatever prestige or privilege we are entitled to flows from the sovereign people of Nepal. As their diplomatic representatives, our foremost duty is to serve them with absolute loyalty, integrity, and humanity."

Moreover, Secretary Rai described, "Let us remind ourselves: foreign service is not a route to luxury or riches. It is a path of commitment. Commitment to serve our motherland. It is a higher duty to make our nation richer and stronger and to make our people prosperous and happier." He also said our real wealth lies not in what we gain-- but in what we give to the nation.

UN Resident Coordinator-Nepal Hanaa Meets Foreign Minister Dr. Rana

Kathmandu: The UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal, Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, called on Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, on May 6. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the dignitaries discussed matters related to strengthening Nepal-UN cooperation. They also touched upon the Sagarmatha Sambaad during the occasion.





India Gifts Electric Vehicles to Facilitate Sagarmatha Sambaad

Kathmandu: As a significant gesture of friendship and goodwill, Ambassador of India to Nepal, Shri Naveen Srivastava handed over 15 electric vehicles to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, on May 11, as a gift of India for logistical support to the Government of Nepal for facilitating

the effective organization of the first edition of the 'Sagarmatha Sambaad' in Kathmandu.

According to the Indian Embassy in Nepal, Ambassador Srivastava noted that these vehicles would help facilitate the movement of guests and officials during the Sambaad, and reaffirmed

India's continued commitment to partnering with Nepal to promote mutual progress and development. Former Minister Deuba expressed gratitude for India's support for facilitating the organization of Sambaad, acknowledging India's role as one of Nepal's oldest and largest development partners.

Indian Ambassador Srivastava Meets Late Neupane Family

Kathmandu: The Ambassador of India in Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, on May 11, met with the family of Late Sudip Neupane, a young Nepali national who was one of the 26 victims of the dastardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, India on

April 22, 2025.

Ambassador Srivastava conveyed his sincere condolences, and assured them of the government of India's steadfast commitment towards fighting against terrorism, the Indian Embassy in Nepal reported.



Nepal's Ambassador Sharma meets Ambassador Mahawar

NEWDELHI, May 27: Nepal's Ambassador to India, Dr. Shankar Sharma, held a productive meeting with Ambassador Munu Mahawar, Additional Secretary (North) at India's Ministry of External Affairs.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed a wide range of bilateral issues, focusing on ways to further strengthen Nepal-India relations. The discussions underscored the ongoing commitment of both countries to deepen cooperation and mutual understanding.

70 Years of Nepal-China Relations Through the Lens

Kathmandu: The Girija Prasad Koirala Foundation for Democracy, Peace and Development marked the seventieth anniversary of diplomatic relations between Nepal and the People's Republic of China with a large-scale commemorative photo exhibition and formal program titled "Legacy of Friendship: 70 Years of Nepal-China Relations Through the Lens," held at Hotel Malla, Kathmandu, on 5 May. From morning onward, more than five hundred guests including senior leaders of the Nepali Congress, diplomats from the Chinese Embassy, scholars, journalists, civil-society representatives, artists, students and international media filed through a curated gallery of 120 archival photographs that traced watershed moments in bilateral ties, from the establishment of relations in 1955 and the signing of the 1960 Peace and Friendship Treaty to President Xi Jinping's 2019 state visit.

The official session opened with welcoming remarks by Former Deputy Prime Minister Sujata Koirala. She warmly welcomed all dignitaries, participants, and friends of Nepal-China relations. She evoked the enduring legacy of her father, Girija Prasad Koirala, and of B. P. Koirala, recalling how their courage and foresight laid the bedrock of today's friendship. Expressing heartfelt gratitude to the Chinese Embassy for its support, she affirmed that the photo exhibition stands as a testament to shared history and mutual respect.

Koirala concluded with a call for even



deeper collaboration in trade, culture, education and technology, pledging the Foundation's commitment to facilitate future initiatives that bring the two peoples ever closer.

The "Legacy of Friendship" program successfully commemorated seven decades of Nepal-China diplomatic relations, honoring the historical

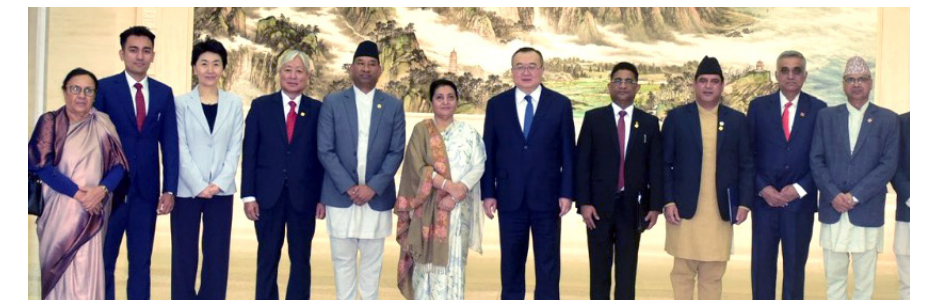
stewardship of Nepali leaders, celebrating people-to-people bonds, and inspiring renewed commitment to an "ever-lasting friendship for development and prosperity." The Girija Prasad Koirala Foundation extends sincere gratitude to all partners, sponsors and participants whose collective efforts made the event a memorable milestone on 5 May.

Former President Bhandari Meets CPC's IDCPC Head Liu in Beijing

Kathmandu: During a ten-day visit to China, Nepal's Former President Bidya Devi Bhandari met Liu Jianchao, head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Beijing on May 26.

According to a member who participated in the meeting in Beijing, the Chinese leader Liu encouraged unity and cooperation between leftist parties in Nepal, which the northern neighbour has been advocating for over a decade. The meeting between Bhandari and Liu was around 1 hour.

Moreover, former President Bhandari addressed a dialogue conference with political parties from neighboring



countries, which was organized by the CPC IDCPC in Beijing in same day. During her address, Bhandari stated that the context of the people's multi-party democracy propounded by the late (Madam) Bhandari to the current

Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali implemented by Prime Minister and UML Chairman KP Oli. She also said that there is a relationship between the UML and the CPC in terms of thought, behavior and strategic relations.



US Ambassador to Nepal
Dean visits Mustang

Kathmandu: Ambassador Dean Thompson visited Mustang this week to highlight the United States' ongoing commitment to preserving Nepal's rich cultural heritage through the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP).

These projects showcase the strength of the 78-year partnership between the

United States and Nepal by promoting sustainable tourism, economic growth, and cultural preservation, while also enhancing diplomatic relations and creating opportunities for local and U.S. businesses in tourism, hospitality, and education.

During their visit, Ambassador Thompson, Public Affairs Chief Mike

Harker, and other Embassy team members toured AFCP-supported heritage sites, including Dzong Monastery, Gonpa Gang Monastery, and Lo Gekar Monastery. They also met with local communities and project teams and observed the vibrant Tiji Festival, a living celebration of Nepal's vibrant traditions.

