

DAO Kathmandu Regd. No. 148/11/063/064  
ISSN: 2071-0711



**OPINION**  
Dipak Gyawali



**ARTICLE**  
Hemang Dixit



**VIEWPOINT**  
Dr. Ram Prasad Dhital

# NEW SPOTLIGHT

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Nov 06, 2020

FORTNIGHTLY

**FNCCI ELECTION**

## Dhakal's Soft Approach

**INSIDE**



**NEPAL-INDIA MILITARY RELATIONS**  
Traditional Ties In New Era



**US ELECTIONS**  
Biden To Become Next President



**EAST-WEST MULTIPURPOSE CANAL**  
Futile Thought



# Tanahu Hydropower Project

Tractebel Engie GmbH, Germany in association with Manitoba Hydro International, Canada has been engaged as the Project Supervision Consultant of 140 MW Tanahu Hydropower Project (previously known as Upper Seti HEP). All pre-construction works including camp facilities and access to the project sites have been completed, whereas the major construction activities under Package 2 (Powerhouse, Waterway and Related Equipment) and Package 3 (Transmission Line) have commenced from January 2019. Following the termination of the Package 1 (Headworks), the Invitation for Re-bid was again issued 28 February, 2020. After evaluation of technical bids, the price bids of the bidders, whose technical bids had been determined to be substantially responsive, have been opened. The main features of the Project are as follows:



|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Installed Capacity | : 140 MW                      |
| Annual Energy      | : 585.7 GWh                   |
| Design Flow        | : 131.2 m <sup>3</sup> /s     |
| Dam Height/Type    | : 140 m/concrete gravity      |
| Headrace Tunnel    | : 1162 m (7.4 m Dia)          |
| Surge Shaft        | : 61.5 m (ht.), 28 m (Dia)    |
| Penstock Pipe      | : 160 m (l), 5.7 m to 4 m (D) |
| Turbine            | : Vertical Shaft Francis      |
| Powerhouse         | : Underground Type            |
| Transmission Line  | : 33.9 km                     |

The total cost of the project is estimated to be 505 million USD. The project is co-financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The project is being funded by the Asian Development Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the European Investment Bank (EIB),





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## नेपालीहरूको महान चाडपर्वहरूको उपलक्ष्यमा

### नेपाल विद्युत प्राधिकरणको शुभकामना सन्देश

नेपाल विद्युत प्राधिकरण मुलुकभर नियमित, भरपर्दो र सर्वसुलभ रूपमा विद्युत सेवा उपलब्ध गराउन क्रियाशिल रहि आएको र आगामी ३ वर्ष भित्र मुलुकभरका जनतालाई विद्युत सेवा उपलब्ध गराउने दिशामा प्राधिकरण अघि बढिरहेको छ।

कोभिड-१९बाट प्राधिकरणका उल्लेख्य कर्मचारीहरू संक्रमित भईरहेको अवस्थामा पनि प्राधिकरणले मुलुकभर नियमित विद्युत आपूर्ति गरिरहेको छ। नेपालीहरूको आसन्न चाडपर्वहरूमा समेत कहि कतै विद्युत सेवा अवरुद्ध हुन नदिन प्राधिकरणले हरसम्भव उपायहरू अबलम्बन गरिरहेको छ। यद्यपी काबु बाहिरको परिस्थिति परि वा प्राविधिक कारणले विद्युत आपूर्तिमा कुनै समस्या आईपरेमा तत्काल प्राधिकरणको हटलाइन सेवा ११५० (कार्यालय समय भित्र) मा वा सम्बन्धित कार्यालयहरूको नो लाइट सेवा केन्द्रमा खबर गरिदिनु हुनसमेत सम्बन्धित सबैमा अनुरोध छ।

२०७७ सालको वडा दशैं, तिहार, नेपाल सम्बत् एवम् छठको सुखद उपलक्ष्यमा आम नेपाली जनता, सम्पूर्ण उपभोक्ता एवम् शुभेच्छुकहरूमा सु-स्वास्थ्य, दिर्घायु र उत्तरोत्तर प्रगतिको हार्दिक मङ्गलमय शुभकामना व्यक्त गर्दछौं।

श्री वर्षमान पुन 'अनन्त', मन्त्री, ऊर्जा, जलस्रोत तथा सिँचाइ मन्त्रालय

- अध्यक्ष, सञ्चालक समिति,  
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एवम्

नेपाल विद्युत प्राधिकरण परिवार







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www.spotlightnepal.com

**Kathmandu DAO Regd. No.**

148/11/063/64

**Central Region Postal Regd.**

No. 36/067/068

**US Library of Congress Catalogue**

No. 91-905060, ISSN : 2091-0711

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

**Printing**

Megha Offset Printing Press P. Ltd.,

Dhapasi, Kathmandu

Tel. : 977-1-4363624

Unified three years ago, ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) is facing a major crisis. Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and Co-chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal have been struggling to control the party. The upheaval is natural. Enjoying the state powers and perks, both the leaders, with their followers, know their limits. This is the reason there is no immediate threat in horizon of any disaster in the present context. As it is said power divides the people and also brings them to their gut interest, Oli and Prachanda may issue another statement of unity in a futile exercise. The current crisis is the crisis of the non-functional system due to a constitution presented and passed in haste. Until there are substantial debates over constitution, changing the government has no meaning. Given the situation, PM Oli will be much better than anyone else in his party and opposition. On the business front, the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry is holding its 54th AGM in two weeks with elections for various positions. We have decided to make FNCCI AGM and election our cover story for this issue. Industrialist Chandra Dhakal, with his conciliatory approach, is contesting the elections for senior vice president with another industrialist Kishore Kumar Pradhan. At a time when Nepal's economy has been passing through a critical state and private sector businesses and industries are badly hit, Dhakal is contesting the elections with one agenda: to bring relief to the business community suffering from the COVID-pandemic. We also cover high-level visit of Chief of Indian Army Manoj Mukunda Naravane and its implications to Nepal-India relations. As Nepalese are celebrating second great festival of light Tihar Dipawali, Nepal Sambat and Chhath, New Spotlight Family wish happy festival to all patron, readers and well-wishers.

**Keshab Poudel**

Editor

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# Playing Game

*PM KP Sharma Oli firmly holds his powerbase in the party to defuse any effort of his rival to unseat him*

By KESHAB POUDEL

Panchatantra says the King who mercifully grants due share in all circumstances to serving folk may fitly rise. PM Oli's recent strategy to grant due share to his friend is helping him to rise in political game in all contexts.

Panchatantra has great influence in Nepalese mind. Whether he or she belongs to the party of communists, congress or any political persuasion, his or her wisdom is guided by Panchatantra rather than any foreign ideology. PM Oli is not an exception. In his recent political maneuvering, PM Oli has been using a strategy similar to the wisdom of Panchatantra.

Following the reshuffle of cabinet and appointment of ambassadors, the dispute in ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) has openly surfaced again. As Prachanda and his group, including former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and Jhalnath Khanal, discussed tabling a no-confidence motion in the parliamentary party, PM Oli got angry. In his one to one meeting with Prachanda, PM Oli reportedly told him that they cannot go together on the same platform for a long time.

PM Oli snubbed Prachanda threatening that he can split the party if necessary and asked him to think about this. PM Oli's arrogance is understandable as he has overwhelming support in the parliamentary party and party grass-root level.

With the support from Bam Dev Gautam and former Maoist and Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal, PM Oli has cracked his rival faction's strength in the party.

Knowing PM Oli's strength, Prachanda and his group have changed their strategy with a softer line. "Prachanda has to take initiative to break the ice. Bigger person has bigger role," twitted Narayan Kazi Shrestha, one of the closet strategist of Prachanda camp.

Following this message of



Shrestha, PM Oli's supporters also issued a reconciliatory statement. Just a day ago, DPM Ishwor Pokharel bluntly criticized Prachanda for his conspiratorial role.

However, DPM Pokharel changed his stand the next day. "The decision taken by two co-chair of the party is acceptable for us. The meeting of two co-chairs can solve all the problems."

Other leaders of the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP), who are close to PM Oli also believe that the intra-party feud is not as serious as it is being portrayed in the media.

They have been reasoning that the usual discussions and remarks within a big and Democratic Party like NCP were exaggerated by the media, projecting that the party was on the verge of division.

"Whatever appeared in the media was not true. The regular meetings between the party Chairmen, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', were centered on resolving the internal affairs of the party," said Subhash Chandra Nembang, deputy leader of the NCP Parliamentary Party and standing committee member.

"The intra-party feud has not reached the level of dividing the party and such a situation will not come in the future as well," said Nembang. "The disputes within the party were not as complex as

that being shown in the media. PM Oli and chairman Prachanda are holding discussions on a regular basis. The party will not split and we will make sure that the NCP doesn't face such a situation."

"I believe that the ongoing disputes will be resolved with the help of regular discussions between the Chairmen," said Nembang. "The second-level leaders of the party have been giving their recommendations and consultations to the Chairmen regularly."

Whatever the leaders say, PM Oli's strategy to pressure Prachanda with a shot to split the party seems to be working this time. With no adequate resources in hand and many of his one-time die-hard colleague deserted him to join PM Oli's camp, Prachanda has very few options before him other than to go for a compromise.

Appointing the ministers of his choice and nominating the ambassadors of his loyalists, PM Oli has been pleasing his supporters discarding his rivals in the party. By defusing the tensions within a week in his favor luring Bam Dev Gautam and Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa in his camp, PM Oli has shown that he knows the art of politics. Oli's wisdom of Panchatantra works to defuse the turmoil in the party.



## NEWSNOTES

### Indian Ambassador To Nepal Kwatra Pays A Courtesy Call On Foreign Secretary Paudyal



Ambassador of India to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra paid a courtesy call to foreign secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singha Durbar. In his tweet ambassador Kwatra tweeted, "Had a warm meeting with Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj

Paudyal Ji. Twitter

"Congratulated him on his appointment and held a positive conversation on substantively enriching and progressing India-Nepal cooperation.

### Japan Decorated Former Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey

Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal Ramesh Nath Pandey is among this year's foreign recipients and, in recognition of his contributions towards strengthening the relationship between Japan and Nepal.

According to a press release issued by the Embassy of Japan, he will receive the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun. The Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2020 Autumn Imperial Decorations.

Pandey, as the then Minister of Tourism, patronized the Japan-Nepal-China trilateral expedition of Everest in 1986. Pandey also issued stamp of Ekai Kawaguchi, a Japanese monk who was the first Japanese visitor to Nepal, when he was Minister of Information and Communications in 2002.

In 2005, as Foreign Minister, Pandey visited Japan with Crown Prince Paras and Crown Princess Himani, to open the Nepal Pavilion in the Aichi Expo '05. He had at that time close personal relations with Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto, the former Prime Minister of Japan.



They cooperated with each other to help organize the 50 year anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2006.

The Order of the Rising Sun is bestowed upon individuals of merit, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the nation or public. This is also conferred upon foreign nationals who have made notable contributions to the promotion of relations between Japan and other countries in areas such as politics and diplomacy, research and education, medicine and social welfare, economy and industry, and culture and sports.

### Governments Of Nepal, EU And UNFPA Jointly Launch Project

The Delegation of the European Union to Nepal and the United Nations Population Fund, in coordination with the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens and relevant provincial and local authorities, launched a two-year project to tackle gender-based violence (GBV) in Province 2 and Karnali.

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to put women and girls at increased risk of GBV, the project will ensure the provision of critical services for GBV survivors in 7 municipalities. The project will support One Stop Crisis Management Centres (OCMC), psychosocial services, and access to shelters, amongst other immediate response services. Working hand in hand with public and non-state actors, the project will strengthen and accelerate efforts to prevent and respond to GBV by addressing the emerging challenges and pre-existing gaps worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"GBV continues to remain a major barrier in the government's ongoing efforts to materialize its motto of Happy Nepali and Prosperous Nepal. Various reports have revealed that COVID-19 has worsened further the situation of GBV in Nepal and also globally. Additional and collaborative efforts from all sides is the need of the hour to control GBV," said Dal Rawal, Minister for Social Development, Karnali Province. "I am happy to learn that the EU has provided financial contribution to UNFPA Nepal to implement the two-year project, which aims at enhancing effectiveness of the OCMCs, among other support, to end GBV in Province 2 and in Karnali Province. On behalf of the Government of Karnali Province, I wish all the best for the success of the project."

### Israeli Embassies Provide Food Assistance To Nepali Musicians

Israeli Embassies in Nepal and Japan are jointly providing emergency food assistance to the underprivileged Gandharva Community around Kathmandu and Pokhara through collaboration with a Japanese International NGO, Japan International Support Program (JISP).

With the financial contribution from the Government of Israel, JISP is providing a vital good assistance to approximately 1,000 most vulnerable Gandharva people during the most auspicious festivals of Dashain and Tihar. The goods include basic food items such as rice, lentils, oil and vegetables. Also, soap bars and masks are provided at this challenging time of COVID-19. The Gandharva communities located in Kathmandu were donated goods today and the goods will be sent for the community in Pokhara soon.

Expressing happiness to be able to contribute to the Gandharva Musician's Community of Nepal Benny Omer, Ambassador of Israel to Nepal said, "In these difficult times of COVID-19 Pandemic, we are happy to be able to assist vital humanitari-





an needs to the wonderful community in Nepal.

“It is our priority to deliver basic food package to the vulnerable people as soon as possible, as the Nepali people are entering into one of the most festive seasons, Dashain and Tihar, in the midst of the serious challenges they are experiencing due to the influence of COVID-19. We are working with some of the best traditional musicians of Nepal to fundraise for the most vulnerable,” says Mayumi Yoshida, Representative Director of JISP.

