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VIEWPOINT
Santa Bahadur Pun



OPINION
Dipak Gyawali



ENVIRONMENT
Batu Uprety

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COP26

Nepal Visible

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NEPAL-INDIA RELATIONS
Back In Track



DCA REPORT
Stress Adaptation Measures



NEPAL-INDIA ELECTRICITY
From Exchange To Trade

HBL

परिवार
बचत
खाता

हरेक बचतले ल्याउँछ, तपाईंको परिवारमा खुसी

हिमालयन बैंकको 'परिवार बचत खाता'

न्यूनतम मौज्दात रु. १०,०००/- मा खाता खोली परिवारका सदस्यहरूले संयुक्त वा एकल रुपमा सञ्चालन गर्ने सकिने, विभिन्न बैंकिङ सुविधाहरू निःशुल्क भएको 'परिवार बचत खाता' खोली सामुहिक बचतको सुरुवात गर्नुहोस् ।

विस्तृत जानकारीको लागि नजिकको शाखा वा फोन नं ४२२७७४९/४२४६२१८ मा सम्पर्क गर्नुहोस् ।

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Notes From The Editor



Well prepared and coordinated, the Nepalese delegation led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to COP26 has precisely presented implications of climate change at global level by highlighting Nepal's own scenario. In doing so, Deuba also expressed Nepal's commitment to achieve zero emissions by 2045. Led by Ministry of Forest and Environment in close association with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, local levels and civil society organizations, the Nepali delegation could show its presence. With the goodwill of host country, Nepal had received global attention at COP26 in Glasgow. Along with Nepal's own preparation, the host United Kingdom helped Nepal project its own scenario of the Himalayan region. Unlike in the past summits, Nepal was able to present disasters induced by climate and effects faced by people living in the Himalayan region and successful programs in community forestry and adaptation to the global levels. However, some of the targets set by Nepal are overambitious and impossible to achieve. Although Nepal has been producing negligible emissions, it is one of the major victims of the climate change. During the last one year, Nepal has faced severe humanitarian crisis caused by flood, landslides and drought affecting livelihood of millions of people. As a country representing LDC group, Nepal also stressed the issues of loss and damage. We have decided to write Nepal's presence in the COP26 as our cover story. We also cover contemporary political and other issues.

Keshab Poudel

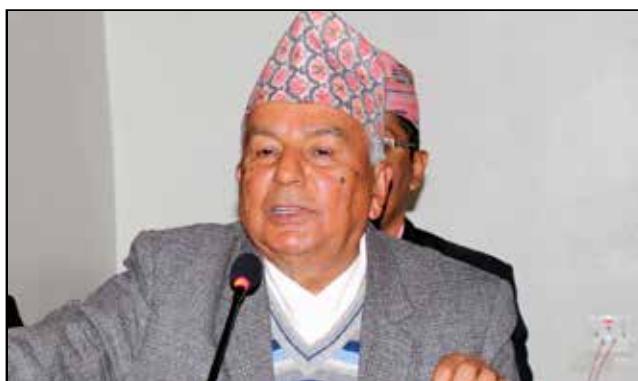
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Pashupatinath-Kashi Vishwanath Amrit Mahotsav Rally Flagged Off

Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Prem Bahadur Ale and Ambassador of India Vinay Mohan Kwatra jointly flagged off Pashupatinath-Kashi Vishwanath Amrit Mahotsav Motorcycle Rally from the sacred Pashupatinath Temple in the august presence of Ven. Mool Bhatta of the Temple.



Nearly 50 Indian and Nepali motorbike enthusiasts are participating in the rally. The rally is aimed at showcasing the profound and timeless people-to-people connect between India and Nepal and further strengthen mutual cultural relations. The rally is also intended to increase awareness among youth about the precious shared religious and cultural heritage of our two great countries.

In his remarks, Minister Ale spoke about the age-old cultural heritage and civilizational links between India and Nepal and wished the participants of bike rally a success in their journey.

Ambassador of India in his remarks spoke about the special association between Kathmandu and Kashi and the role played by the two ancient temples – Pashupatinath and Kashi Vishwanath – in bringing people of the two countries together. Ambassador Kwatra also urged the youth of India and Nepal to cherish and preserve this shared cultural wealth. Venerable Chief Priest (Mool Bhatta) of Pashupatinath Temple blessed the participants before they set out on this journey.

The participants of the rally would visit Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi on 13 November and perform puja and offer 'Swachchata Shramdan' at Dashashvamedhaghat to spread the message of cleanliness.