US Embassy Honours the Lives of Rescue Operations in the 2015 Earthquake

Kathmandu: The Embassy of the United States in Nepal and the Nepali Army came together to remember six U.S. Marines and two Nepali soldiers who lost their lives ten years ago during Operation Sahayogi Haat, in a rescue operation following the 2015 earthquake, on May 12. The event honoured the sacrifice of the brave souls in the service of humanity, the US Embassy reported.



Ambassador Thompson Swears In New Peace Corps Volunteers

KATHMANDU: On May 16, Ambassador Dean Thompson swore in eight new Peace Corps Response Volunteers who will serve as Digital Learning & Training specialists in government schools and Agriculture Research specialists at Tribhuvan University campuses.

With their expertise in digital education and agricultural practices, these volunteers are advancing U.S. leadership in technology and agriculture while directly contributing to Nepal's development. Their work not only strengthens Nepal's capacity but also helps prepare Nepali markets for future collaboration with American businesses.

They join over 4,000 Peace Corps Volunteers who have served in Nepal since the program's inception in 1962, further strengthening 78 years of friendship between the United States and Nepal.



Nepal Launches First U.S. Supported Academy for Women Entrepreneurs

Kathmandu: Nepal's first Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) program has been launched with support from the U.S. government, aiming to empower women to grow their businesses and contribute to local economic development.

The three-day residential bootcamp, led by top Nepali business leaders and members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Nepal (AmCham), is training 30 women entrepreneurs. Participants are receiving world-class training, mentorship, and resources through the globally recognized "Najafi 100 Million Learners" course.

The program helps women develop practical skills to expand their businesses, create jobs, and boost innovation in their communities. It also strengthens commercial ties between the United States and Nepal by encouraging new opportunities for trade and collaboration.

U.S. Ambassador Dean R. Thompson described AWE as "a movement, not just a program," noting that empowering women leads to stronger economies, flourishing communities, and lasting partnerships. The initiative supports both American and Nepali businesses and aims to build a more resilient economic future by helping Nepalis create opportunities at home.

U.S. and Nepal Army Strengthen Disaster Response Skills in Joint Training
Kathmandu, Nepal — For the past 21 years, the United States and Nepal Army Special Operations Forces have worked together through joint training exercises aimed at improving disaster response and strengthening regional security.

This month, the 44th Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) concluded with a simulated disaster response exercise observed by U.S. Ambassador Dean Thompson. Deputy Chief of Mission

Jason Meeks also attended the closing ceremony.

During the final exercise, U.S. Airmen and Nepal Army Rangers carried out rescue operations, including extracting survivors from damaged vehicles and coordinating their evacuation for medical care. The teams practiced mountaineering, rope climbing, and helicopter coordination — key skills for responding to real-life emergencies.

The month-long training focused on preparing both countries to respond quickly and effectively to natural disasters and humanitarian crises. Officials emphasized the importance of these drills in building trust, teamwork, and life-saving capabilities.

"We are proud to support Nepal not just during crises, but also by building the skills and teamwork that help both countries respond more effectively and keep their people safe," said a U.S. Embassy representative.

Conservation Lab at the Lumbini Museum Inaugurated

Kathmandu: The Deputy Chief of Mission of United States (US) in Nepal Jason Meeks, and Cultural Affairs Officer Erica Alexander joined the Minister for Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation, Badri Pandey, along with officials from the Lumbini Provincial Government and the Lumbini Development Trust, to inaugurate the first-ever conservation lab at the Lumbini Museum on May 11.

According to the US Embassy in Nepal, the initiative, made possible



through a \$244,966 Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) grant to the Buddha Foundation, supports

conservation, documentation, and preservation of ancient artifacts of cultural and historical significance from the greater Lumbini Area. The AFCP projects strengthen US-Nepal ties by promoting sustainable tourism, economic growth, and cultural preservation, while enhancing diplomatic relations and creating opportunities for local and U.S. businesses in tourism, hospitality, and education-benefiting communities in both nations.



Japanese Ambassador Meets Mayor of Kathmandu

Kathmandu: Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, Maeda Toru, met Balendra Shah, Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, on April 30. According to the Embassy of Japan, the dignitaries discussed the future development of Kathmandu Metropolitan City.



Foreign Minister Dr. Rana meets Foreign Minister of Japan Takeshi

Kathmandu: Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba and Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi held a bilateral meeting in Tokyo on May 22. Dr. Rana, who is on a visit to Japan, and Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi held a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On this occasion, two ministers discussed mutual interests between the two nations. During the meeting, Minister Dr. Rana thanked the Japanese government and Japanese citizens for the crucial economic and social support over the course of many years. They further discussed various aspects of the 70 years of diplomatic relationship between Nepal and Japan.

Dr. Deuba meets Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister

Kathmandu: Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Arzu Rana Dueba meets Mrs. Ikuina Akiko, Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, in Tokyo, Japan. They engaged

in a productive discussion on strengthening Nepal-Japan relations, exploring potential avenues for expanding bilateral cooperation between our two nations.



Japan Celebrates the First Conquest of Manaslu

Kathmandu: The Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, Maeda Toru, held a meeting with Takeuchi Hirotsuka at the Embassy on May 9, to commemorate and reflect on the first ascent to Mount Manaslu by late Imanishi

Toshio and 21 Sherpas, with Mr. Gyalzen Norbu as their leader in 1956, the Japanese Embassy reported. Takeuchi is the first Japanese climber to conquer the 14th highest peaks above 8,000 meters.



Nepal-South Korea

South Korean Ambassador Meets the Auditor General

Kathmandu: The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Nepal, Tae-young Park, paid a courtesy call on the Auditor General of Nepal, Toyam Raya, on April 30. According to the Korean Embassy in Nepal, during the meeting, the dignitaries discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields such as audit and economy.

Korea Railway Corporation delegation visits Nepal

KATHMANDU: Delegation including President of Korea Railway Corporation Han Moon-hee visited Nepal and discussed the schedule of cooperation between the two countries related to Nepal railway infrastructure and capacity building such as KP Sharma Oli's prevention of Prime Minister KP Sharma

Oli, Devendra Dahal, Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, and meetings with Nepal Investment Authority and Nepal Railway Authority.

During the meeting, various bilateral cooperation issues related to Nepal's railway infrastructure and capacity building were discussed.



Nepal-France

Briefing Session on PLAR from GLOFs

Kathmandu: The Chargé d'Affaires of France to Nepal, Elsa Calley, attended a briefing session by UNDP Nepal on the upcoming project proposal: "Protecting Livelihoods and Assets at Risk from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) and Climate Change-Induced Flooding in Glacial River Basins of Nepal" on May 2.

According to the Embassy of France in Nepal, the proposal will be submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Chargé d'Affaires Calley appreciated the session, saying, "It was an engaging and informative briefing."

Nepal-Denmark

Nepal's Ambassador to Denmark Meets Chinese Counterpart

KATHMANDU: Nepal's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark, Sumnima Tuladhar, paid a courtesy call on Wang Xuefeng, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Denmark, at the Chinese Ambassador's Residence.

The two ambassadors engaged in a cordial discussion on strengthening Nepal-China relations and explored opportunities for mutual cooperation. Topics included enhancing friendship, promoting cultural and educational exchanges, supporting sustainable development, and advancing regional and global collaboration through their missions in Denmark.