### KOICA's Consultative Webinar For Its Volunteer Partner Organizations

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has organized a consultative webinar for its Volunteer Partner



Organizations on October 16, 2020 via Cisco WebEx Meet.

The webinar aimed to share the concept “e-volunteering” to all the recipient organizations. KOICA has shared this concept to internalize the new normal situation during this pandemic. Via this concept KOICA wants to reach and serve its volunteer partner organizations in this pandemic. Similarly, sharing integrity approach is also another objective of this program which promotes SDG 16.

Every year KOICA review and evaluate its volunteer program with sharing and exchanging the best practices and creative ideas to improve volunteer program in Nepal among volunteer-related organizations. This meeting gave a platform to discuss ways to promote a better policy and effective implementation of Volunteer program in the future. About 18 participants from different volunteer partner organizations participated in the program.

Sunghoon Ko, Country Director of KOICA Nepal Office emphasized on the importance of cooperation from recipient organization in order to strengthen the KOICA program in Nepal. He also focused on e-volunteering and urged to re launch the Korea Overseas Volunteer (KOV) Program after COVID situation. He wished a grand success of the workshop.

Representatives from Kathmandu University and Pokhara University shared their experiences and prospects related to e-volunteering. Simultaneously, Suryodaya Municipality and Thapathali Campus also shared their expectations from KOICA.

The KOICA Volunteer Program is one of the main pillars of the KOICA programs. KOICA volunteer program aims to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development and to promote friendly relations between Korea and host countries.

### 23 Nepali Schools Receive British Council's International School Award 2020

23 Schools from Nepal awarded British Council's International School Award (ISA) under Connecting Classroom Project British Council Nepal awarded International School Award to 23 schools in Nepal, at the virtual award ceremony held on 20 October 2020.



The program and award are endorsed by the Center for Education and Human Resource Development

(CEHRD) and this is the 8th year that Nepali Schools are being awarded through this programme. At the virtual ceremony held on 20 October, 23 schools from nine districts were awarded full award, who are now eligible to use the coveted International School Award kite mark along with their school logo on all the official materials for a period of three years.

The trophy and certificates of merits will be sent to the schools. 163 schools from all over Nepal initially working on International School Award last year, but due to Covid-19 only 28 schools submitted their dossiers. The remaining schools aims to submit their portfolio of work next year for the full award. “The Connecting Classrooms project including the International School Award aligns well with the priorities of the School Sector Development Plan and the national educational priorities of the Government of Nepal.

### India Builds Bhimsen Adarsha Higher Secondary School In Nawalparasi District

Representatives of the Embassy of India, Kathmandu and District Coordination Committee, School Management Committee and local representatives, including students and faculty of the school jointly inaugurated through video-conferencing the new building of Bhimsen Adarsha Higher Secondary School in Nawalparasi District.

B u i l t with Government of India financial assistance of NRs 25.83 million, under the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Development Cooperation, the school located in Devchuli-07 of Nawalparasi District.



E s t a b - lished in 1969, the school offers classes till 10+2 and over 55% of the students of the school are girls.

## BUSINESS BRIEF

### Republic Of Korea Has Set An Example Holding Elections Amid COVID-19: Speaker Sapkota



Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Nepal, Park Chong-suk, has paid a courtesy call to the speaker of House of Representatives Agni Prasad Sapkota at his office in Parliament Secretariat on Monday.

During the meeting, speaker Sapkota congratulated ambassador Park Chong-suk for his successful tenure in Nepal. He said that the relations between Nepal and the Republic of Korea have been always cordial and friendly since the establishment of diplomatic relations 46 years ago.

Speaker Sapkota expressed his happiness over the successful efforts taken by the Republic of Korea to contain COVID-19 saying that Korea has shown an example by holding successful elections amid COVID-19

Speaker Sapkota said he is very much inspired by the development model of the Republic of Korea saying that Nepal has to learn a lot from Korea. Speaker Sapkota thanked the government of the Republic of Korea and the people for offering generous support to Nepal through KOICA.

Ambassador Park said that he is highly honored and happy to take up his assignment as the Korean Ambassador to Nepal. He also said that Korea and Nepal have enjoyed a very cordial relationship since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1974; He said he will do his best to take the bilateral relations to a new level during his tenure.

He said that Korea has donated Nepal the medical supplies for COVID-19 during the beginning of the outbreak of COVID-19 through KOICA and he assured that further support in the future. Ambassador Park also said that more foreign investment will come from Korea to Nepal in various sectors,

### Nepal Investment Bank Opens Extension Counters

Nepal Investment Bank Limited has expanded its operation by opening its 18th and 19th extension counters at Shukuldhoka, Bhaktapur and Machhegaun, Chandragiri Ward No 9. The Shukuldhoka extension counter was inaugurated by NIBL Deputy General Manager Bijendra Suwal whereas the Machhegaun extension counter was jointly inaugurated by acting ward head Ram Krishna Shrestha and NIBL Bagmati province head Barun Shrestha. The extension counters will

provide banking services catering to local demand, with the aim to aid financial accessibility to customers and widen financial literacy.

NIBL has been catering to its customers from 83 branches, 125 ATMs, 19 extension counters, 10 revenue collection counters and 56 branchless banking counters.



The bank, being the recipient of five Bank of the Year awards for exemplary service and business, was accredited with Euromoney awards for "Best Bank 2018" from the international publication - Euromoney. Further, ICRA Nepal (International Credit Rating Agency- Nepal) has given the bank a credit rating of A.

### Hotel Yak & Yeti Bags Haute Grandeur Global Excellence Awards 2020

Hotel Yak and Yeti announces the latest achievements received by the company at the Haute Grandeur Global Excellence Awards 2020 for following categories Best Business Hotel in Nepal, Best Conference Venue Hotel in Nepal, Best



Convention Hotel in Nepal, Best Historical Hotel in Nepal.

In the world of Award initiatives, Haute Grandeur Global Awards is unmatched. Excellence is recognized through feedback from guests and not quantity of votes by the general public or a panel of judges. This fair and transparent process guarantees unbiased results – a concept exclusive to the brand. The Haute Grandeur Global Awards honor establishments that continuously excel through remarkable hospitality experiences. The Awards recognize exceptional contributions by hotels, lodges, villas, resorts, retreats, spas and restaurants worldwide.

### Chinese District Court Ordered Chinese Construction Bank To Pay Over Rs.1.5 Billion To HBL And BoK

Zhengzhou Intermediate People's District Court decided a case in the favor of Bank of Kathmandu (BoK) and Himalayan Bank Ltd (HBL) and ordered China Construction Bank (CCB) to pay the amount of over Rs.1.5 billion covered

by Advance Payment Guarantee (APG) and Performance Guarantee (PG) to two Nepali Banks.

HBL had issued \$6.665 million as PG, while BoK had issued \$ 6.2 million and 1.40 million Euros as APG to Melamchi Water Development Board to provide the counter-guarantee to CCB. The CCB was the guarantor for the project contractor, China Railway 15 Bureau Group.

Earlier, Zhengzhou Intermediate People's District Court took the decision in favor of China Railway 15 Bureau Group.





Both the banks filed an appeal in Henan Province High Court. Following the hearing, the Chinese High Court reversed the Zhengzhou Intermediate People's District Court decision and remanded the case to Zhengzhou Intermediate People's Court on 19 July 2019.

While signing a contract with Melamchi Drinking Water Project, China Railway Bureau was required to give Performance Guarantee (PG) and Advance Payment Guarantee (APG). Thus, China Railway request China Construction Bank to issue a counter-guarantee to HBL and BoK Performance Guarantee (PG).

### **NIBL Approves Acquisition Of City Express Finance Company**

Nepal Investment Bank Ltd (NIBL), a leading bank in the "A" class banking category, in its Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), approved the acquisition of City Express Finance Company Ltd, a class 'C' financial institution.

NIBL hosted an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on the 14th of October 2020 at its Durbar Marg Head Office premises. Taking into consideration the Nepal Government's directive to maintain social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was conducted through virtual medium.

City Express Finance Company Ltd. will be acquired in the swap ratio of 100:30. After the acquisition of City Express, with a paid up capital of NPR 400 million, the paid up capital of Nepal Investment Bank will reach NPR 14.37 billion. The promoter shareholding will be 68.48% while the general public will hold 31.52% shares post-acquisition.

NIBL has been catering to its customers from 83 branches, 125 ATMs, 17 extension counters, 10 revenue collection counters and 56 branchless banking counters. The bank, being the recipient of five Bank of the Year awards for exemplary service and business, was accredited with Euromoney awards for "Best Bank 2018" from the international publication - Euromoney. Further, ICRA Nepal (International Credit Rating Agency- Nepal) has given the bank a credit rating of A.

### **8th AGM Of NIBL Ace Capital Limited Concluded**

NIBL Ace Capital Limited conducted its 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM) today in the premises of NIBL Ace Capital Ltd., Lazimpat, and Kathmandu.

The AGM has passed the annual report of Board of directors including lost and profit account and cash flow during the fiscal year 2076/077. The AGM has also decided to distribute 22.22 percent cash dividend from paid of capital.

Chaired by chairperson of Board of Director Sachin Tibdewala, Barun Shrestha attended the AGM as

a representative of Nepal Investment Bank Ltd, a sole shareholder. The board meeting also attended by board of directors Deep Kumar Shrestha, Bandana Thapa and Rabindra Bhattarai.

The meeting also attended by representatives of regulatory authority, auditor and chief executive officer.

### **Nepal Observes 40th World Food Day**

Nepal observed the 40th World Food Day and 75th Anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has pledged to create beyond any doubt that no one remains hungry and no one passes on of hunger. In a message given on the event of the 40th World Nourishment Day, PM Oli emphasized that the government was effortful to guarantee fundamental food security to the citizens. Within the message, he said, "It is the obligation of a welfare state to guarantee fundamental nourishment security to its citizens. In this way, the structure of Nepal has defined the correct to nourishment as one of the basic rights."

Agriculture and Livestock Development Minister Ghanashyam Bhusal has vowed to guarantee nourishment security within the nation as the service is planning unused approaches and directions to direct the nourishment generation and dispersion sector.



### **Indian Ambassador To Nepal Hands Over Cheque Worth 1 Billion Rupees**

Ambassador of India to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra paid a courtesy call on Finance Minister Bishnu Paudel on Tuesday.

In his twitter ambassador said the two held positive discussions to further strengthen the bilateral economic and development partnership between the two countries for mutual prosperity and progress.

On the occasion, Ambassador Kwatra also handed over a cheque of NPR 1 billion for India funded housing reconstruction projects in Gorkha and Nuwakot.

Ambassador tweeted Called on General Secretary (NCP) & Hon'ble Minister of Finance Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paudel. Had positive discussions to further strengthen the bilateral economic and development partnership between the two countries for mutual prosperity and progress.



**NIBL ACE CAPITAL**  
Managing shares. Managing investments.

# Understanding Uncertain Times



BY: DIPAK GYAWALI

We live in Nepal under three levels of uncertainties, and they all pealed in chorus last week. There were the nail-biting US elections, in the middle of which we had to switch to Nepali news outlets to figure out what was really going on with the visit of India's spooks and army chiefs to Nepal. If these were not troubling enough, our hydra-headed, allegedly communist but in reality kleptocratic crony capitalist ruling party went cannibalistic. What will it all mean for our future?

Any one of these uncertainties would be unsettling enough for Nepal: all three together makes for a toxic mix. For all the hopes Nepal's 2006 Rhododendron Revolution inspired of peace and stability forever hereafter, we should not even have to be asking this question today. But it is now painfully obvious those were badly jinxed euphoric days a decade and a half ago, evoked by a misplaced faith in characterless political agents of change. Let us start our soul-searching with what is the event farthest from us which a globalized world has brought to our doorsteps and then work inwards.

As these lines are being written, news has just come in that Joe Biden has squeaked through to the presidency winning what matters, i.e. majority electoral college votes, ironically on the day of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. The world's most powerful democracy has an archaic system of vote counting where majority votes do not win you the presidency. If that were so, Hillary Clinton and not the Orange Showman would have been president. The whole world watched perplexed, wondering why, when Joe Biden was five million votes ahead of Donald Trump, their fates would be decided by just some seventy thousand votes in obscure parts of America.

This anomaly, and the circus it gave rise to, does not inspire much faith in America's global leadership of democracy, or for that matter of its Anglophone European parent, the Brexited United Kingdom. While Biden may go back to much of Obama's more sane policies, ranging from those on climate change to regional peace, whether in Iran and the Middle East or in Cuba and America's neighbourhood, a badly polarized and divided country will not make his path any easier.

This harsh reality was made clear in a Biden victory tweet by Michelle Obama: *"Let's remember that [71 million Americans] voted for the status quo [of Donald Trump] even when it meant supporting lies, hate, chaos and division"*.

It also won't help when fifty million Americans are jobless and the country's economy – its structural weaknesses exposed and exacerbated by the Covid crisis – is shrinking and heading for a recession that is nearing Great Depression proportions. US voters have gotten Trump out of the White House but Biden sadly will not be able to get rid of Trumpism from the White House or the US polity.

Let's not forget, in the post WW2 years of the 1950s, US commanded 50 percent of the world's GDP. In 2018, the United States share for of global gross domestic product (GDP) after adjusting for purchasing power parity (PPP) was 15 percent. This share is expected to decrease to 14 percent by 2024, which is roughly a seventh of the global total. That is lower than China's and that means US's ability to influence global events unilaterally will be commensurately lower, especially with its biggest ally Europe and perhaps even Japan beginning to look after their own regional interests vis-à-vis China, Russia, Iran and the Middle East.