During its journey, the rally would also cross several historically important places: Motihari – where Mahatma Gandhi launched 'Champaran Satyagraha' during India's freedom struggle, Samath – the city where Mahatma Buddha delivered his first sermon, and Gorakhnath Math – a temple highly revered and visited by people from both India and Nepal. The snippets from the journey can be followed on Embassy's social media handles.

The rally is organized by Embassy of India, Kathmandu in collaboration with Royal Enfield Kathmandu as part of 'Azadika Amrit Mahotsav', an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independent India and the history of remarkable progress of its people.

Japan Helps Build New Classrooms In Rukum School

The Charge d'Affaires a.i. of Japan to Nepal YOSHIOKA Yuzo, signed a grant contract with Rudra Lal Jaishi, Headmaster of Shree Basic School Nakhira, for building new classrooms in West Rukum District.

The project is funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) of the Japanese Government and involves

a grant of USD 90,287 (approximately NPR 10.71 million). It is aimed to enhance the educational environment by constructing five classrooms. This will help students who previously had to study in deteriorated school buildings as well as outside in the school ground.

Shree Basic School Nakhira, established in 1975, provides education to more than 400 students. The condition of the current school buildings is unsafe as there are leaks in the roof. Also, due to the limited number of classrooms, around half of students had to take classes outside in the school ground. On rainy season, school hours need to be shortened, which put teachers and students in a difficult situation to manage their daily classes.



The Embassy of Japan believes the project will provide a safe and pleasant learning environment for students and will improve the students' quality of education. We hope that this assistance to the educational institute will further enhance the friendship between the peoples of Japan and Nepal, including for future generations.

Nepal, Republic Of Korea Bilateral Consultation Mechanism Meets

The fifth meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and the Republic of Korea (ROK) was held in Kathmandu.

Joint Secretary of the North East Asia Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lok Bahadur Thapa and Director General, South Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of ROK Sangryol LEE led their respective delegations to the meeting.

They took stock of overall state of Nepal-ROK relations and stressed on the importance of exchange of high-level visits and engagements to further promote friendly ties between the two countries.

On the occasion, the two sides discussed and exchanged views on further promoting cooperation in the areas of COVID-19 response and recovery, trade, investment, employment, energy, technology, education, tourism, culture, and people-to-people relations, among others.

While underscoring the contribution of Nepali workers in Korea to the economies of both countries, the two sides agreed on the need to renew the Memorandum of Understanding on the



NEWSNOTES

Employment Permit System (EPS) at the earliest. The Nepali side requested the Korean side to increase the number of quotas to Nepal under EPS and to arrange to receive the Nepali workers who passed EPS tests as early as possible.

During the consultations, the two sides also discussed possible cooperation in mutually beneficial areas at regional and multilateral level including UN and SAARC.

Senior officials of various line Ministries of the Government of Nepal were part of the Nepali delegation. The Korean delegation comprised the officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kathmandu, Country Director of KOICA Nepal Office and the representative of EPS center in Nepal.

Later, Director General Sangryol LEE paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A wide range of issues of mutual interests were discussed during the meeting.

Japanese Aid To Shree Malika Secondary School

The Charge d'Affaires a.i. of Japan to Nepal, YOSHIOKA Yuzo, signed a grant contract with Deepak Chapagain, President of Volunteer Corps Nepal, for building new classrooms at Shree Malika Secondary School in Dailekh District. The project is funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) of the Japanese Government and involves a grant of USD 88,105 (approximately NPR 10.45 million).



It is aimed to enhance the educational environment by constructing eight classrooms with furniture. This will help students who previously had to study in deteriorated school buildings.

Shree Malika Secondary School, established in 1964, provides education for more than 450 students. The condition of the current school buildings is unsafe as there are leaks in the roof.

Also, due to the limited number of classrooms, different classes have to be conducted at the same time in one small room, which causes difficulties for students focusing on their studies. The project will be managed by Volunteer Corps Nepal, a local NGO that works in the fields of education, health, agriculture, women empowerment, and emergency disaster relief.

The Embassy of Japan believes the project will provide a safe and pleasant learning environment for students and will improve the students' quality of education. We hope that this assistance to the educational institute will further enhance the friendship between the peoples of Japan and Nepal, including for future generations.

Chinese Army Provides Vero Cell Vaccines To Nepali Army

Chinese ambassador to Nepal Hou Yanqi handed over health materials to Chief of Army Staff of the Nepal Army Prabhu Ram Sharma.

People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China has provided health materials including vaccines against the novel coronavirus to the Nepali Army.

The PLA assisted the NA with 300 thousand doses of Vero Cell vaccines and other health materials.



According to a press release issued by Nepal Army, the NA expressed confidence that such cooperation would further consolidate the relationship between the armies of the two countries.