Both ambassadors emphasized the importance of respecting each other's cultural heritage and reaffirmed their commitment to the long-standing friendship between Nepal and China.



UK Embassy Celebrates King Charles III's Birthday

Kathmandu: Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Nepal, Rob Fenn, and Mrs. Julia Fenn hosted friends from across the UK-Nepal relationship to celebrate the official birthday of King Charles III on May 3. According to the UK embassy in Nepal, the Vice President of Nepal, Hon. Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, graced the event as the chief guest.



Nepali Ambassador Presents Credence to King Charles III

Kathmandu: The Ambassador of Nepal to the United Kingdom (UK), Chandra Kumar Ghimire, presented his letters of credence to King Charles III at Buckingham Palace on May 2, the Embassy of Nepal in the UK reported.

UK Ambassador Fenn Meets the First Woman President of the FNJ

Kathmandu: The Ambassador of UK to Nepal Rob Fenn met with the first woman President of the Federation of Nepali Journalists, Nirmala Sharma, on May 3.

According to the Embassy, they discussed the media landscape in Nepal, including the UK's long history of promoting freedom of expression globally, underpinned by the commitment to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

British Ambassador Meets Young Entrepreneurs

Kathmandu: The Ambassador of Britain to Nepal, Rob Fenn, met with young entrepreneurs at the Confederation of Nepalese Industries Young Entrepreneurs Forum (CNI-YEF) on May 11.

The Ambassador talked about international trade, economic diplomacy, and international partnerships, the Embassy reported. "We wish the new generation of changemakers all the very best in Nepal's journey to prosperity," Ambassador Fenn remarked.



80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day Celebrated

Kathmandu: The 80th anniversary commemoration of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) was observed at Headquarters British Gurkhas Nepal on May 8. The British Ambassador to Nepal Rob Fenn; Brigadier General Bobby Chand of the Nepali Army; Colonel Dan Rex MVO, Commander BGN; Major (Retired) Balkrishna Rana MBE, Chairman Regimental Association Nepal (RAN) and Rifleman (Retired) Chandrabahadur Sunuwar, a World War II Gurkha veteran were among those who laid the wreaths of tribute at the Gurkha monument.

According to the British Embassy, the event saw Gurkha veterans, including RAN office bearers and members, BGN's military and civilian staff and families, and staff from the British Embassy Kathmandu observe a moment of silence.

EU Head of Mission Team Meets Foreign Minister Dr. Rana



Kathmandu: For the 2025 Heads of Mission (HoMs) Mission to Nepal, 22 Ambassadors and Representatives from EU Member States, along with the EU Ambassador, met with Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba. They discussed the enduring EU-Nepal partnership, shared values of peace and stability, and our long-term commitment to Nepal's development. This historic gathering reflects our strong and lasting interest in Nepal, now and always.

Moreover, as part of the 2025 EU Heads of Mission visit to Nepal, a record 22 Ambassadors and

representatives from EU Member States stepped into the world of Incessant Rain Studios, Nepal's trailblazing animation and VFX powerhouse that's quietly making waves on the global stage. From Kathmandu to Hollywood, Incessant Rain tells powerful stories through pixels, passion, and purpose. Whether it's dragons, dreams, or digital futures, this studio is proof that Nepal's creative talent is boundless. The EU's visit wasn't just about watching. It was about listening, imagining, and investing in Nepal's next generation of creators. Creativity is Nepal's soft power, and the EU is here for it.

EU Envoys Visit NEA's Load Dispatch Centre



Kathmandu: On the second day of their historic visit, European Union Heads of Mission toured the Nepal Electricity Authority's Load Dispatch Centre in Syuchatar on May 24. The delegation was hosted by Hitendra Dev Shakya, Managing Director of NEA.

The visit offered a firsthand look at how EU-supported initiatives are contributing to Nepal's energy transformation. With nearly 100% of its electricity generated from renewable sources, Nepal is emerging as a clean energy leader in South Asia.

The EU reaffirmed its commitment to Nepal's sustainable energy future through key initiatives such as the Global Gateway, GREEN+, and REEEP-GREEN.

Nepal-Switzerland

Deputy Director Meets Secretary of Labour Ministry

Kathmandu: Valérie Berset Bircher, Deputy Head of the International Labour Affairs Division of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), had a constructive meeting with Dr. Krishna Hari Pushkar, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Nepal, on May 6. According to the Embassy of Switzerland in Nepal, the dignitaries discussed bilateral relations and matters related to the International Labour Organisation.

Swit Ambassador Meets Lumbini CM (pic needed)

Kathmandu: The Ambassador of Switzerland to Nepal, Danielle Meuwly, visited Lumbini Province and held a fruitful meeting with

the Chief Minister Chet Narayan Acharya.

According to the Swiss Embassy, the dignitaries' discussions focused on deepening collaboration between the Province and Local Governments in priority areas of development.

Ambassador Meuwly also co-chaired the Project Steering Committee meetings for Swiss-funded projects in Migration, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and Motorable Bridges. "Switzerland is proud to continue supporting inclusive and sustainable development across Nepal, in partnership with all levels of government," the Embassy remarked.



Nepal-Malaysia

Buddha Jayanti Celebrations in Malaysia

Kathmandu: The Embassy of Nepal in Malaysia, in cooperation with the Nepali diaspora in Malaysia, organized a celebratory program of the 2569th Buddha Jayanti on May 12.

According to the Nepali Embassy, Datuk, the chief monk of Malaysia's Buddhist Bihar participated in the Buddhist Jayanti program with about 600 people. Shri Dhammaratana appeared as the chief guest to highlight the importance of Buddha Purnima as well as the importance and contribution of Buddha Darshan to the world's peace and prosperity.

The Nepalese Ambassador Dr. Netra Prasad Timsina welcomed everyone to the program and remarked that he was very honored to discuss Buddha's messages at the event, representing the country where Buddha was born.

The Ambassador called on everyone to visit Lumbini, participate in the development of Lumbini, and contribute to important matters like spreading the message of Buddha around the world and maintaining world peace.

Nepal-Oman

Oman Ambassador Aryal Meets CEO of Salam Air

Kathmandu: The Ambassador of Nepal to Oman, Dornath Aryal, met Adrian Hamilton-Manns, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Salam Air, on May 13. According to the Embassy of Nepal in Oman, during the occasion of the meeting, there was a discussion on direct air flight, especially between Oman and Nepal. Chief Executive Officer Manns informed that Kathmandu is included in Salam Air's list of potential flight destinations, but is currently unable to manage flights due to shortage of aircraft.

Along with that the procurement process of the new aircraft has progressed and assured that Oman-Nepal direct flights will be started smoothly as the aircraft is managed. Ambassador Aryal requested Nepalese citizens to give regularity of flights as soon as possible.