What will it mean for us in far away Nepal? Much less American attention for sure as the US gets to solving its own economic and racial inequality problems. And if the Biden Administration ratchets down the Sinophobic hysteria of Trump and its commensurate Indo-Pacific China encirclement strategy, it will mean less importance for Nepal and its development in US eyes. How much the new administration will be willing to spend its political capital on the IPS-inspired MCC project without a Pompeo-Pradip Gyawali rapport we will just have to wait and see. One interesting development worth following, though, is the Trump administration-appointed new director of USAid for Nepal: she is not a development or environment but a hard security expert of Iranian origin.

This global geopolitical seismic shift was matched by regional plate tectonics. Oli government's non-existent diplomacy coupled with Modi's macho one had brought Nepal-India relations to its nadir. Moreover, it is appar-



ent now that Modi's neighbourhood belligerency, whether against China or Pakistan (or for that matter against Nepal by carrying out an inhuman economic blockade in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake), has very little useful strategic content and is only meant for Trump-like domestic showmanship.

To begin repairing Nepal-India relationship, Modi has initiated (difficult to believe infighting and ill-informed Nepali political leadership is capable of any initiative!) expeditions led not by Indian political or diplomatic figures but by the head of its foreign intelligence agency RAW and by its army chief. What is worth noting are a few critical points. This has come about against the backdrop of India signing up to a military alliance with the US, giving up all pretence not only of non-alignment but also of the self-esteem that should be the hallmark of a civilizational great power. It is the culmination of the "Howdy Modi" bromance with Trump and might even backfire with a Biden administration not very sympathetic with Modi's Kashmir adventurism. The results of the Bihar elections will soon show whether Modi is a Russian Putin making his country great again or its Boris Yeltsin bringing it to its economic knees and international ridicule.

Why did Modi choose his security people to open a dialogue with the Oli regime? The mysterious blogger Maila Baje has put it most insightfully: Modi knew that if the Nepali political establishment listened to any Indians, it was RAW which functioned their handler not just during the anti-King agitations of 2005 but much earlier ever since the establishment of multi-party democracy in 1990. With the army general, the motivation was, it seems, not only to signal traditional military and cultural ties that pre-dated independent India (Nepal Army Day is after all Maha Shivaratri and its earlier ancestor commanders also fought in Panjab Maharaj Ranjit Singh's army against the British). It was also to base its relationship with an institution that has deeper foundations in Nepali nationhood than fickle foreign Marxist gods-worshipping political parties. Although the Indian army chief signalled all of this by visiting the Kumari and Pashupati Nath temple, the *Dharma*-bereft communist rulers of Nepal missed the opportunity to reciprocate appropriately by allowing him

into the Pashupati precincts to conduct personal worship.

All careful observers of Nepal-India relations know that during the 2005 anti-King agitations, the Indian establishment was divided. The RAW-led and Shyam Sharan-facilitated South Block was determined to remove the monarchy, especially after what it perceived was an affront to its pro-US policy of bringing in occupied Afghanistan by King Gyanendra's bringing China in as observer to SAARC during the 2005 Dhaka summit. The Indian army, on the other hand including its military establishment in Kathmandu looking after the pension camps, was against that line of sidelining the monarchy and propping up the RAW-groomed Maoists. Today with hindsight, it was definitely more far-sighted regarding India's security threats than either its spooks (actually so corrupted that they could



Collage of Instability

be used by Nepali pro-Indian politicians to help sort out their domestic problems!) or its diplomatic establishment (beholden more to Green Card worship than India's long-term interests).

All this is happening even as Nepal's ruling EhMaKe communist party is imploding and the official opposition Kangress politically comatose. If the American election circus was nail-biting, Nepal's inner-party infighting is breath-taking. News has just filtered out of the Baluwatar meeting of Oli with the EhMaKe dissident faction led by Prachanda with ex-PMs Madhav Nepal and Jhala Nath Khanal in tow: the acrimony would have made a fish-market brawl look civilized. And it is difficult not to imagine which of its faction leaders is up for sale to which foreign interests. All this, it seems, is tragi-comic drama of Loktanta's dying throes, to be covered by this essayist and many more in the days ahead.



## NEPAL-INDIA MILITARY RELATIONS

# Traditional Ties In New Era

*Following the political change of 2008, Nepal Army is the only remaining traditional friendly institution in Nepal's historical linkage with India*

BY KESHAB POUDEL

No two countries in the world have such a close relation between their national armies like India and Nepal. Having shared common civilization and religious, cultural, linguistic and traditional commonalities, this kind of relations is naturally unique.

Although over the last 700 years, the nature of state and their political boundaries have changed and now there exist states set up under western political philosophy of sovereign nation-state, nature of Nepal's political relationship with India has also changed.

Nepal and India's military relations go back to 1303. King of Gorkha Drabya Shaha, who laid the foundation of Gorkha Army (present

Nepal Army) for national unification, was descendant of Rajput from Chitor of Rajasthan fled in 1303 following fall of their Kingdom Moslem attack.

Even after 1814-Sugauli Treaty, former prime minister Mathbar Singh Thapa was appointed as a commander of the army of Punjab by King Ranjeet Singh. The long traditional relations between Nepal-India military continues even today in the form of Gorkha battalion.

Along with Gorkha battalion, Nepal Army also sent to India to support modern Indian army to restore peace after 1947 or division of India.

Despite uprooting all the traditional institutions and relations following the change brought by 12-point agreement, what have not

changed much are Nepal's military to military, religious, cultural and civilization relations with India. However, in absence of monarchy, a key institution of continuity, all traditional institutions are declining.

A major breakdown in Nepal's overall structure has made following the agreement, which was mediated by India, signed between Maoist rebel and mainstream seven parties. With abolition of monarchy, there occurred a major breakdown in religious, cultural and civilization relations.

Groomed and thriving on anti-Indian slogan under communist ideology, Nepal's traditional ideology is fading along with monarchical institution. Nepal is gradually drifting from



its southern traditional orientation.

Nepal Army is the only traditional institution existing in the country, which was created and led by King Prithivi Narayan Shah for the purpose of unification of Nepal. However, the institution has also been passing through a rough weather to adjust with new radical institutions in Republic Nepal.

Instead of patronage of traditional neutral monarchy, Nepal Army is now under the patronage of President Bidhya Bhandari, who is accused of acting under the direction of her Nepal Communist Party.

With the shifting of global geo-strategic situation, Nepal's importance has also changed in the region. In this connection, the visit of Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukunda Naravane to Nepal is highly significant and important.

General Naravane, who is visiting Nepal at the invitation of Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS) General Purnachandra Thapa, can make a major difference to strengthen tradi-

tional relations between the two countries.

### **Formal Programs**

Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Prabhu Ram Sharma welcomed COAS General Manoj Mukunda Naravane at Tribhuvan International Airport. President Bidya Devi Bhandari was to confer the honorary title of Chief General of Nepali Army on Indian Army Chief Naravane on November 5.

Although Indian Army Chief Naravane came to Nepal as a part of tradition of honoring the Chief of Army Staff of India in Nepal and vice-versa, his effort to renewal of relations will be highly important.

Given India's growing border dispute with China and new strategic shift, Indian Army Chief Naravane's meetings with his counterpart CoAS Generals Purna Chandra Thapa will have a greater meaning.

General Naravane is in Nepal to receive the honorary title but it should be understood that his visit won't be limited to that.

Although CoAS General Naravane was dragged into a controversy as on May 15 he stated that Nepal had raised the issue of India's encroachment of Lipulek, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura at the behest of someone else, implicating China, he corrected his statement later.

Understanding its traditional relations with Nepal Army, a traditional ally, he corrected his statement and said that Nepal-India relations were strong and would continue to be so in the future.

"Nepali Army believes that exchange of such high-level visits and continuation of tradition helps in strengthening relations between the two armies, contributing to enhance relationship between the two countries," said Nepal Army in its statement.

As Nepal India relations have been going through difficult phase and growing Chinese interest in Nepal, there is a wide interest in this visit. Prime Minister K.P Sharma Oli, who also holds the Defense portfolio, will



## Coas General Mm Naravane Conferred Honorary General Of Nepal Army

President Bidhya Devi Bhandari conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Nepali Army (NA) on General Manoj Mukund Naravane, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), Indian Army, during an investiture ceremony held at Rastrapati Bhavan, Sheetal Niwas

General Naravane was presented with a sword, insignia and a certificate of conferment order by the President during the ceremony. General Naravane arrived in Kathmandu on 04 November 2020, at the official invitation extended by General Purna Chandra Thapa, Chief of the Army Staff, Nepali Army.

According to a press release issued by the Directorate of Public Relations and Information of Nepal Army, the Nepali and the Indian armies traditionally honor each other's chiefs by conferring on the honorary rank of General, given the close military ties shared by the two neighbors for decades. This long-held tradition is emblematic of the close ties between the national armies of Nepal and India.

Among the dignitaries present at the investiture ceremony was COAS General Purna Chandra

Thapa, Defence Secretary Reshmi Raj Pande and Ambassador of India to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

General MM Naravane, Chief of the Army Staff, Indian Army has paid a courtesy call on Nepali Army Chief General Purna Chandra Thapa at the Chief of Army Staff's office.

Having paid his tribute to the martyrs in the Army Pavilion early this morning, he received and inspected a Guard of Honour in the Army Headquarters. He also planted a Pecan tree sapling in the Army Headquarter premise, keeping the tradition of earlier senior-level military visitors.

After the meetings, General Naravane handed over ambulances and medical equipment including ventilators for two field hospitals as per the decision of the previous Nepal-India Bilateral Group's Meeting on Security Issues.

General Thapa also reciprocated by handing over 100,000 medical masks made in Nepal and an idol of Lord Buddha, a symbol of peace to General Naravane.

hold talks with Indian Army Chief Naravane during which the border issue will most likely surface.

Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Affairs Advisor to Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, talking to The Rising Nepal, said, "it is gratifying for the two countries that the Indian Army Chief Naravane is visiting Nepal and it should be taken as a sign to maintain smooth political and cultural relations between the two countries."

Security experts in Nepal hold the view that the upcoming visit of the Indian Army Chief should be perceived positively. They said that the government should have a clear view on the political and bilateral relations of the country.

The Indian Embassy's spokesperson Naveen Kumar said that Gen. MM Naravane's visit would deepen the long-standing and customary bonds of friendship between the two Armies.

"His visit will provide an opportunity for both sides to discuss the bilateral defense partnership and explore avenues to further strengthen it



for mutual benefit."

Although the Nepali Army has stated that the visit of Indian Army Chief Naravane is regular and traditional, it is being viewed from different angles owing to the border dispute and restoring its traditional friendly relations with Nepal Army.

Given the past experiences, the military diplomacy proves more meaningful on some occasions. Dur-

ing 2015, the visit of COAS General Rajendra Chhetri to India helped ease the blockade.

With traditional institutions and elements vanishing, how two militaries further strengthen their relations and help smoothen the political level relations in the coming days remains to be seen.



# Why To Regulate Electricity Sector In Nepal?

## Current State of Electricity

With a hundred and ten years long history full of ups and downs of hydro power development, Nepal's installed capacity at present is 1,275.54 Megawatts (MW). If one is to examine the provisions of the Electricity Act, 1992 and Electricity Regulation, 1993, the private sector, apart from the government owned Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) hold a vital position in the development of the electricity sector.

As per the annual report published by the NEA 2019/20, out of the total 7,741 Gigawatt hours (GWh) of electrical energy available in NEA's system, internally generated electricity (39.02% from NEA and 38.64% from the Independent Power Producers) amounted to about 78% and the remainder 22.23% of electricity was imported from India. Likewise, the peak demand of electricity was 1,408 megawatt.

According to the Department of Electricity Development (DOED), 109 projects in the domestic electricity generation within the country are currently under operation with the total installed capacity at 1,289 MW. Out of these, 85 projects with 654 MW of installed capacity are operated by the Independent Power Producers whereas the remaining projects were developed under the NEA and its subsidiary companies. Similarly, survey licenses are awarded to a total of 289 projects including hydropower, along with some solar-power and wind-power projects with the potential generation capacity of 17,000 MW. A total of 41 projects with the generation capacity of around 3,000 MW have applied for construction license after duly having completed the surveying. Out of these projects, approval has been provided to 238 projects under the ownership of government-owned companies as well as private sector promoters, to generate around 8,000 MW of electricity.

As per the NEA's annual report of 2019/20, projects around 3000 MW of generation capacity are currently under construction phase upon financial closure, whereas other projects of around 5000 MW of generation capacity are to undergo financial closure soon.

With regards to the transmission line, currently 10 transmission line projects have applied for construction license after having completed survey works. Likewise, 136 projects are under construction after having received construction license. Approximately 3500 circuit kilometers of transmission line above 66 kV capacity are currently under operation, and around 3400 circuit kilometers of transmission line are under construction. Also, substations of around



BY: DR. RAM PRASAD DHITAL

3800 MVA capacity are currently under operation whereas substations of around 9800 MVA capacity are under construction.

According to NEA's annual report of 2019/20, 86% of Nepal's populations are currently receiving electricity through grid, whereas the Government of Nepal has aimed to provide the reach of electricity to the entire population of Nepal in the next three years. NEA's total number of consumers are currently around forty-two lakhs, seventeen thousand seven hundred and ten, divided in category such as domestic, community, commercial, non-commercial, drinking water, agriculture, transportation, industrial, etc. Out of its total number of consumers, the domestic category consumers form around 93.26% of the total number of consumers and contribute around 39.84% of NEA's total revenue. Similarly, industrial consumers form only 1.3% of the total number of consumers but generate 37.51% of the revenue. It is seen that remainder of NEA's income is through other consumer categories and through other services. Thus, it can be observed that NEA needs to pay more attention towards consumption of electricity by the domestic sector.

## Electricity Regulation

If the colossal potential carried by Nepal's electricity sector is to be achieved, utilities under the Government of Nepal along with the private sectors need to be encouraged and provided equal opportunities. Hence, regulation of this sector is extremely necessary for this very reason. A regulatory body such as the Electricity Regulatory Commission plays a vital role, with respect to the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, for technical management, determining of consumer tariff and regulation of power purchase, to maintain competition and safeguard consumer interest, to maintain organizational good governance by extending the organizational capacity of licensees, to provide necessary suggestions and recommendations to the Government of Nepal with respect to the electricity sector, and for resolution of dispute between licensees, stakeholders and common people.

Nepal Electricity Authority Act, 1984 had given the NEA, a sole authority regarding generation, transmission, distribution of electricity along with determining of consumer tariff. However, the Electricity Act, 1992 and Electricity Regulation, 1993 introduced the provisions to encourage private sectors in generation of electricity, along with formation of Electricity Tariff Fixation Commission for determining of consumer tariff. Nevertheless, the prac-



tice at present is that NEA is a sole player regarding the purchase of power, distribution, system operations along with construction and operation of transmission lines, which has barricaded the concept of multi-buyer and multi-seller. For this very reason, people are unable to choose the power utility of their choice. Even for the electricity generation licensees, there is a risk that one party could be in a dominant position in the power purchase rate and conditions set in the agreement, given that there is only one power purchaser.

Apart from technical reasons, investors, big and small, are in risk due to the inability of power producers to maintain good governance. In such given context, the parliament promulgated the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 2017 to address the need to make the generation, transmission, distribution and trade of electricity simple, regular, properly managed and transparent. In accordance to the same Act, the government approved the Electricity Regulatory Commission Regulation, 2018. The Electricity Regulatory Commission has been thereafter continuing its operation after the appointment of its members and chairperson.

The Commission shall implement certain foundational principles in implementation of its regulatory role. Whilst implementation of the basic principles, (a) consumers shall get qualitative and safe electricity service, (b) electricity distribution licensee shall get a fair return on their equity (c) consumers' rights shall be protected, (d) the technological and non-technological parts of the

electricity generation, transmission, distribution and trade shall be developed as per international standard, (e) generation, transmission, and distribution tariff shall be determined transparently and based on the cost and incentive based mechanism, (f) the electricity sector shall be more competitive, (g) internal control system of the persons and organizations involved in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity shall be established leading to maintenance of good-governance, (h) the dispute between licensed persons and organizations shall be resolved in accordance with national and international mechanisms.

Different models of regulation may be adopted to obtain result once the aforementioned basic principles are implemented. For example, orders and controlled models where standards are defined by the law and the regulator has prescribed for scrutinized punishment for every action. Such models are deemed relevant in centralized and controlled system of governance. Likewise, self-regulation- where the private sector makes their own regulation strategy and standard, and manages the same. Such a model is relevant in a more open and liberal governance system. The next, regulation based on incentive, where there shall be punishment for those who performs bad and incentivize for those who performs good. For a developing country like Nepal, such regulation based on incentive and encouragement looks appropriate.

### **Challenges and Aspirations of Electricity Regulation**

In Nepal's electricity sector's history of one hun-



dred and ten years, around eight hundred projects are currently in various stages, under private sector and governmental instruments. On the other hand, the biggest public enterprise of Nepal, the NEA, is the sole purchaser and distributor of electricity in the country. In such a circumstances, the Commission has the challenge to make the electricity market more competitive, to determine the generation, transmission and distribution tariff of electricity in a more transparent manner, to ensure a level playing field to all operators to transmission and distribution facilities, to make safe and reliable supply of electricity, to monitor whether the consumers are getting standard and quality service and get value for their tariff.

On one hand, these challenges are to be converted into opportunities, whereas on the other hand, stakeholders are desirous that the Commission must intervene at once given the present condition and decreasing value of the shares. Moreover, the independent power producers are of the desire that the procedure for power purchase shall commence from the Commission at the earliest and uplift the old project.

Likewise, the electricity distributor also, at times, expresses desire that the Commission approve the documents submitted by it, without much examination. Therefore, the consumers, hydropower investors, private sectors and the utility, all have high expectations from the Commission.

### **Opportunity and Challenges of Regulation**

Since regulation is a novel concept in Nepal, the regulator must pay heed to mostly two subjects in the initial period of its formation. Firstly, the regulator should be mindful of its decisions since the decision of the regulator could cause regulatory shock to stakeholders. Secondly, the regulator should also be mindful of the fact that since the regulator is a new body, the influence from stronger agencies could consequence in a regulatory capture.

Similarly, the regulatory body should move forward in a phased manner in order to save itself from these two extreme circumstances. It is found out that such model is accepted by most regulatory bodies of South Asian countries in the initial phases of its formation. The operation of the Commission can be divided into the following three stages, from the formation phase till the Commission's maturity:

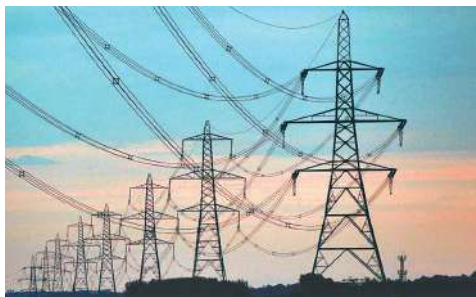
The first stage shall be of around two years, where the current practices are consolidated, and built on in the form of regulatory instrument, and the Commission's organizational structure, employee and financial regulation are formed. If such is done, the primary stakeholders shall accept the decisions made through the regulatory instruments. Likewise, the decisions shall be implemented con-

veniently. In this period, all the stakeholders must be made informed about the Commission's jurisdiction, prospective work-plan, etc.

In the second stage, new regulatory instruments are to be implemented upon necessary consultation with the stakeholders. This stage shall be for around two years, during which the Commission shall have itself established as an independent regulatory body.

In the third stage, the Commission shall implement necessary regulatory instruments for the purpose of improving the electricity market and implementing competition. Similarly, the Commission shall attain the capacity to deliver suggestions to the government after having its internal capacity developed fully.

By developing itself through the three stages, the Commission shall use modern technology, sectorial experts, and its structural mechanisms to discuss on the current problems in the hydropower sector such as of the interest rates, refinancing, debt period, etc. For the long term resolution, the Commission must coordinate with the economic regulatory agencies (such as Nepal Rastra Bank, Securities Board of Nepal, Insurance Board) and Nepal Bankers Association and push for resolution of the problem. In addition to that, the commission will also have to establish and implement standards of good governance for independent power producers.



NEA's financial conditions may be at risk with the extensive expansion in the generation of electricity in the next few years without the certainty in the electricity market. Thus, construction of the cross border transmission lines and the power distribution system must be strengthened for this reason. Also, the electricity markets of India and Bangladesh must be

integrated with the market of Nepal for the purpose of sale and purchase of electricity, with the help of transmission lines of larger capacity. For the same, the Commission must make a directive pertaining to the cross-border power trade to inspire for the promotion, extension and diversification of the electricity market.

In the end, there is no disparity on the fact that the nation shall reap greater fruits if the challenges along with the opportunities before the Commission are correctly addressed and managed. Thus, the need of the hour is to maintain the recent development in the power sector, to make certain the electricity market, to increase the professionalism among the independent power producers, to draft and implement regulatory instruments, to provide reliable, accessible, affordable and safe electricity service, the coordination and cooperation between all the stakeholders involved in the development of the power sector is must.

**Ram Prasad Dhital PhD**

*Member | Planning & Monitoring, Regulatory and External Affairs  
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# An Open Secret

*Although RAW chief visited as a special envoy of Indian PM Modi, PM Oli's efforts to cover up his visit as a secret has sent ruling Nepal Communist Party into a new political turmoil*

By KESHAB POUDEL

As American scholar late Leo Rose says, "It is a normal phenomenon for the foreign policy of any society to be strongly affected by domestic political and economic factors, and this is certainly the case in Nepal. But the reverse, principle-namely that international factors have a strong and often decisive impact on Kathmandu's domestic politics-is even more apparent. This is a painful fact for many Nepalis."

As it was written in a book by late Rose almost half a century ago, Nepal's internal politics is still affected by external political factors. Nepalese have been experiencing how strongly external factors have affected Nepal over the last 15 years.

The political uproar within the ruling Nepal Community Party following a recent visit of Chief of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) — the foreign intelligence agency of India, Samant Goel is not a new one.

The only question is why Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and leaders of his group, including ministers, did not make public the visit and meeting for a day.

Following wider criticisms in media and leaders from the ruling party, a day after RAW chief Goel completed the visit; Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli press advisor Surya Thapa confirmed the meeting and visit of Goel.

According to Thapa, press advisor to the PM, discussions regarding preserving the friendly ties between the two nations were held in the meeting between PM Oli and RAW chief Goel.

"The PM and RAW chief

held talks on resolving the issues between the two nations via dialogue to continue bilateral cooperation of Nepal and India," informed press advisor Thapa.

According to foreign minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, in an interview with Kantipur (25 October), Goel paid an official visit to Nepal as a special envoy of Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.

Foreign Minister Gyawali also confirmed that he paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Oli at his residence and exchanged views to bring Nepal-India relations back on track.

Thriving on anti-India plank, Prime Minister Oli and his whole team tried to cover up the entire meeting and content of discussions to protect Oli's anti-Indian and ultra-nationalist image.

Two former Prime Ministers Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Madhav Kumar Nepal and former deputy prime ministers Bhim Rawal and Narayan Kazi Shrestha reacted strongly against the visit and Prime Minister Oli's meeting with RAW's chief Goel.

A political event is moving fast. Prachanda and Nepal's group is reportedly preparing to table a no-trust motion against K.P. Sharma Oli in the parliamentary party.

They termed one to one meeting between RAW Chief Goel and Prime Minister Oli is against the protocol of the prime minister. However, Prime Minister Oli's loyalist Deputy Prime Minister DPM Ishwor Pokharel and Foreign minister Gyawali defended the meeting.

DPM Pokharel even accused Prachanda and Nepal of expressing

doubt about the meeting. He said Oli is not the first prime minister to hold a meeting with a RAW chief arguing that it is as per the diplomatic norms to meet an envoy of a neighboring country.

However, Prachanda, Nepal, Rawal and Shrestha questioned the timing of the secret visit and meeting with prime minister Oli, who projected himself as a strong anti-Indian and nationalist politician.

They suspected that PM Oli might have negotiated with India seeking support to diffuse internal bickering in the party in his favor. "If Prime Minister Oli is honest, he should have publicly announced the visit and meeting the same day. There are adequate reasons to suspect PM Oli," said Shrestha.

Despite the defense by Pokharel and Gyawali, the one-to-one meeting between Indian Intelligence chief Goel and PM Oli has sparked a major row within the ruling party.

At a time when there are widening differences between PM Oli, Prachanda and Nepal found the meeting to hit back PM Oli's anti-India stand. PM Oli often blamed his rivals for playing against his anti-Indian stand and terming them anti-national.

They suspected that PM Oli might have compromised the national agenda including the recent border dispute with India for the sake of power. However, DPM Pokharel and Minister Gyawali said that PM Oli expressed his strong stand on Kalapani and Limpiyadhura.

"The Prime Minister told special enjoy Goel that India has to return Nepalese territories in Kalapani,"





said DPM Pokharel on his Facebook wall. “PM Oli has conveyed Nepal’s stand on Kalapani and new map plainly.”

Sent by Indian Prime Minister Modi as a special envoy to mend the relations with PM Oli and Nepal, the visit of RAW chief Goel has created more controversy within ruling NCP and disenchantments against India than before.

Nepal’s leading media expressed their dislike over the visit of RAW’s chief as a special envoy. They argued that the Indian political establishment degraded Nepal’s status.

#### **Nepal-India Relations After 12-Point Agreement**

Situated between two big powers India and China, Nepal’s internal turmoil and crisis are often outcomes of external factors. Although some find it difficult to accept the fact, external factors always play a decisive role in Nepal.

Since the signing of 12-point agreement between the seven-party alliance and Maoist against monarchy with tacit support from India, Nepal has seen many historic transforma-

tions and political upheaval.

Although the existing political experiment is a part of India-backed compromise, India has been facing a more hostile situation following the change. As a backer of the 12-point agreement, India stands as a silent spectator dismantling religious, cultural and political institutions that have civilization linkages with it.

Although people and institutions in power are the creation of that agreement, they are nourishing more anti-Indian sentiment in Nepal. Starting from the promulgation of the new constitution to general elections and till the publication of a new map including disputed territory, Nepal-India relations have gone through many ups and downs with no sign of compromise.

As the political leaders, who are in the political main statement are playing a dubious role for the sake of their individual political gain, Nepal-India relations, which has historical, religious and civilization connections, has been suffering.

As Nepal-India is close to

countries in terms of religion, culture, geography and civilization, it is natural to see some frictions. During the monarchical period, Nepal’s monarch had firm views on its common civilization and its linkage.

“Relations between Nepal and India are nurtured and enriched by the noble ideals, values and principles that are common to our cultural heritage. People as inheritors of these valued traditions provide continuity infusing timelessness in our relationship,” said late King Birendra during his visit to India in 1999 during the state banquet.

India has lately realized the importance of cultural and civilization connection to revitalize its relations with Nepal. However, all the elements needed to revive the linkages including monarchy, traditional forces are no more. All those elements monarchy, Hindu religion and culture have already ruined under overgrowing communist ideology and radicalize Nepali Congress. Nepal and India have to go a long way to restore natural relations based on common civilization.