Nepal-Israel

Celebration of the 65th Anniversary of Nepal-Israel Relations

Kathmandu: The Embassy of Israel in Nepal celebrated the 77th Independence Day of the State of Israel and the 65th Diplomatic relations between Nepal and Israel on May 15, 2025, hosting a special reception in Kathmandu. The event was honored by the presence of the Vice President of Nepal, Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, as the chief guest. High-ranking government officials, political leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, media representatives, and friends of Israel joined the celebration.

According to the Israeli Embassy in Nepal, Ambassador Shmulik Arie Bass stated, "The strength of Israel lies not only in the military might but in the unity, innovation and the spirit of our people. Together with Nepal, we are committed to improve the reality for a better future for all."

Nepal-Pakistan

Pakistan Embassy Successfully Organizes Essay and Speech Competition

Kathmandu: On May 29, the Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu organized its 12th Annual Ambassador of Pakistan Essay Writing Competition and 8th Annual Ambassador of Pakistan Speech Competition. Dr. Vijay Kumar Datta, Founding Chief Commissioner, Madheshi Commission of Nepal, joined as the Chief Guest.

This year, the topic of the Essay Competition was "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity." Similarly, in the Speech Competition, Higher Secondary and tertiary students debated on the topic "Books or Bytes: the Future of Learning."

The winners received gold, silver, and bronze medals along with souvenirs and cash prizes. And, participating students were also awarded special prizes, respectively.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Vijay Kumar Datta appreciated

Pakistan for its continued support, including in education, health, and community development. He expressed hope that Pakistan's support would go a long way in reminding the youth of the two countries of shared values and as responsible global citizens.

Ambassador of Pakistan to Nepal, Abrar H Hashmi, in his concluding remarks appreciated the students for their critical thinking on important issues. He further stated that promoting critical thinking on emerging challenges and opportunities would equip them to benefit from such exercises and could serve as a binding bridge between the two countries.

Both competitions have been regularly held for the last 8 and 12 years, respectively, and are popular among the Nepalese youth and attract the brightest students from all over the country.

Nepal-Russia

Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War



Kathmandu: The Russian Embassy in Nepal hosted a Victory Motor Race and the Immortal Regiment march to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory Day on May 8. According to the Embassy of Russia in Nepal, the ceremony began with a moment of silence in memory of millions of fallen heroes.

In his insightful speech, the Ambassador of Russia in Nepal reminded us of the tragic price of the Victory and its historical significance for all of humanity.



UNDP Honours the Legacy of Lord Buddha

Kathmandu: UNDP Nepal's Resident Representative Kyoko Yokosuka joined the Prime Minister of Nepal, KP Sharma Oli, national leaders, international delegates, and Buddhist communities from around the world on May 12 to honour the profound legacy of peace, wisdom, and compassion that Lord Buddha gifted humanity.

UNDP proudly reflected on its decades-long support for the sustainable development of Lumbini, including contributions to the Kenzo Tange Master Plan. "Lumbini is not only a place of spiritual significance—it is a living symbol of harmony and unity," UNDP remarked. "UNDP remains committed to supporting its continued growth as a center for culture, peace, and sustainable tourism."

UNDP Youth Champions Shrestha and Shakil Felicitated for Scaling Summit to Champion Plastic-Free Future

Kathmandu: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nepal on May 28 honoured Ikramul Hasan Shakil, Purnima Shrestha, UNDP Nepal's Climate Influencer, and UNDP Youth Advocate from Bangladesh, in a special felicitation and interaction programme held at the UN House in Kathmandu, reads press statement of UNDP Nepal.

In a landmark journey uniting human endurance and environmental advocacy, UNDP Climate Influencer and mountaineer Shrestha and UNDP Youth Advocate Shakil have successfully scaled Mount Everest with the message to #BeatPlasticPollution. The initiative is part of the Plastics Circularity Project of UNDP across nine Asian countries, focusing on curbing plastic pollution through community engagement, innovation, and cross-border youth



advocacy. Covering 1,372 kilometers on foot from Inani Beach in Cox's Bazar to the summit of Mount Everest, UNDP Bangladesh Youth Advocate Shakil raised awareness about plastic pollution, sustainable living, and climate change. Over the 84-day trek, Shakil swam across the Jamuna River, walked through Dhaka, engaged with communities in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, and collected plastic waste along the way.

Additionally, this season, UNDP Nepal's climate influencer Shrestha, completed her fifth Everest summit, becoming the first woman to do so three times in one season. As UNDP's climate influencer, Purnima has been raising awareness about climate justice, plastic pollution, and particularly the disproportionate impacts on mountain communities and marginalized populations in various national and international forums.

South Asia Regional Conference on Press Freedom

Kathmandu: UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal Ms. Hanaa Singer Hamdy delivered a speech on "Reporting in the Brave New World: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media" at the World Press Freedom Day 2025 – South Asia Regional Conference on May 3.

According to UN Nepal, Resident Coordinator Hamdy highlighted the importance of press freedom, and shared UN's role in supporting it. She highlighted Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees the right to freedom of expression and access to information. She also underscored the Global Digital Compact, endorsed last year, which offers a framework for promoting integrity and trust in the digital world.



UN Awards 2025 Mandela Prize to Brenda Reynolds and Kennedy Odede

Kathmandu: Secretary-General António Guterres will present the award to Brenda Reynolds and Kennedy Odede on 18 July, Nelson Mandela International Day. According to United Nations, the prize, established in 2014, is awarded every five years to two individuals whose work reflects the late South African President's legacy of leadership, humility, service, and unity across borders.

"This year's Mandela prize winners embody the spirit of unity and possibility – reminding us how we all have the power to shape stronger communities and a better world," said Mr. Guterres.

About Brenda Reynolds:

A Status Treaty member of the Fishing Lake Saulteaux First Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada, Brenda Reynolds has spent decades advancing Indigenous rights, mental health, and trauma-informed care.

In 1988, she supported 17 teenage girls in the first residential school sexual abuse case in Saskatchewan. Later, she became a special adviser to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), helping shape survivor support and trauma responses.

She is most recognised for her key role in Canada's court-ordered Indian Residential Schools

Settlement Agreement and her subsequent development of the Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program—a national initiative offering culturally grounded mental health care for survivors and families. In 2023, she was invited by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Union to share her expertise on trauma and cultural genocide.

About Kennedy Odede:

Living in Kenya's Kibera Slum for 23 years, Kennedy Odede went from living on the street at 10 years old to global recognition when he was named one of TIME magazine's 2024 100 Most Influential People.

His journey began with a small act: saving his meagre factory earnings to buy a soccer ball and bring his community together. That spark grew into Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO), a grassroots movement he now leads as CEO. SHOFCO operates in 68 locations across Kenya, empowering local groups and delivering vital services to over 2.4 million people every year.

Mr. Odede is also a New York Times bestselling co-author and holds roles with USAID, the World Economic Forum, the Obama Foundation, and the Clinton Global Initiative.

UNDP-Nepal Resident Representative Meets President of the NCC

Kathmandu: UNDP Nepal Resident Representative Kyoko Yokosuka met with Kamlesh Kumar Aggarwal, President of the Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC), and other NCC members on May 7.