# Biden To Become Next President

*Although Joe Biden wins the US presidential elections, it will have a very insignificant on US policy towards Nepal*

By A CORRESPONDENT

For over seventy years, presidents and parties come and go in the United States, what has not changed is its policy towards Nepal. However, there are many liberal Nepalese who see the victory of Joe Biden will be a great sleigh of relief.

“The policy of United States towards Nepal always remains same whether it is under Democratic led president or Republican. Similarly, there will be a little change,” said Dr. Shankar Sharma, former ambassador of Nepal to United States of America. Since establishment of bilateral relations between the two countries, United States has been providing technical and financial support in Nepal’s development sector.”

With almost 100,000 people of Nepali origin in the United, there were wide and intense enthusiasms in Nepal over the US presidential race. Thus, the concern was high. Similarly, the large numbers of Nepalese students still choose the United States as a first preference for their higher education. Similarly, the DV lottery winners also watch the elections results hoping to get entry.

At the state level, Nepal and United States contact was made during the visit of Jung Bahadur Rana to England. It was the time that Nepal’s state knew about the United States.

After establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1947, Nepal and the United States have started their journey of friendship. Since Nepal and United States technical assistance in 1951, Nepal started to receive assistance under Point IV program. Since then whichever political party in power in the United States, Nepal continues to receive technical and financial support in various sectors. In this regard, United States contribution to Nepal’s transformation in health, education, transport, governance sector, forest

agriculture remains immense.

“If we see the past over 70 seventy years long history, there is no major policy shift towards Nepal. I think the policy towards Nepal will remain same even during the period of new president Biden.”

## At global level implications

The anti-democratic spirit of Trump’s destruction has not disappeared with Biden’s victory. Domestically, the US is facing difficult times. But its foreign policy is becoming increasingly predictable, says Ines Pohl in DW, German news agency.

“Large parts of the world held its breath. And now, it can slowly exhale — and breathe in again. It has taken a long time, and it was close, but Joe Biden has emerged victorious over Donald Trump. After only one term in office and four long years, the incumbent president must leave the White House on January 20. On that same day, Biden and Kamala Harris will be sworn in as president and vice president. Trump might have announced that he will challenge the result in the courts — even so, he should not stand a chance.”

## Back to the Paris Agreement

Biden is, like Obama whom he served as vice president, an ardent supporter of the trans-Atlantic relationship. He treasures Germany and Europe as reliable partners. He has promised to re-join the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change and to continue to meet the obligations of other multilateral alliances such as NATO.



Under President Biden, the US will once again become a dependable partner.

## A trail of destruction

Viewed domestically, the 2020 election can be evaluated significantly less positively. Trump has left a trail of disruption. His leadership with targeted lies has damaged the trust in democratic processes and institutions in the long term, and many Trump voters will continue to maintain that the election results were manipulated.

Trump supporters will hold Biden responsible for the economic faults that the US will have to contend with in the coming months, if not years — even if Trump is in part responsible for the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the four years of his time in office, Trump has changed the country. The Democrats had hoped a landslide victory would indicate that a clear majority wanted a different course. But the close race shows this isn’t the case.

“Joe Biden has won the election. But he has still not overcome the hatred that Trump has sowed, one that has deepened the country’s divisions,”



# Clean Brick Kiln

*With traditional brick kilns emitting smoke and deteriorating the quality of air, ADB venture support to Clean Brick Production in Nepal is important*

By A CORRESPONDENT

At a time when traditional brick kiln is emitting huge volumes of smoke that pollutes the quality of air of different places of Nepal including Kathmandu, Asian Development Bank's (ADB) venture capital arm ADB Ventures support will be a game changer.

Various studies have shown that improving the traditional technology in brick kiln can reduce the level of bad air particles. Despite making improvements, Nepal's brick kilns remain a major source of air pollution.

The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) venture capital arm ADB Ventures has provided the Good Bricks System, a non-fired brick making solution in Nepal, a \$125,000 grant to reduce the industry's harmful impact on the environment and health. The grant gives ADB Ventures the option to make a future equity investment in the Good Bricks System.

South Asia is home to nearly a quarter of total global brick production. Demand for bricks is being fueled by rapid urbanization and the need to construct housing and transport infrastructure. In Nepal, traditional brick making requires approximately 1,600 kilns to burn nearly 1 million tons of coal every year. It causes around 600 annual deaths, adding \$46 million every year to public health costs.

The Good Bricks System, a product of InnoCSR Co. Ltd., uses materials technology from the Republic of Korea to make high-quality bricks with soil, soil stabilizer, and cement. It is cost-competitive and reduces production time by six-fold. It also cuts greenhouse gas emissions and improves working conditions for employees, many of whom are women.

"The Good Bricks System is an opportunity to disrupt an industry that has not changed for many years, but which has a huge impact on the environment and human health," said ADB Principal Investment Specialist Dominic Mellor. "ADB's extensive operations in transport and urban infrastructure across South Asia can be

leveraged to support technology solutions like the Good Bricks System."

"ADB Ventures' support is a vote of confidence in our technology's potential to transform a dirty industry, and in our business model's potential to scale commercially," said InnoCSR Group Chief Executive Officer Sam Yoonsuk Lee.

ADB Ventures supports and invests in early-stage technology companies solving big development problems in emerging Asia and the Pacific. Its investors include Finland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Clean Technology Fund, and the Nordic Development Fund.



# Futile Thought

*Nepali experts argue that National East-West Multi-Purpose Canal is futile*

By KESHAB POUDEL

**T**echnologically, nothing is impossible. One can construct a nuclear power plant at the top of Mt. Everest or make a home in Mars and wind turbine across east west Mahabharat to import cool air to Bihar and UP of India.

The question is: do we really need them? Are they financially viable options? Although some ideas are technically and physically impossible to implement, one can think about them and sell them. If political leaders, who always need some kinds of dream to show to the people, endorse such a futile idea, it will be a disaster for a country like Nepal.

As Nepal's topographical elevation from east to west is so diverse, with ups and downs, it is technically and financially impossible to transfer the inter-basin water constructing any canal from east to west. Even if such an idea is possible, there is always a question whether we really need that kind of mega infrastructure?

According to experts, Elevation of Karnali is 193 meters, whereas elevation of Mahakali River is over 300. Similarly, Elevation of Narayani River is 190 meters and Hetauda is 450 meters. Besides, the water availability in the river during the lean season is so low it is impossible to navigate.

In such a diverse topography, the construction tunnel as the size pro-

posed by a group of Non-Residential Nepali through their Grand Multi-purpose East West Canal is impossible.

Proposed by four NRNs Ambika P. Adhikari, Shiva Gautam, Om Raut, Keshav Bhattarai and Keshab Sharma, East West Grand Canal Of Nepal can be a mere dream project.

Given the studies made in Nepal by Nepali and foreign experts, construction of great east-west canal is technically and financially impossible. However, a group of scholars leaving abroad conceived this futile concept and circulated it to broader public debate.

As the issue has been put to public debate, Nepalese water resources experts recently joined a discussion program where Nepalese ex-

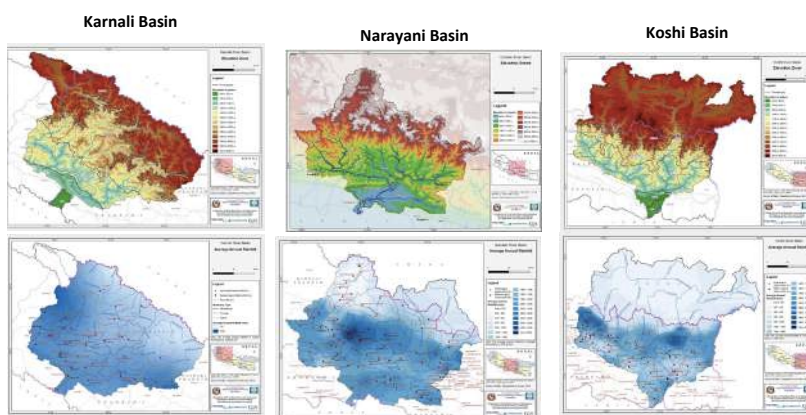
logically unviable.

He said that such a construction is impossible given Nepal's north-south slopes from the east to west. Secretary Belbase argued that there are several river basins included across the region.

Commenting on speaker Professor Keshav Bhattarai's presentation, Belbase, well-known water irrigation engineer having played a key role to implement the Bheri-Babai River Diversion project and several other irrigation projects, said that linking different river basin Kosi, Gandaki, Karnali and Mahakali is environmentally devastating.

He said that Kosi sediments are estimated to be one hundred million cubic meters per year which is enough to build dyke three times round the earth along the equator. Belbase added that River sediments are big challenges in constructing a canal of this size arguing that sediments in Nepal cannot be controlled merely by increasing vegetation, high-intensity rainfall and fragile hill slopes are the reason for the and

## Homogenous Basins



perts proved that the concept is a futile exercise.

Madhav Belbase, secretary at the Ministry of Drinking Water, termed the proposed concept of construction of the National East-West Multi-purpose canal technically, financially, environmentally and geo-

sediments.

Belbase said that 50% of the dead storage was filled by the 1993 single-day event in Kulekhani, the watershed is best protected. He also said that flood damages are more by small and medium rivers than the big rivers he said that the size of flood control





freed board is a peanut. In 2014 the damage by Kamala and Babai was similar to the same data.

The concept is impossible to implement because of variations of elevation. In a Facebook debate, many Nepalese water resources experts presented their views.

“I am very glad that the commenters, particularly Secretary Madhav Belbase, have rightly rebutted this in very simple terms. Kosi, Gandak, Karnali and Mahakali are surplus (wet) basins while other medium and smaller rain-fed basins are deficit (dry) basins. So what is wrong with the currently planned inter-basin diversions from the major wet basins to adjacent dry basins to irrigate our land in the Terai? Why transfer from wet to wet basins? Not to talk of the other major challenges pointed by many others. My humble suggestion—implement quickly and efficiently our current plans instead of comparing with projects from entirely different hydrological/climatic and physiographic regimes,” Divas B Basnyat, water resources experts commented on Madhav Belbase’s Facebook wall.

Organized by Nepal Institute for Urban and Regional Studies (NIURS) a discussion was held un-

der Promethean Podium. Moderated by Sagar Prasai regional planner and board member of NIURS, Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel, former vice-chairman of the National Planning Commission and chairman of NIURS started the program with opening remarks.

Pokharel said that the discussion is organized to generate the debate whether the national East-West Multi-Purpose Canal can help Nepal.

The main speaker of the concept Bhattarai said that their proposed East-West Multi-Purpose Canal is still a concept developed to support how Nepal’s water resources are exploited to bring tangible change in the country.

“The proposed Grand Canal can irrigate some 8,000 square kilometers of land that is not currently irrigated in the Nepali plains, generate a significant amount of solar power, produce some hydropower as a byproduct, usher an era of commercial water navigation, recharge the ever depleting groundwater, help control flood, and promote opportunities for tourism and recreation generating thousands of direct and indirect jobs. Our proposal, which is an expansion of the initial concepts, provides a high-level overview of some technical, environ-

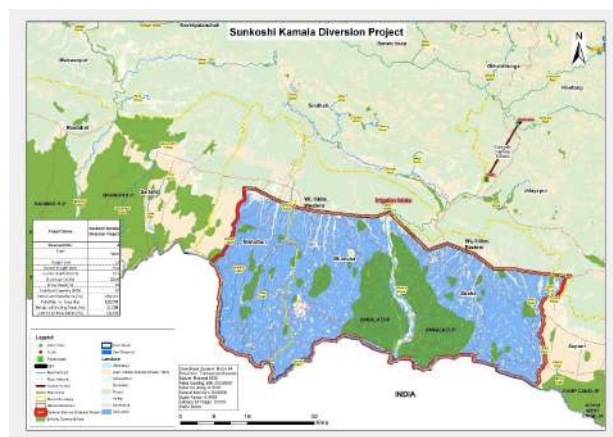
mental and social issues related to the different aspects of the proposed canal project,” said presenter Bhattarai.

He said that the proposed Grand Canal can irrigate some 8,000 square kilometers of land that is not currently irrigated in the Nepali plains, generate a significant amount of solar power, produce some hydropower as a byproduct, usher an era of commer-



cial water navigation, recharge the ever depleting groundwater, help control flood, and promote opportunities for tourism and recreation generating thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

Other Nepalis also disagree with Bhattarai’s presentation. “Has anybody been concerned how many modes of transport do we need in our



## West Koshi Canal



fertile belt of 25 km? Railway is already in pipeline! 2 highways are already serving the belt! One of them is already planned to upgrade to expressway category. Just next to the terai in inner terai has one more competing road. All of these are competing to each other. Thousands of NS flowing streams are going to be obstructed by huge embankments spanning east-west and the northern part of the canal will be flooded every year by this canal. How come this could even be the debatable?” writes Gopal Sigdel, joint secretary at Ministry of Physical Planning in Facebook wall of Belbase.

Having worked for over 28 years of working experience at various levels in the Government of Nepal, secretary Belbase in his detailed presentation technically proved that the concept is against Nepal’s topography and river basins, slopes and flows, of water.

Ajaya Dixit, a renowned water resources expert having conducted a number of studies and published books and articles, said that one has to look at technical limitations and cost.

“About 100 years after Major Arthur Cotton’s first proposed river linking in India 1850s, a plan of National Water Grid was made in the 1960s. This Water Grid proposal was abandoned because of its techni-

cal limitations and exceptionally high costs,” said Ajaya Dixit.

“Pilot Dinshaw J. Dastur proposed a Garland Canal from Meghalaya in the east to river Ravi in the west via Nepal along the south of the Siwalik. The Garland Canal proposal was without any trace of scientific thinking and engineering fundamentals. This present proposal, a remerged version of Garland Canal, is totally out of step with the country’s hydro-ecology, economic, social and environmental challenges, priorities, disaster risks and regional black swans.”

During the debate, former minister Umakanta Jha, who also served a long period of time in the Ministry of Water Resources, spoke dubiously. Jha’s argument was full of ambiguity.

At a time when India is unable to continue the river linking project in its territory because of insurmountable economic, social and environmental challenges, many questions the timing of starting debate on river linking debates in Nepal.

Government officials, who have been taking part in Nepal-India water resources negotiations, said that

India has long been pressing Nepal to accept the Kosi river diversion scheme. After vehement opposition from Nepal, India has formally dropped it.

In this context, why few NRNs, with a poor understanding of the history of water resources of Nepal and India, forwarded hare brain agenda raises many questions. After the discussions, Nepal’s experts proved that the agenda is a futile exercise. Even initiators of the agenda are unable to defend it technically, economically and environmentally.

“The project seems infeasible technically, economically, socially, and environmentally. No further discussion is required on this,” concludes secretary Belbase.

Nothing is impossible in technology. However, the question is whether such a concept of Grand Canal is economically viable and whether Nepal needs such a mega canal. Impossible to implement, it is likely to make Nepal’s water resources sector further messy.



# Cangrid Connected Solar Irrigation Pumps Be The Future Of Irrigation In Nepal?

## Increasing emphasis on SIPs

Only 31% out of 3.5 million hectares of cultivated land is irrigated so far in Nepal; about one-third of that gets irrigation from groundwater. However, operational cost of groundwater pumping is relatively high, especially when using diesel pumps. Solar irrigation pump (SIP) technologies can be considered as a solution for enhancing access to irrigation with minimal or no operational cost compared to diesel pumps. SIPs use freely available solar energy to pump water for irrigating farm lands, therefore, are very useful in the areas far away from electricity grids.

The Government of Nepal has been supporting promotion and development of Renewable Energy Technologies and accordingly solar energy provisions have been embedded in the overall alternative energy plans and policies in Nepal. According to the three-year interim plan 2007-2010, Nepal has a potential to generate 1,132.7 MW of solar energy. The 13<sup>th</sup> National Plan (2013-2016) incorporated plans for solar energy for irrigation in Tarai. In recent years, it is becoming a major highlight in Tarai with central and provincial governments prioritizing SIP projects as evident from the 14<sup>th</sup> Plan (2017-2020), 15<sup>th</sup> Plan (2020-2025) and budget speeches of recent years. For example, 2018-19 budget speech of the central government allocated NPR 350 million as grants for SIP and pledged additional support to renewable energy production if initiated by cooperatives and local communities in collaboration with the local government.

SIPs are already getting huge attention from all three tier governments as reflected in the form of resources allocation for the SIPs. There are over 1,700 SIPs installed across Nepal, nearly 1,400 of them are installed with subsidy from Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPIC). With increasing emphasis on grid electrification programs, there are fears that the investment in those SIPs will be ineffective as cost for pumping with electricity is cheaper compared to solar with the provisions of subsidized electricity cost for agriculture. However, it is likely that SIPs will continue to be a priority for a foreseeable future because of the fact that electrification would focus on houses than in farms and therefore, even with 100% electricity coverage, farms maybe deprived of electricity access and quality of electricity continue to be an issue. Also the costs of providing grid electricity to each and every farm may be prohibitive and not cost effective. Efforts to expand electricity to those areas increase cost of irrigation. Similarly, some areas such as Province-2, which has no or limited hydro-power potential, may continue consider solar as a priority for



BY: DR. VISHNU PRASAD PANDEY, SAGAR GYAWALI

energy security and therefore SIP will continue to be a priority at least for a decade or so. Furthermore, requirements for energy-mix, demands for self-produced and green energy, and socio-political circumstances may still drive demands for SIPs. Therefore, appropriate solutions to maximize the use of SIPs and optimizing the return are required. Connecting SIPs to the national grids could be a potential solution.

Benefit from and provisions of the grid connection of SIPs

Most of the SIPs installed so far are generally under-utilized for various reasons. Connecting them to national grids benefits in many ways. They include but not limited to – i) extra income to farmers by selling excess solar energy when not used for pumping water and therefore improves benefit-cost ratio as well as reduces payback period of SIPs; ii) provides stable power in the system so that cases of pump damage due to voltage fluctuations can be reduced drastically; iii) makes power/energy available to pump groundwater for irrigating during the no sunlight hours, thus reducing evapotranspiration loss and contributing to water conservation; and iv) net metering and connection to the grid also improves sustainability outcomes in the long run by ensuring that stand-alone, off-grid pumps do not get abandoned when national grid reaches these off-grid areas.

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has already approved net metering provisions in 2074 BS. It allows consumers to connect solar panels to the national grid, and then feed energy into and draw electricity from the grids. The consumer then pays only for the net consumption of electricity. NEA purchases solar energy at the rate of NRs. 7.30/Unit. Currently, 2.7 kW of roof top solar system is connected to the national grid as per the Net Metering provision. In case of farmers (or irrigation consumers), the cost of electricity is subsidized to NRs. 4.96/Unit but they can sell energy through SIPs at NRs. 7.30/unit, thus getting NRs. 2.34/Unit profit. Furthermore, same size solar panel can operate more number of pumps if they are connected to a mini/micro-grid system by managing operating time of pumps, thus, optimizing use of available solar energy.

The concept is already piloted in *Chitwan* with two Individual solar pumps, each of 2 horse-power capacity. Both have shown very exciting experience. They have minimized low voltage problem in the pump and have replaced diesel pump by grid connection of SIPs. It has helped the pump owner to reduce cost of their regular electricity bill by 70%. The

## PERSPECTIVE

cost of connecting individual SIPs to national grid is unnecessary expensive due to grid inverter.

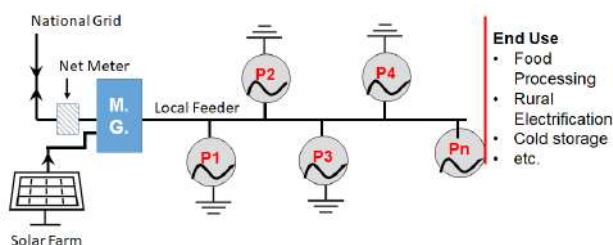
Despite several benefits of net metering, AEPC or any of the other organizations who implement SIPs on the ground are yet to implement net metering for SIPs at a larger scale. The probable reason could be a lack of pilot that demonstrates feasibility for SIPs. Therefore, there is a need to explore ways that encourage grid connection of current and future SIPs with national grids in more efficient ways so that it benefits farmers as well and national grid system. Use of micro-grid system to connect individual pumps and then connect micro-grid to national grid can be considered as a solution in this endeavour.

### Realizing the grid connection

The grid-connection of SIPs can be realized by connecting SIPs through multiple micro-grid (MG) systems. About 15-30 off-grid SIPs can be connected to a MG system and then to the national grid as shown in the schematic diagram. The MG technology is simply synchronous with the traditional wide area synchronous grid (macro-grid). It is connected to solar farm, national grid (through net meter), local feeder, and several pumps and end uses. When there is excess solar power, it supplies to the national grid. The MG system is programmed in a way that it keeps accounting of all energy evacuated to and drawn from the grid. Entire database can be accessed remotely through server if we install a 3G sim card in it.

*Schematic illustration of a micro grid (MG) system. P1-Pn are individual solar irrigation pumps*

The effectiveness of each MG system can be evaluated from the perspectives of productivity, profitability and



sustainability by monitoring indicators such as – i) stability of the system in terms of voltage and eventual breakdown; ii) increase in overall annual earning/profit by virtue of grid connection of SIPs; iii) reduced hours of groundwater pumping and subsequent contribution to groundwater sustainability.

### Creating enabling environment

Though grid connection of SIPs is gaining attention in recent times, it's yet to be realized. International Water Management Institute in partnership with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and government partners (i.e., NEA and AEPC) are considering to implement a demonstration pilot on grid-connection of SIPs. The aim is to connect a group of existing SIPs to the grid through a MG system in Province 1 and 2 in collaboration with local governments, NEA and AEPC. Its success is expected to drive wide-spread replication in other parts of the country.

For wider replication of SIPs, we may need to promote hybrid pumps which can run with both alternating and direct currents. Connecting SIPs spread over a large geograph-

ic area to grids is not efficient as the losses would be higher, therefore, strategies for densifying SIPs at a particular cluster would be a real enabler for promoting grid connection of SIPs. Quality of SIPs (both material and installation) and availability of after-sale services also affect potential benefits, and therefore efforts towards quality control and creating pool of local technicians are also required for harnessing optimal benefit from SIPs for a long-run. Emphasis on governance of SIPs is equally important as technical aspects to ensure sustainability and equitable distribution of benefits across different sections of the society. They include but not limited to inclusive access to SIPs; ensuring availability of extension and training services; awareness raising of a wide range of stakeholders on potential benefits as well as limitations associated with SIPs in general and grid connection in particular; promoting enabling policies and programs; and ensuring coordinated and synergized efforts of all stakeholders such as farmers, local governments, NEA, AEPC and others.

Though number of irrigation consumers of NEA is increasing from 132 to 151 thousands from FY075-76 to FY 076-77. The number is very tiny compared to number of farmers in Nepal. Furthermore, rate of electricity consumption by irrigation consumers is decreasing from 635 units/farmer/year to 545 units/farmer/year from FY075-76 to FY76-77. As irrigation consumers can get electricity at almost 50% subsidized rate that normal users and can sell energy from SIP at a rate NRs. 2.34 higher per unit than the cost of taking electricity from the grid, it's a real opportunity to farmers. However, efforts are required to increase number of irrigation consumers, preferably with higher concentration at specific areas, and arranging dedicated feeders for irrigation facilities, to create enabling environment for connecting more SIPs to the national grids. Strategies to discourage subsidies to diesel pumps, the practice still prevailing in many local governments in Tarai, would also be helpful in this endeavour.

Though grid connection of SIPs is beneficial in many ways, some of the unanswered questions are – i) What could be the preferable size of SIPs for grid connection for optimal benefit? Who (group of farmers or local government or NEA) owns the system after grid connection? iii) How to ensure farmers do not incline toward the easiest option of selling electricity by abandoning primary objective of irrigation and agriculture production after grid connection of SIPs? iv) What is the best techno-institutional model for grid connection of SIPs in Nepal? iv) How to make SIP as a preferred option for investment (without subsidy)?

Finally, SIP is certainly a solution for enhancing access to irrigation, but a single solution is certainly not adequate to help achieve the target of 100% irrigation coverage. Therefore, new local governments may consider having a set of solutions consisting of standalone SIPs, grid connected SIPs, and electricity pumps depending upon level of access to electricity within the jurisdiction of their political boundaries.

*(Dr. Pandey is a Researcher at International Water Management Institute and Mr. Gyawali is an Assistant Director at Nepal Electricity Authority)*



## FNCCI ELECTION

# Dhakal's Soft Approach

*Chandra Prasad Dhakal has filed his nomination for the post of senior Vice President of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), along with his panel, contesting with Kishore Pradhan led panel. With his reconciliatory approach, Dhakal is reaching wider voters*

By KESHAB POUDEL

No wisdom lies in fighting, since he who fights is a fool; the wise discover in wise books, what course is wise and right. And a wise book in course, that is not violent delight. Spoke to truth though it is harsh it be. Blarney is the true enemy.

As Panchantantra says no wisdom lies in fighting and modesty is the mantra to win any battle, Dhakal, a candidate for senior vice president of FNCCI, is using the most decent words for votes.

Although he has many reasons to criticize his near and dear colleagues, including incumbent president and forthcoming president, who are backing his rival, Dhakal is using his wisdom to fight as a wise man.

Since his announcement of candidacy for senior vice president a year ago, renowned and rising industrialist Chandra Dhakal has been following the conciliatory and modest tones.

Born in Baglung district, a remote part of Nepal, Dhakal entered into the business sector through a small cold drink store. To reach the current top place with investment in recreation, banking, trading and hotel industries, Dhakal has passed through several stages.

In his one year campaign, Dhakal, chairperson of IME Group, has been focusing on one agenda, that is, to safeguard the role of private sector in the economic development and open safe and secure space to all. Fol-

lowing the spread of COVID-19 and months of shutdown, Nepal's economy has shrunk and private sector is facing a harsh situation.

Having had long experiences with ups and downs, Dhakal has developed a vision and policy to deal with crises. Dhakal's experiences will be crucial to next president Shekhar Golchha.

Unlike other industrialists in FNCCI, including the chair Shekhar Golchha, who have inherited the well established business from their parents, Dhakal is a self-made man and his entire achievement is thanks to his own hard work and vision.

Dhakal, a new comer and self made businessman from western hills, is a humble and simple person with



conciliatory and accommodating approach. However, Kathmandu Valley based traditional business elite, who have hegemony in FNCCI politics, see him as a big threat.

As a down-to-earth person, Dhakal has rarely showed any sign of domination and self ego while dealing with his colleagues. He always answers his mobile phone whenever someone gives him a ring. This is a true character of Dhakal and many people like him.

Despite so many nice things, his one-time colleagues have supported his rival, violating a gentlemen agreement to allow Dhakal to get elected as a senior vice president unanimously. Instead, they promoted Kishore Pradhan, a good person with industrial bureaucracy and with no investment in industry, as their candidate.

With senior vice president Pradhan, Shekhar Golchha personally might hold the view that he will have better command and freedom to take FNCCI at his own direction. Having better quality, exposure and contact at all levels, Dhakal will be a bigger asset to Golchha and FNCCI at the present

economic crisis.