According to UNDP Nepal, the dignitaries reflected on the successful cash-for-work collaboration in Kavrepalanchowk district, following the September 2024 floods in Nepal. The meeting also explored future areas of cooperation, with an emphasis on leveraging private sector partnerships to enhance resilience, recovery, and sustainable development in the country.

Parliamentary Handbook on Climate Finance

Kathmandu: UNDP Nepal, in collaboration with the Committee on Development, Economic Affairs, and Good Governance of the National Assembly, supported a national workshop on May 8, to kickstart the revision of the 2017 Parliamentary Handbook on Climate Finance.

According to UNDP Nepal, the workshop saw participation from federal Members of Parliament, climate finance experts, and key stakeholders. The workshop focused on aligning the handbook with Nepal's federal structure and evolving climate finance landscape.



Everest Man Rita scales his record with 31st summit

Kathmandu: Kami Rita, popularly known as Everest Man, breaks his own record as he ascends the peak of the World's Tallest Mountain, Mt. Everest, for the 31st time under stable weather conditions.

Kami, a 55-year-old Nepalese Sherpa, guided a group of Indian army officials up the mountain to set foot on its 8,894m summit at 04:00 AM on Tuesday. Taking on his father, who was among the first Sherpa guides, Rita first set foot on his mountaineering journey in 1992 and has since stood on top of the 8,848.86-meter (29,032-foot) summit each year.

"I am more happy that

my climbs help Nepal be recognised in the world," said Kami as reported by AFP.

Moreover, Rita's feat comes one week after British mountaineer Kenton Cool summited Everest for the 19th time, also breaking his own record for the most climbs for a non-sherpa, as reported by the BBC.

According to the tourism department, Nepal has issued more than 1,000 climbing permits this season, including for Everest and other peaks. Rita continues to inspire the global mountaineering community with possibilities to summit Everest for the 32nd time, continuing to break his record.

IRGDD Logo Reaches the Chulu Peak



Kathmandu: Marking a symbol of respect, Shayeeet Sharma, Physical Performance Coach, unveiled the logo of International Relations and Global Diplomacy Dialogue (IRGDD) at Chulu Peak of Nepal, which is 6500m above sea level.

The gesture was also meant as a symbol of love for his sister, former Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain and Oman, Dr. Sharmila Parajuli Dhakal, the president of IRGDD.

Tashi Gyalzen Sherpa Makes History on Everest, Honored with Grand Welcome

Kathmandu, May 27, 2025: Tashi Gyalzen Sherpa, 29, from Khumbu, who set a world record by climbing Mount Everest four times in 15 days, was welcomed at the Tribhuvan International Airport on May 27. Tashi set foot on the peak of Mount Everest, which stands at an altitude of 8,848.86 meters, for the fourth time at 3:13 am on May 23. "I had been planning for it for two years. Finally, it became successful in 2025," Tashi speaks with TDN. The record-breaking Sherpa was given a grand welcome by his family, tourism professionals, the Sherpa community, and fans at the domestic terminal in Kathmandu this morning. "I want to bring more foreign tourists into our country, Nepal. I might not be able to contribute a lot, but I want to increase the tourists by at least 5 per cent. I want to bring in more tourists to Nepal," Tashi added.



Qatari princess scales Mt Makalu

KATHMANDU: Qatari royal family member Sheikha Asma Al Thani, among 18 climbers from Satori Adventures, to scale Mt Makalu on May 11. At least seven foreign climbers, including Al Thani and 11 Sherpa climbers, stood atop Makalu being part of the Satori Makalu Expedition 2025.

British Team's successful scale to Mount Everest

Kathmandu: A team of four former British soldiers has successfully summited Mount Everest in five days—a feat unimaginable in the previous decades.

The team, comprising Major Garth Miller, Colonel Alistair Scott Carns, Anthony James Stazicker, and Kevin Francis Godlington, submitted the world's highest peak.

During the summit, the British team was assisted by a team of Sherpas, including Pasang Tendi Sherpa, Pemba Rinji Sherpa, Nima Nuru Sherpa, Gelu Sherpa, Pemba Rickchhen Sherpa, Karma Sherpa, Mingma Chhiri Sherpa, and Phu Dorji Sherpa.



Nepal Marks 72nd International Everest Day

Kathmandu: Nepal is celebrating the 72nd International Everest Day today to commemorate the historic first ascent of the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, by Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal and Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand on May 29, 1953.

Various events have been organized across the country to mark the occasion. The Government of Nepal has formed a Main Celebration Committee led by the Minister of Tourism to oversee this year's commemorations.

Speaking on the significance of the day, Nepal Mountaineering Association President Ang Tshering Sherpa said



Everest Day is observed annually to honor the legacy of the first successful summit. He noted that climbers from around the world, including members of Hillary's family, visit Nepal to participate

in the celebrations. Sherpa emphasized the importance of protecting Everest and the Himalayas from the growing threats of climate change.

"The melting snow has already exposed areas like Kalapatthar. We must act now to preserve Everest for future generations," he said. He also recalled that Nepal renamed Lukla Airport to Tenzing-Hillary Airport in recognition of the duo's historic achievement.

Nepal is home to 1,792 peaks over 5,800 meters, including eight that rise above 8,000 meters. However, only 461 of these mountains have been opened for climbing so far.

Nepal-Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan ambassador holds meeting with NC President Deuba



KATHMANDU: On May 19, Charge d' affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kathmandu met with Sher Bahadur Deuba, the President of the Nepali Congress party and former Prime Minister of Nepal, to discuss matters related to expediting the case of visa fee waivers for the refugees. The Embassy appreciates the positive response from the Hon. President of the Nepali Congress party toward facilitating support.

Nepal-Brazil

Nepal Joins Brazil's Week of Justice, Strengthens Cultural and Judicial Ties



Brasília, Brazil: As part of Brazil's Week of Justice celebrations, Nepali ambassador Nirmal Raj Kafle had the honor of meeting Justice Luís Roberto Barroso, President of the Supreme Federal Court of Brazil.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, including deepening cultural connections and fostering mutual understanding between the two nations. The Nepali delegation also participated in the Day of Cultural Diversity organized by the Supreme Federal Court, highlighting Nepal's rich heritage and reinforcing people-to-people ties with Brazil.

Nepal-Brazil Chamber of Commerce Explores Business Ties in Brazil

Brasília, Brazil: On May 20, a delegation from the Nepal-Brazil Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NBCCI) visited the Confederation of Commercial and Business Associations of Brazil (CACB) for in-depth discussions on strengthening commercial engagement between the two countries.

The NBCCI delegation also held a productive meeting with the Confederation of National Industry (CNI) of Brazil on May 19, focusing on exploring business opportunities and future collaborations in trade and investment. The Embassy of Nepal in Brazil participated in the meetings, supporting efforts to deepen economic ties and foster mutual growth between Nepal and Brazil.