Golchha, who received a strong backing from Dhakal during the crisis last time when a group proposed to amend FNCCI constitution canceling the present system to promote senior vice president as president, shifted his side for individual reason.

With his simple and humble style, banker Dhakal, who is very popular at district and municipal levels, has made many friends from the top to the bottom. However, Golchha and his group chose Pradhan as their team mate.

Despite open betrayal by Golchha and President Bhawani Rana, Dhakal does not say any harsh word against them. Dhakal believes that Golchha's tenure as a president will take a new lead including the elections of his panel.

"Shekhar Jee is a very capable and strong person. He deserves to lead FNCCI. I would like to say that our team will be an asset to him. Our team believes in team work rather than individually, or on personal likes or dislikes rather than that of the institution," said Dhakal, in a reconciliatory tone.

Dhakal went to file his nomination at FNCCI with his team showing the neutrality. However, Pradhan announced his candidacy in the presence of current president of FNCCI Rana and senior Vice president Golchha showing his support base.

Pradhan Panel includes Anjan Shrestha (Vice President Commodities), Dinesh Shrestha (Vice President District and Municipality) and Saurabha Jyoti (vice president Associates).

Dhakal's panel includes Umesh Lal Shrestha (vice President Commodities), Gunanidhi Tiwari (Vice President District and Municipalities) and Ramchandra Sanghai (Vice President Associates).

### **History of Betrayal**

Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) has a history of factionalism, conspiracy and betrayal. Small core of business elites manipulates the FNCCI elections. Although the group has weakened now, it can still be decisive.

With his charismatic and capable leadership, Binod Chaudhary had made great contributions to enhance and institutionalize the FNCCI



as a president.

From construction of modern building to enhancing the isolated FNCCI to world level institution, establishing relations with different bilateral chambers and commerce organizations from all around the world, Forbes Billionaire, along with his very committed and dedicated team, spared no time to make FNCCI a respected organization abroad and within the country.

However, Chaudhary, who won formidable votes in the first tenure, was denied the second term. He had lost the second term with Padma Jyoti. From then, the decline of FNCCI started. Having seen no chance to reform FNCCI, Chaudhary along with his team registered Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI).

Along with Chaudhary, a large number of renowned figures of Nepal's industrial sector like Narendra Kumar Basnet, Bijaya Shah, Hari Bhakta Sharma and late Tek Chandra Pokharel sided with Chaudhary to set up CNI.

With the departure of Chaudhary and completion of tenure of Jyoti, FNCCI's decline began. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha had made certain efforts during his tenure but it did not work.

Having completely backed Suraj Vaidya to elect him as a president, owner of Avenues Television channel, Bhaskar Rajkarnikar lost the next elections for president.

Rajkarnikar lost the elections of FNCCI with Pradeep Jung Pandey, who was later jailed on corruption charges. With his prison, Pashupati Murarka was declared the President on July 3, 2015. Pandey was sent to jail over a three-decade-old corruption case after a Supreme Court order. Later President granted pardon to Pandey.

In so much of turmoil and controversy on direct elections for president, FNCCI amended the constitution later with a provision to promote senior vice president as president

automatically in 2016. Under this provision, Bhawani Rana led FNCCI for four years paving the way to Shekhar Golchha as next president.

Pradhan also filed their candidacies for the post of senior vice president of FNCCI last time but he withdrew it later. The current support of Golchha to Pradhan seems to be a secret understanding between them last time.

Last year a group of members of FNCCI tabled a constitution amendment proposal to block Golch-

try, plans to hold its 54th AGM on November 26-28. Due to a lockdown imposed by the government to contain COVID-19, the assembly, which was announced for April, was postponed.

As the FNCCI statute has a provision whereby the senior vice-president automatically becomes the president in the next election, aspirants for the post of senior vice-president are seen in a race to win the support of voters of the largest private sector umbrella body.

Dhakal formally announced



Dhakal (left) Pradhan (right)

ha to become president automatically. Following mediation of vice president Dhakal, the process was averted and this paved the way for Golchha to become president.

Known for his dynamism and accommodative approach, Dhakal helped defuse a major move to amend the process targeted at Golchha. However, industrialist Golchha joined the rival group in the forthcoming elections.

Despite Golchha openly backing and supporting a competitor candidate, Dhakal has not gone too far. In his modest and accommodative language, Dhakal is still making positive comments on the leadership quality of Golchha.

#### **Dhakal's Election March**

FNCCI, the largest private-sector representative in the coun-

try, plans to hold its 54th AGM on November 26-28. Due to a lockdown imposed by the government to contain COVID-19, the assembly, which was announced for April, was postponed.

Addressing the media following filing the nomination, Dhakal said that he has filed nomination for the senior vice president to solve the problems that appeared due to COVID-19 and other problems as well to strengthen Nepal's private sector to contribute to prosperity of Nepal.

He said that FNCCI needs strong and dynamic leadership and he said that his panel has candidates who can understand the current crisis and know the way to solve the problems.

Candidate Dhakal also said that most of his panel members have filed nominations in their presence and the remaining few will submit



applications virtually. He said that the COVID-19 has badly destroyed the economy and all the entrepreneurs and industrialists are in the midst of crisis.

Chandra Prasad Dhakal was declared vice president in the associate member category unopposed last time.

With the annual general meeting (AGM) and the election of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) approaching, industrialists and business people across the country have started filing the nominations.

Dhakal's Agenda

"My role as a vice president will be to bridge the government and private sector," said Dhakal. He said that that there is the need of a dependable leader in FNCCI who can knock the door of every government office at the time of crisis and coordinate between them.

"Now, there is the need of a leader, who can play a role as the bridge between the government and private sector, I want to be the bridge to overcome the present crisis."

He claimed that he has the

capacity to be a strong rope and pillar of the bridge. "My flexible and coordinative capability is a dependable rope and pillar of the bridge."

As Nepalese economy is badly hit by coronavirus, it is the responsibility of FNCCI to uplift it. Now the private sector has been suffering. Industries are unproductive. Business community is hurt by coronavirus pandemic.



The economy hit by coronavirus is yet to see signs of revival and it is the responsibility of the stakeholders to uplift the economy. Private sector is facing hardship. Government should provide necessary support and

coordination to entrepreneurs suffering from coronavirus.

Dhakal reminded that he started his business from a small cold store. "I have passed through small, medium scale, and big industries. From my own experiences, I have capability to understand the difficulty and pain from a close vantage. This is my big asset in my professional life. Since the nature of my business has expanded to all 77

districts, I can see the pain, trouble and problems of entrepreneurs closely."

**Kishore Pradhan's commitment**

Despite FNCCI stalwart's efforts to choose leadership on the basis of consensus and avoid factionalism and confrontation in the organization, competition and factionalism have been revived again.

FNCCI stalwarts amend-

ed the constitution making elections starting from senior vice president hoping that this will end elections politics within organization. It worked in the last two elections but the organization is back again to its old root with





conspiratorial politics.

Pradhan's panel has also competent, capable and qualified candidates as with Dhakal. Harvard educated young Saurav Jyoti, well versed and capable Dinesh Lal Shrestha and a number of other people jumped to competitive politics which will likely divide FNCCI's house and this will take a long time to heal.

Unlike CNI which has maintained a very healthy culture of consensus in choosing the office bearers on the basis grooming, FNCCI has failed to follow healthy practices. Under the leadership of Rajesh Kazi Shrestha, Nepal Chamber of Commerce also maintains a culture of consensus.

With strong backing of outgoing president Rana and coming president Golchha, Vice president Kishore Pradhan announced his candidature at Vivant, a hotel in Lalitpur. The venue and location chosen for the announcement has meaning.

"I have been in industry and chamber sector for last 28 years. I see FNCCI as a temple. I declared my nomination to become priest of that temple."

He said that his panel is capable to solve the problems faced by industrialists and entrepreneurs. Knowing our capacity, voters will elect us in the coming elections.

He said that there is the need to keep FNCCI far from politics because this is necessary to

protect the economy. He said that his group has support and blessing from President Shekhar Golchha. Pradhan said that his group will win elections which will ultimately help president to pursue his policy.

As said in Panchatantra, it is not the practice of genuine counselor, when object of ambition are attainable through conciliation, to go for bribery, intrigue and to fight which will

bringing him into deadly danger.

As Panchatantra says weapon of strong man is not sword or bitter words against those who stand against him, he needs to use soft conciliatory words as a victor. As it says divide and fall, this is what Dhakal, who has shown in the entire elections campaign pursuing his agenda to improve the economy and support the entrepreneurs and industrialists, has been trying to pursue policy of conciliation. No matter who wins, a wise man prefers conciliation to achieve greatness.

## लकडाउन अथवा निषेध आदेश रहँदा वा हटेपनि कोरोना संक्रमणको जोखिम कायम छ, सतर्क रहौं, सुरक्षित बनौं

कोरोना भाइरस सजिलै सर्ने मुख्य तीन अवस्थाहरू

कोभिड-१९ बाट जोगिन तीन 'भ' बारे जानकारी राखौं



**भिडभाड हुने स्थान**  
जहाँ धेरै मान्छेहरू जम्मा भएका हुन्छन्



**भौतिक दुरी कम हुने स्थान**  
जहाँ नजिक बसेर वार्तालाप गर्नुपर्ने हुन्छ



**भेन्टिलेशन नभएको**  
वा दोहोरो हावा नचल्ने स्थान



**यी तीनवटै अवस्थाको मिलाप हुने स्थानमा कोरोना संक्रमणको जोखिम अत्यन्त उच्च हुन्छ**

**भिडभाड, भौतिक दुरी कम हुने र भेन्टिलेशन पर्याप्त नभएका स्थानहरूबाट टाढा रहौं, कोरोनाबाट बचौं**

तपाईंले अपनाउनु पर्ने सावधानीहरू



भिडभाड हुने स्थानमा नजाऔं तथा भौतिक दुरी कायम नहुने सँघुत्ने स्थानहरूमा सकेसम्म कम समय व्यतित गर्ौं



सार्वजनिक स्थानमा सदैव कम्तीमा दुई मिटर भौतिक दुरी कायम गर्ौं



पर्याप्त दोहोरो हावा प्रवाहका निमित्त झ्याल तथा ढोकाहरू खुला राखौं



हात सँधै साबुन पानीले धोऔं तथा खोक्दा एवं हाच्छिउँ गर्दा नाक तथा मुख छोप्ने बानी बसालौं



भौतिक दुरी आवश्यक हुने स्थानमा अनिवार्य रूपमा मास्कको प्रयोग गर्ौं

**साधारण लक्षण माल भएमा घरमै बसौं, आवश्यक परेमा अस्पताल जाऔं**



**नेपाल सरकार**  
**सञ्चार तथा सूचना प्रविधि मन्त्रालय**  
**सूचना तथा प्रसारण विभाग**

# Multipurpose Langtang After Melamchi: Inter-Basin Water Transfer



BY: DR. AB THAPA

Water supply to Kathmandu valley from the much delayed Melamchi Project would have been insufficient during the dry season months even more than ten years back. Thus, the diversion of the rivers Yangri and Larke to augment the flow of the Melamchi river had been planned even though such diversion would require virtually decommissioning of the existing Melamchi Hydropower.

Obviously, the best choice would have been the implementation of a new type of multipurpose Langtang Project to be implemented primarily to generate cheap electricity and at the same time to augment for free the Melamchi river by discharging abundant Langtang river water used for power generation.

The Langtang river is a sub-tributary of the Bhote-kosi river in Gandak basin whereas the Melamchi, a sub-tributary of the Sun-kosi river in the Kosi basin. There is a need for greater coordination between the relevant ministries in planning and implementation of the Multipurpose Langtang Project or similar other multipurpose projects.

## Multipurpose Langtang

The Langtang river is not too far away from the head reach of the Melamchi river. There is a possibility to divert the Langtang river flowing at elevations much higher than the Kathmandu valley to augment the flow of the Melamchi river and at the same time to generate cheap electricity. Once the construction is completed, the surplus carrying capacity of the 28 km long Melamchi tunnel could be used at no additional cost to deliver into the Kathmandu valley the water drawn from the Langtang river for power generation of the proposed Langtang hydropower project.

## German Concept

The diversion of the Langtang river for water supply to Kathmandu valley is not a new concept. A study of such diversion was made by GTZ in 1977 (R-3). The study provides the following information.

The idea to augment the limited water resources of the Kathmandu valley by diversion of water from the Langtang / Gosaikund massif was

first mentioned by Peter Aufschnaiter in 1960. In 1976 /77 the project was studied on a very preliminary level by Dr. Ing. Cristian Kleinert. This project, originally not listed by HMG of Nepal under the projects to be investigated for possible cooperation with the Germany had been included into the study programme on the initiative of the German Government Mission itself because of the fascinating concept and promising objects. The Mission report points out that at that time the high cost of the project mainly caused by difficult access and transportation would not make it viable to undertake this project for further detailed study.

Fortunately, now the road situation has greatly improved. The diversion of the Langtang river into the Melamchi river can provide enormously high energy potential to generate cheap electricity. It is now possible to use the surplus capacity of the recently built 28 kms long Melamchi tunnel to divert abundant Langtang river water into the Kathmandu valley at no additional cost since the intake of the Melamchi is not too far away from the Langtang river.

## Gandak Basin UNDP Study

The concept of the Langtang project solely for power generation was developed under the UNDP supported Gandak basin master plan study (R-2). According to the Gandak Basin Master Plan a 120 m high dam has been proposed on the Langtang river near Jaithang. The volume of the reservoir would be about 180 million cubic meters. Diversion barrage would be built across the Langtang further downstream at Ghore Tabela. Water drawn from the Langtang barrage would be dropped into the Bhote Kosi river after power generation. Capacity of the Langtang hydropower station operating at ahead of 1500 m would be 175 MW. The length of the conduit would be 14 kms.