Nepal-UAE

Ambassador Chhetri inaugurates Nepal Pavilion at Seamless Middle East-2025

Dubai: On 20 May, Ambassador Tej Bahadur Chhetri inaugurated the Nepal Pavilion at the Seamless Middle East 2025. The event is being organized in Dubai World Trade Centre from 20 - 22 May 2025. Nepal Pavilion marks the nation's first participation at Seamless Middle East, one of the world's leading platforms that brings together key players in financial technology, including banks, digital payments, e-commerce, startups, investors, and government entities.

The Nepal Pavilion at the Seamless Middle East showcases the collective vision, innovation, and growing global engagement of Nepal's fintech ecosystem.

Nepal-Egypt

Foreign Minister Rana meets Egyptian Ambassador ElGebaly

Kathmandu: On May 26, Noha Hamdy Ahmed ElGebaly, the outgoing Ambassador of Egypt to Nepal, paid a farewell call on Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba. During the farewell call, the Egyptian Ambassador expressed her sincere appreciation for all the support and cooperation extended by the Ministers, MoFA, and all the relevant agencies of Nepal.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Minister congratulated Ambassador Noha for her successful tenure in Nepal, marked by utmost dedication and determination to further expand and deepen the friendly ties between Nepal and Egypt.

ISC SG Dhakal Holds Talks with IPU Secretary General Chungong



Kathmandu: Ek Nath Dhakal, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), held talks with Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), on Wednesday. The meeting, held at the IPU headquarters in Geneva, focused on enhancing multilateral

cooperation between the ISC and the IPU. The two Secretaries General also discussed Nepal's engagement with the IPU. During the meeting, Dhakal

congratulated Martin Chungong on his effective leadership of the IPU and conveyed the best wishes of Speaker Dev Raj Ghimire. In response, Secretary General Chungong extended his best wishes to Speaker Ghimire, congratulated Dhakal's position as ISC Secretary General, and Nepal on its recent achievements within IPU committees.

Dhakal, a Member of the House of Representatives and a member of the International Relations and Tourism Committee, is currently on a two-day visit to Switzerland to hold discussions with the IPU leadership.

Discussions on 'Prospects of Science Diplomacy in Nepal'



KATHMANDU: The Center for Diplomacy and Development organized a talk program on the "Prospects of Science Diplomacy in Nepal." The program will bring together academics, diplomats, and former government officials to discuss how science and diplomacy can jointly contribute to national and global progress.

Mohan Krishna Shrestha, former Ambassador of Nepal to France from 2010 to 2014, and chair of the session, said that the world is entering a new era shaped by artificial intelligence and information technology. He said, "Science diplomacy holds enormous potential. Although developed countries have more resources, developing nations like Nepal are not short of talented individuals. If developing countries reinforce mutual relations through science diplomacy, they can achieve far more beneficial outcomes for their people."

During the program, the keynote speaker, Dr. Sunil Babu Shrestha, former Vice-Chancellor of the Nepal

Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), said the NAST has been actively working to promote science diplomacy in Nepal. Chief guest of the program, former Minister Ganesh Shah, said the importance of Nepal adopting modern instruments of international cooperation, including science diplomacy, to tackle the challenges of the 21st century. He said, "Our international relations have grown weaker than before; therefore, Nepal seriously needs to embrace science diplomacy."

Moreover, Dr. Sarmila Parajuli Dhakal, former Nepali Ambassador to Spain and Oman, said Nepal is significantly lagging behind in science diplomacy and highlighted it is high time the country takes the matter seriously. The urgent need for coordinated efforts to integrate science into foreign policy and global collaboration, she added. Climber Phurba Tenzing Sherpa and Raj Gurung were felicitated for their recent success in summiting Mount Everest. During the program, Sherpa was facilitated.

Book Release

Nepal's AI Diplomacy 'Artificial Intelligence and Diplomacy' Released

Kathmandu: Authored by Mahesh Kumar Kushwaha, Rajib Neupane, and Arya Khanal, a study report book titled "Artificial Intelligence and Diplomacy: A Case for Nepal's AI Diplomacy" was published by the Centre for Social Innovation and Foreign Policy (CESIF).

CESIF Nepal is a not-for-profit, autonomous, and independent private research institution serving in the public interest, with significant independence from any interest group.

The book discusses that the proliferation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has far-reaching implications for society, politics, and the economy, necessitating cooperation and diplomacy for its development and governance. The book's summary further states, "For smaller, developing nations like Nepal, balancing AI innovation with regulation is particularly challenging, requiring collaboration with regional and global actors."

The publication is backed by CESIF Nepal's extensive research, and thus, features key findings and policy recommendations.





INDRA MANI PANDEY
Under Secretary General

FIVE QUESTIONS

BIMSTEC: Shaping a Shared Future

The organization that connects South Asia with Southeast Asia—BIMSTEC—concluded its 6th Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, during the first week of April. Soon after, a BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministers-level meeting was held in Kathmandu, adding momentum to the organization's growing activity in recent years. Much of this renewed energy is credited to its **Secretary General, H.E. Indra Mani Pandey**—a seasoned Indian diplomat who took office on January 4, 2024. His distinguished career includes postings as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador to Oman, and roles in several other key international forums. The Diplomat Nepal sat down with Secretary General Pandey to discuss key developments within BIMSTEC and the road ahead. Excerpts:

With its Charter now in force, BIMSTEC is no longer just an idea—it's a movement for peace, prosperity, and resilience in the Bay of Bengal.

1 The BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministers-level meeting was recently held in Kathmandu. How did the meeting go, and what were its main takeaways?

The 3rd BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture, held on 09 April in Kathmandu, Nepal, was successful in realising its goals. The Ministers reviewed the progress and outlined the future course of regional cooperation in Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries, and Livestock.

The Meeting adopted the Plan of Action on BIMSTEC Fisheries and Livestock Cooperation, which outlines a comprehensive framework to revitalize the fisheries and livestock sector in the region. They also adopted a Joint Statement, reaffirming the member States' commitment to strengthen regional cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors, under the BIMSTEC framework.

The BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministers expressed their strong commitment to enhancing collaboration in agriculture, food security, fisheries, and livestock sectors at the meeting. The Ministers also underscored the importance of adopting innovative and climate resilient technologies to enhance food security and ensure long-term agriculture sustainability across the region.

2 The 6th BIMSTEC Summit has just wrapped up in Bangkok. How would you assess the outcomes of the Summit and the declaration that followed?

The 6th BIMSTEC Summit of the Heads of State/Government of the member States of BIMSTEC was held on 04 April 2025, in Bangkok, Thailand. It was attended by Heads of State/Government of all the member States, and it was the first in-person Summit of BIMSTEC Leaders since the Kathmandu Summit in 2018.

The 6th Summit, themed "Prosperous, Resilient, and Open BIMSTEC", focused on fostering collaboration among the member States to address their shared security and developmental challenges. It provided a new impetus to realise the goal of a "Prosperous, Resilient and Open BIMSTEC". Key outcomes of the 6th Summit are: adoption of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit Declaration and the BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030; the Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation and Memoranda of Understanding with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The Summit also adopted the Rules of Procedure for various BIMSTEC mechanisms and endorsed the Report of the Eminent Persons Group on the Future Direction of BIMSTEC.

Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening BIMSTEC and proposed concrete actions to advance regional trade, connectivity, climate action, food security, disaster management, tourism, and security cooperation. In today's complex geopolitical and economic environment, the Summit reaffirmed BIMSTEC's vital role in shaping a cooperative and resilient Bay of Bengal region.

3 Lately, BIMSTEC seems to be focusing more on economic cooperation, technology, and climate action. What's driving this shift in priorities?

As an intergovernmental organization, aimed at fostering economical and technical cooperation among member States, the BIMSTEC has focused on assisting its member States in realising SDG's Agenda 2030, as reflected in its vast and diverse agenda. Please note that we have always attached a high priority to cooperation in economic, technical, and climate change.

4 Why did it take nearly two decades for the BIMSTEC Charter to be finalized and come into effect?

Like many intergovernmental organizations, BIMSTEC operates on the principle of consensus, which may take a long time. We are pleased that the BIMSTEC Charter officially entered into force on 20 May 2024, giving the Organization a legal personality. The Charter was signed during the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held virtually in Colombo on 30 March 2022, and it entered into force after ratification by all the member States.

5 Finally, how do you envision the future of BIMSTEC as a regional organization?

With a legally binding Charter and well-established decision-making structures — including Summits, Ministerial and Senior Officials' Meetings, the Permanent Working Committee, and various sectoral Working and Expert Groups — BIMSTEC is well-positioned to become a dynamic and vibrant regional organization. Its wide-ranging agenda spans 15 sectors and sub-sectors that align closely with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By deepening cooperation across these areas, BIMSTEC can help member States tackle their shared security, development, and climate change related challenges. BIMSTEC is poised to grow into a vibrant platform for advancing peace, prosperity, and resilience in the Bay of Bengal region. ■

Kamal Koirala

The Ambassador Who Corrected Lord Buddha's Birthplace in Korean Textbooks



TDN CORRESPONDENT

Former ambassador Honourable Kamal Koirala, a distinguished member of the Koirala political clan and son of former Prime Minister of Nepal Matrika Prasad Koirala, passed away on March 30, 2025. He was 87.

Born into a prominent Nepali Congress family, Koirala was introduced to democratic ideals from an early age. However, he later gravitated toward communist ideology. In his final years, he was affiliated with the Unified Socialist Party, led by former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, following the split of the CPN-UML.

Though he drew public attention through both his political lineage and ideological shift, Kamal Koirala became widely recognized for his diplomatic contribution during his tenure as Nepal's Ambassador to South Korea from 2007 to 2011.

While serving in Seoul in 2007, he discovered that South Korean school textbooks incorrectly mentioned India as the birthplace of Gautam Buddha. The birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama, who later became the Buddha, was Lumbini, Nepal.

Without hesitation, Ambassador Koirala wrote a formal letter to then-President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea, pointing out the error and urging the government to correct the same. The letter was picked up by the Korean media and quickly came into notice of the Korean public. The South Korean government in response amended the textbooks to reflect the accurate historical information.

At a time when national identity and heritage were at stake, Kamal Koirala demonstrated courage and diplomatic resolve. Relatively new in foreign service, Koirala followed in the footsteps of his father, Matrika Koirala, who had served as Nepal's permanent representative to the UN and Ambassador to the United States from 1961 to 1964.



At a time when national identity and heritage were at stake, **Kamal Koirala demonstrated courage and diplomatic resolve.**

Although he did not follow his father's path in domestic politics, Kamal carried forward his legacy in diplomacy—defending Nepal's interests on the international stage. His resolve to correct the factual error regarding Lord Buddha's birthplace has in fact strengthened Nepal-South Korea relations.

On his demise, tributes poured in from across the political spectrum, including Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, Unified Socialist chair Madhav Kumar Nepal and former prime minister Jhalanath Khanal. Leaders of different political parties and prominent civil society members, also paid their respects to the late diplomat, leader, and writer.

Kamal Koirala will be remembered for his integrity, patriotism, and unwavering commitment to Nepal's dignity abroad. ■

Literary Reflections on The Red Dragon

Understanding China in Words of Nepal's Envoys



BIRAT ANUPAM
Birat Anupam is a Kathmandu-based journalist who writes for national and international media.

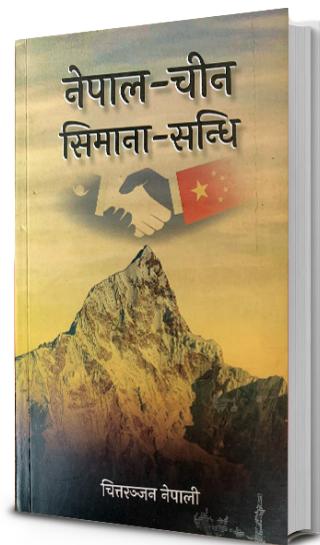
Nepal and China share a state-documented history dating back to the seventh century during the reign of Narendradev. The two countries share a border of around 1400 kilometers. Despite being connected by mountains and rivers, linguistic differences, for long, have acted as a barrier to communication, and for mutual understanding. As a global power, China has means and mechanisms to study a smaller neighbour like Nepal. For Nepal, however, understanding vast and complex China is a far greater task.

Over the years, attempts have been made by noted scholars, diplomats, and writers to bridge this gap through scholarly reflections, as well as through fiction. This article discusses six books focused on China, authored by former Nepali diplomats who served in China.

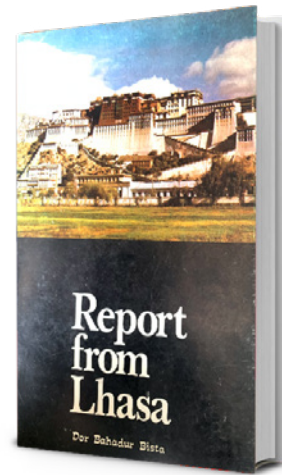
1 Nepal-Chin Seemana Sandhi

Written by Narayan Prashad Rajbhandari (Chittaranjan Nepali), Nepal-Chin Seemana Sandhi (Nepal-China Border Treaty) was published by the then Panchayat Ministry. The book documents the work of the Nepal-China Joint Border Committee. The author, a Member-Secretary of Nepal-China Joint Border Committee, details negotiations between Nepal and China, leading to the historic October 5, 1961, border agreement.

Quoting Chinese PM Zhou Enlai, Rajbhadari highlights the resolving of Mt. Everest boundary issue, citing a 1960 press meet where Zhou acknowledged Nepal's map as the accepted version, placing Mt. Everest on the shared border.



2 Report from Lhasa

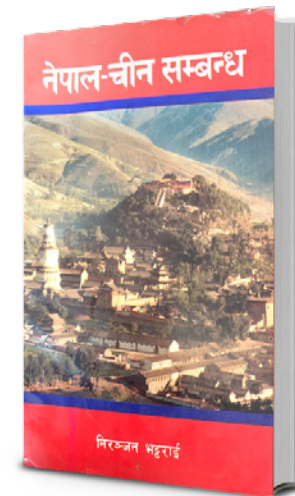


Report from Lhasa was a bestseller when published in 1979 B.S (circa 1922 A.D.). Written by Professor Dor Bahadur Bista during his tenure as Nepal's Consul General in Lhasa (1972–1975), the book recounts his personal and diplomatic experiences in Tibet, then amidst China's Cultural Revolution.