## Proposed Multipurpose Project

As already mentioned, the head reach of the Melamchi river is not too far away from the UNDP study proposed Langtang barrage at Ghore Tabela despite the fact that the Melamchi is a sub-tributary in Kosi basin whereas the Langtang is in Gandak basin. It is proposed



to change the alignment of the Langtang Hydropower project. The hydropower would be planned to drop the Langtang water after power generation into the Melamchi river instead of the Bhote-Kosi. The length of the conduit of the proposed Langtang-Melamchi diversion project could be about 20 kilometers and the gross head of the hydropower would be around 1600 m. Installed capacity of the proposed hydropower would be about 200 MW.

#### **Advantages of the Storage Reservoir**

The hydropower potential of the proposed Langtang project is significantly enhanced by the possibility to provide a relatively large storage reservoir, though even in the absence of such reservoir it could still be an attractive multipurpose project. Storage reservoir operation could be planned to provide even during the dry months an uniform flow of around 10 cumecs if the use of the storage water is limited to dry season months when the power supply as well as municipal water supply are greatly constrained.

#### **Why Electricity Cheap?**

Of all the site characteristics, hydraulic head is the most important. Design guidelines, 1989 approved by the American Society of Civil Engineers has given some simple reasoning that would help to explain why the super high head Langtang power stations operating at many times greater head by comparison with other hydropower could be built at very low cost. "Very simply if one doubles the head the quantity of water needed to produce a certain amount of energy is halved. Thus, for like site energy development the penstock area and reservoir volume are halved and further large cost reductions occur for powerhouse and machinery costs. This fundamental consideration is at the root of the large cost reductions that occur at higher heads."

#### **Rejuvenation of Bagmati River**

Implementation of multipurpose projects like the proposed Multipurpose Langtang project requires greater coordination between relevant ministries and



also other concerned agencies. The proposed Langtang project apart from generating cheap energy and augmenting for free the municipal water supply to Kathmandu valley could also help to rejuvenate the virtually dying Bagmati river.

At present the Bagmati River has virtually turned into a city drain. Residents of the Kathmandu valley as well as the large multitude of peoples coming to Pashupatinath Temple each day for worshipping from all over the world are appalled at the miserable sight of the holy Bagmati river. It can hardly be denied that the water scarcity is the prime cause of complete deterioration in condition of the Bagmati. Unfortunately until now we do not have any satisfactory plan to resolve this serious problem. It could be possible after the completion of the proposed Multipurpose Langtang project to transform the Bagmati into a medium sized river that would be carrying a discharge of about 10 cumecs even in the driest months.

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# Afu Marre Doomai Raja

One of my heroes died on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 i.e. Halloween Night in his sleep at his residence in the Bahamas at the grand old age of 90 years. Though born in Edinburgh his karma bhumi was all over this earth. This event brought back to my mind the fact that I had bought at a reduced price the Ian Fleming authored book 'Dr. No' at Foyles Book Shop in late 1950s. This was before the first James Bond film with the same title was made and the hero played by Sean Connery as a MI 5 agent 007, became a household word following its release in 1962. This brought Sean Connery, who up to then, in his early years had had small parts in films, into the limelight. His varied career prior to acting enabled him to perform a variety of parts on the silver screen. It must also be acknowledged that at the height of his popularity he declined to continue further in the role stating that it would 'type cast' him and handed over to Roger Moore. He worked under various directors and had many roles during his filming career. Though an ardent Scot, he was honoured by Queen Elizabeth II in 2000 New Year Honours list and subsequently knighted in July at Hollyrood Palace, Edinburgh. Rest in eternal peace, Sir Sean after such a fruitful life. It may be noted that James Bond fame, whilst being a worldwide phenomenon had its effect in our country too. I remember that a special Bond Whisky was marketed some years ago in Nepal though without the world-wide success of its Scottish counterpart. One can still see the representation of the bottle with inviting words to drink up on the walls of some of the roadside houses of Bhaktapur!

Sean Connery lived to a grand old age that is usually regular in many places of Japan, UK and USA. As per a post in FB the other day the male member, a supercentarian being 110 age, of the longest living married couple in the world also died in his sleep. He leaves behind a 109-year-old wife. In this connection I remember reading many years ago in the National Geographic Magazine about three locations scattered around in the world, albeit with varied environmental and living conditions, where the life span was the longest. One was in Hunza Valley in Pakistan, another in Russia and a third which I cannot now recall where. As from November 2005 five areas of the world, where people are living the longest, have been identified as Blue Zones. These are at Okinawa (Japan), Sardinia (Italy), Nicoya (Costa Rica), Icana (Greece) and among Seventh-day Adventists at Loma Linda (California). Now however with the Covid-19 pandemic the situation is surely changed all over the world is anyone's guess.

It is the Covid-19 Pandemic which has sadly led to deaths in many countries all over the world. Many elderly residents of Europe and America have died in this season of deaths. Though the percentage of deaths in the Asian conti-



BY: HEMANG DIXIT

ment is less, the reality is that many elderly persons have died in Nepal too. This saddens us all. One has only to glance at the postings in FB to be confronted with this fact. One wonders if they, many of whose children were perhaps in foreign lands thought 'Afu marre doomai raja' during the last few moments of their lives! One shortcoming of this saying, in this age of the electric crematorium, is that it is not truly valid. Perhaps the fellow who pulls down the switch at the crematorium should be made the top guy!

The situation in the country is said by many to be going down the drain. I suppose that it is so considering that a lot of household refuse and filth of the urban areas, the wastes of the industrial sectors including that of the beer industry are polluting our rivers as they course southwards in our country. What to do in this state of Federal governance in our country? We are in the midst of handing power from the centre to the Pradesh Governments and to the local level at the provincial, village or woda level. What is perplexing that this handing over power to the people, starting from the time of Panchayat Rule with its Anchal or Development Zones though accepted in theory did never really take off. Is Nepal becoming a 'Failed State' with the current leaders that we have?

What is even worth pondering over is that the word 'Panchayat', said to have originated from ancient Vedic times in our part of the world, became an anathema to our politicians, ever ready to create a rumpus. Part IX of the Indian Constitution relates to Panchayats. Panchayati Raj was formalised further by the 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment in 1993 and currently exists in all states except in Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Union Territories. To us Nepalīs, its functioning is most apparent in West Bengal under the stewardship of Mamata Banerjee and her tussle with the Central Government at Delhi. As one ponders over the current US elections of 2020 one sees the role of the Central government vis-a-vis that of the different states. It seems that the Central Government cannot boss over that of the states. The states have a deciding role over what goes on there.

Our Federal structure has still to take root. The implementation and the financing of it are going to be tremendous. Who is going to foot the bill? Even for the conduction of an election at three levels, on the result of which all this rests, the money has to come from elsewhere! Will there ever be a silver lining to the dark and heavy clouds on our horizon? Should those of us waiting for the final call from Yamaraj say adieu without any thought of what happens to this land of ours?

*The author is a retired medical doctor and writes fiction under the pen name of Mani Dixit also. Website: [www.hdixit.org.np](http://www.hdixit.org.np). Twitter: @manidixithd*





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ISO 9001:2008 & ISO 14001:2004



# बढौं आदर्श iii वागारिक

## बाद बाद

जसले अरुको भलाईमा आफ्नो खुशी खोज्दछन्  
उसलाई वाइ वाइ सलाम गर्दछ ।





# आयोजना कार्यान्वयन निर्देशनालयको अपिल

काठमाण्डौ उपत्यका खानेपानी लिमिटेड (KUKL), आयोजना कार्यान्वयन निर्देशनालयले मेलम्ची आयोजनामार्फत् उपलब्ध हुने प्रशोधित खानेपानी काठमाण्डौ उपत्यकामा आपूर्ति गर्न निर्माण भएका थोक वितरण प्रणाली तथा, ७ वटा पानीपोखरीहरू वागमती नदीको पानी प्रयोग गरी यसै वर्ष पाइपहरूको सफाई एवं चुहावट परीक्षण पनि सम्पन्न भैसकेको छ। वितरण संजाल सुधार अन्तर्गतका करिब १२०० कि.मी. पाइपहरू बिछ्याउने कार्य अन्तिम चरणमा पुग्याएको छ साथै, ट्याडकरको पानी प्रयोग गरी पाइपलाइनको चुहावट परीक्षण र मिटर सहित धारा जडान कार्य सन्तोषजनक रूपमा अघि बढिरहेको छ।

नेपाल सरकारले हालै जारी गरेको स्वेतपत्रमार्फत् व्यक्त गरेको प्रतिबद्धता बमोजिम २०७७ भित्र मेलम्चीको पानी काठमाण्डौ उपत्यकामा आपूर्ति गर्न आवश्यक संरचनाहरूको निर्माण तथा संचालन योग्यताको परीक्षणको अन्तिम चरणमा निर्देशनालय प्रवेश गरिसकेको छ।

## तेस्रो पक्षद्वारा आयोजनाका संरचनाहरूमा क्षति

- मेलम्चीको प्रशोधित खानेपानी उपत्यकामा आपूर्ति गर्ने तयारी अन्तिम चरणमा पुगेको अवस्थामा अर्को तर्फ तेस्रो पक्षद्वारा सडक निर्माण/पुनर्स्थापन तथा ढलका पाइप बिछ्याउने क्रममा निर्देशनालयले बिछ्याएका ३५,०९२ मिटर पाइपलाइन क्षतिग्रस्त भएको छ -क्षतिको कूल लागत अनुमान रु.१६ करोड ४ लाख ५० हजार ९८ रूपियाँ देखिन्छ)। क्षतिग्रस्त पाइपलाइनको समयमै मर्मत हुनसक्दा मेलम्चीको पानी निर्धारित समयसीमा भित्र उपत्यकामा प्राप्त भएता पनि पाइपलाइनमा क्षति भएका क्षेत्रहरूमा पानी आपूर्ति गर्न नसकिने अवस्था छ।
- आयोजनाका संरचनाहरूमा क्षति हुँदा पानी बितरण गर्न ढिलाइ हुनु हो, लागत बढ्नु हो, जसको मूल्य हामी उपत्यकाबासीले नै प्रत्यक्ष वा परोक्षरूपमा ब्यहोर्ने पर्ने हुन्छ,
- आयोजना अन्तर्गत उपत्यकामा निर्मित संरचनाहरू रहेका स्थानहरूमा अन्य निर्माण कार्य गर्दा क्षतिग्रस्त भएका संरचनाहरूको यथाशिघ्र पुनर्निमाण गर्ने दायित्व सम्बन्धित तेस्रो पक्षको हो। समयमै क्षतिग्रस्त संरचनाहरूको पुनर्निमाण गरी सरकारद्वारा निर्धारित समयसीमाभित्र मेलम्चीको शुद्ध, सफा, प्रशोधित खानेपानी काठमाण्डौ उपत्यकामा आपूर्ति गर्ने लक्ष्य हासिल गर्न सहयोग गर्नुहुन सम्बन्धित तेस्रो पक्षसँग हार्दिक अनुरोध गर्दछौं,
- विकास-निर्माणका कार्यहरू गर्दा सावधानी अपनाइ मेलम्ची आयोजनाका संरचनाहरूमा क्षति पुग्न नदिनु यहाँहरूको समेत दायित्व हो भन्ने कुरा पुनःस्मरण गराउन चाहन्छौं,
- आयोजनाका संरचनाहरूमा क्षति पुगेको छ वा पुगे अवस्था छ भन्ने निर्देशनालयलाई जानकारी गराउनुहुन हार्दिक अनुरोध गर्दछौं

## मिटर तथा धारा जडान

१. KUKL को नियमित ग्राहक हुनुहुन्छ तर कारणवश घरधारा जडान गर्न छुटेको छ भन्ने निर्देशनालयसँग सम्पर्क गर्नुहुन अनुरोध गर्दछौं।
२. ग्राहक बनिस्कुभएको छैन भन्ने KUKL को सम्बन्धित शाखा कार्यालयमा सम्पर्क गरी, आवश्यक कागजात पेश गरी ग्राहक बन्नुहोस्। ग्राहक बनिसकेपछि निर्देशनालयसँग सम्पर्क गरी घरधारा जडान गर्ने प्रक्रिया अघि बढाउन सक्नुहुनेछ।
३. KUKL को बाँकी बक्यौता भएका ग्राहकहरूलेसम्बन्धित शाखामा सम्पर्क गरी, रकम चुक्ता गरीसकेपछि नयाँ मिटर जडान गरिनेछ।
४. गैरकानूनी तवरले घरधारा जडान गरिएको जानकारी भएमा निर्देशनालयलाई जानकारी दिइ सहयोग गर्नुहुन अनुरोध गर्दछौं। सूचना दिने व्यक्तिको परिचय नखुलाइ आवश्यक कारवाही अघि बढाइनेछ।
५. ग्राहक बनिस्कुभएको छैन भन्ने आयोजना तथा निर्माण ब्यवसायीका कर्मचारीहरूले माँगेको कागजातको फोटोकपी उपलब्ध गराइ आवश्यक सहयोग गरिदिनुहुन।



काठमाण्डौ उपत्यका खानेपानी लिमिटेड, आयोजना कार्यान्वयन निर्देशनालय  
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फोन नं: ०१-५७०५७७१, ०१-५७०५९१६, ०१-५७०५१४८

फ्याक्स: ०१-५७०५०५७, नि:शुल्क टोल फ्रि नं: ११३९

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