In the prologue, Bista notes, "Nepal, the only country allowed to maintain a foreign mission in Lhasa, is envied by many." The book not only reports Tibet during the Mao-era 'Cultural Revolution', but also talks in length about China as a whole. Bista narrates stories of a Tibet where the mystic mantras of Buddhism had been replaced with Chairman Mao's slogans. In the chapter The Changing Face of Tibet, Bista reflects on the formidable challenge of building railway lines connecting Lhasa to the rest of China.

"People often talk about possible railway connections from Lhasa to other major cities in eastern China with great enthusiasm, but the responsible authorities I met and talked with during my visit to Peking did not think it would come that easily." Bista further notes that the challenge is not just the distance or technical difficulties involved, but also a matter of national priorities. He also reminisces observations from official visits, such as King Birendra's historic 1976 trans-Himalayan flight to Chengdu, and his 1973 state visit to China, which included a significant meeting with Chairman Mao.

3 Nepal-Chin Sambandha



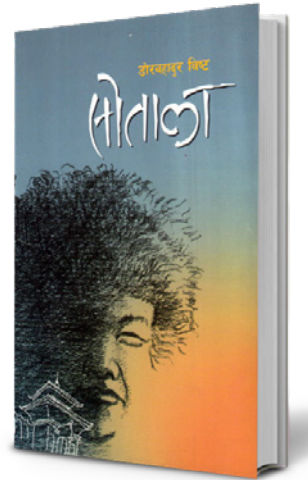
In Nepal-Chin Sambandha (Nepal-China Relations), Niranjana Bhattarai – who served as a First Secretary, Counsellor and Minister at Beijing's Nepal embassy – outlines a long history of China and its ties with Nepal. In one of the segments, Bhattarai writes about diplomatic exchanges between the two countries. According to the text, five Chinese ambassadors had traveled to Nepal from China while seven Nepali ambassadors went to China in that era. Bhattarai references cultural icons such as Buddhahadra, Princess Bhrikuti, and Araniko, and avoids Romanized Chinese transliterations, reflecting his deep understanding of Mandarin.

From the Sun Yat-sen-led republican revolution to the founding of People's Republic of China under Mao Zedong in 1949, Bhattarai traces the development of Sino-Nepal ties across eras. He also mentions an instance from 1942 where Nepal's ambassador to India, Bahadurshumsher Rana, donated \$10,000 to the then President of PRC Chiang Kai-shek, to rally support against Japanese aggression. He also highlights the diplomatic agreement inked on August 1, 1955, followed by subsequent high-level visits, which included Nepali Prime Minister Tanka Prasad Acharya's trip to China in 1956 and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai's historic visit to Nepal in January 1957.

4 Sotala (Fiction)

The only fictional work by a Nepali diplomat who served in China is Sotala, written by Professor Dor Bahadur Bista, Nepal's sixth Consul General to Lhasa. Published in 1976, the story unfolds in a quadrilateral setting following the protagonist's-Sanuman, a Lhasa-based Nepali trader- movements between Kathmandu-Lhasa-Kolkata-Kathmandu. The term 'Sotala' is the name given to Nepali traders by Tibetans.

The book delves into the political shifts of the 1950s, particularly Nepal's budding democratic aspirations and Tibet's evolving political landscape. As far as geo-economics is concerned, the novel explores the immediate impact of the Tibet-Kalimpong border crossing on Nepal's almost sole monopoly in trade with Tibet. The timeline stretches from the era of Prime



Minister Chandra Shumsher Rana to the dawn of democracy in 1951. The timeframe of this story starts from Chandrashumsher Rana and ends with the dawn of democracy in 1951.

5 Mero Katha

In his memoir Mero Katha (My Story), author Basudev Sharma 'Tuphan', details decades of his diplomatic and personal experiences in China — from his early days as a TB patient in 1956 to his multiple roles in Beijing and Lhasa.

Sharma was the first Nepali to earn a master's degree in Chinese Language and Literature from Peking University (1957-1964). In the book, he recounts Nepal's outreach to China for salt, kerosene, and oil during 1971 and 1989 Indian blockades. He fondly recalls shaking hands with Chairman Mao, and greeting him in fluent Chinese, during Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista's visit in 1968. During his stay, he witnessed many historic firsts such as Nepali PM Tanka Prasad Acharya's visit in 1956, state visit by first elected PM BP Koirala in 1960. The book, published in 2005 by his wife Mangala Sharma, features many remarkable stories, including that of Chinese casualties during the construction of the Kodari Highway,

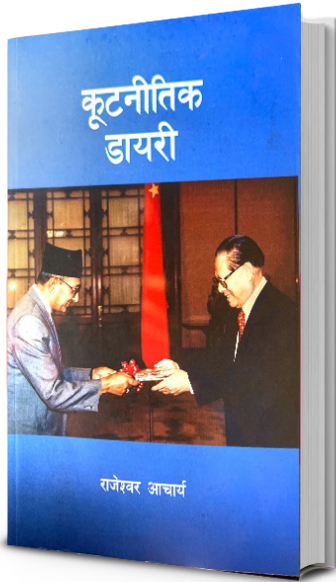


King Birendra's historic trans-Himalayan 1976 Chengdu flight, and a humorous anecdote about inconsistencies in the tiger whiskers on Nepal's national flag.

Tuphan later joined the foreign service, serving in multiple roles in China — first as Second and then First Secretary at Nepal's Embassy in Beijing (1970–75, 1981–85), and as Consul General in Lhasa (1978–80).

6

Kutnitik Diary



Ambassador Rajeshwor Acharya's book 'Kutnitik Diary' (Diplomatic Diary), published in 2013, includes his reflections and experiences from his time as Nepal's ambassador to China (October 1998- January 2003). During his tenure in China, two key events had transpired in both the countries – the 2001 Royal massacre, and Macao's handover to China in 1999. Though the title of his book doesn't explicitly mention China, it is primarily focused on Sino-Nepal relations as indicated by the cover picture featuring China's then President Jiang Zemin receiving a letter of credential from Acharya on October 26, 1998.

In the book, published in 2013 by his wife Kamala Acharya, Acharya reflects on sensitive diplomatic issues, such as

Tibet, Taiwan, and the Dalai Lama. He emphasizes that Nepal must be extra cautious while talking of these 'three nos' while engaging with China related issues, due to geopolitical complexities.

A particularly interesting anecdote from the book involves a Nepali speaking North Korean named Pake, who had studied the language while stationed in Kathmandu.

There are also references to Chinese officials raising concerns over Nepal's engagements, and Indian diplomats showing undue interest in Nepal-China relations in the book.

About his unfulfilled potential Tibet tour, Acharya writes, "As suggested by my Chinese friends, I didn't visit Tibet owing to my heart ailment."

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