French Ambassador Calls On Energy Minister

Ambassador of France to Nepal, Gilles Bourbao paid a courtesy call on Minister for Energy, Water Resources, and irrigation, Pampha Bhusal. In the meeting held at the Ministry, they discussed Nepal-France relations and matters of bilateral interest.

On the occasion, Minister Bhusal expressed interest in energy reserve and hydro energy-related technology, saying Nepal wanted to manage the energy available in the country. Giving assurance that the French companies and industries promoting hydroelectricity would be provided with necessary assistance in Nepal, she urged the French ambassador to take initiatives for the same.

French ambassador Bourbao said the private companies in France were willing to bring the new technology the country has developed in the energy sector to Nepal. He urged for cooperation for the same.

Water Resources and Irrigation Secretary Sagar Kumar Rai, joint secretary Madhukar Raj Rajbhandari and representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present in the meeting.

Nepal-India Consultative Group On Security Issue Meets

Mutual security concerns, training and capacity building requirements of defence forces of Nepal and bilateral cooperation in disaster management were some of the key issues that figured prominently at a meeting between India and Nepal.

The requirement of the Nepalese Army for various defence stores was also deliberated upon at the meeting of the 14th India-Nepal bilateral consultative group on security, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The meeting took place in Bengaluru.

"Discussions covered issues relating to mutual security concerns, training and capacity building requirements of defence forces of Nepal, cooperation in disaster management, requirements of Nepal Army for various defence stores and exchange of experts/instructors," the MEA said in a statement.

The Indian delegation at the talks was led by Anurag Srivas-

tava, Joint Secretary (North) in the MEA while the Nepalese side was headed by Tirtha Raj Wagle, Joint Secretary (South Asia) in the Nepalese foreign ministry.

The delegations comprised officials from ministries of defence, foreign affairs and home affairs of both countries.

Representatives of the Indian Army and the Nepal Army were also part of the meeting.

The two sides also discussed joint expeditions and adventure sports activities between the two countries, the MEA said.

The delegations comprised officials from ministries of defence, foreign affairs and home affairs of both countries.

Representatives of the Indian Army and the Nepal Army were also part of the meeting.

Nepal Army, US Army Begin Joint Disaster Management Exercise



‘Ex-Teak Nail-2022’ a joint drill related to disaster risk management of Nepali Army and US Army has kicked off.

A total of 50 Nepali Army involved in search and rescue operations and 20 US army have been participating in the military exercise that began at Chhauni-based Ranger Battalion of the NA.

According to the Directorate of Public Relations and Information of the Nepali Army, theoretical and practical knowledge related to water, search and rescue in high-hilly and mountainous areas would be imparted to the trainees in the training to be organised in Kathmandu, Pokhara and Annapurna Base Camp area.

The training would run till November 30. Brigadier General Dhurba Prakash Shah, members of the Pacific Augmentation Team of the US Embassy, Chief of the Office of Defence Cooperation, among others were present on the occasion.

The joint training is expected to enhance the theoretical and practical capabilities of army personnel of both countries involved in disaster risk management tasks.

The NA has believed that the training would also help further strengthen friendly relations between the two countries.

Israeli Embassy Marks 61 Years Of Nepal-Israel Diplomatic Relations

The Embassy of Israel together with Shalom Club Nepal organized “Tree Plantation Program”, in Rastriya Shahid Tatha Shanti Park, Nijamati (Smarak), Gokarneswor-4, 26 October 2021. On 61 years of Diplomatic Relations between Nepal and Israel, trees were planted in the park, as a symbolic act of celebrating nature, goodness and promoting ecological awareness.

Minister for Education, Science and Technology Devendra

Paudel, graced the Tree Plantation Ceremony as the Chief Guest. Expressing the importance and willingness to develop the park, the Minister said, “This is my third visit at this Park. The park would be exemplary for Nepalese as well as foreigners who come to visit park and wish to know about Martyrs.” He further emphasized that the budget that has been allocated for the park development will be implemented soon.

Addressing the ceremony, Mayor of Gokarneswor-4 Municipality Santosh Chalise said, “More than 5000 people come for morning and evening walks and exercises. It is a historic place and is surrounded by touristic spots. Hence, the park needs to be publicized.”

Expressing contentment to be a part of the plantation. Hanan Goder, Ambassador of Israel to Nepal said, “The Embassy of Israel appreciates Shalom Club efforts for preserving environment and supporting the community.”

Sudarsan Sigdel, Chairperson of the Park thanked the Embassy and Shalom Club for planting at this park that carries historical importance and said that this gesture only strengthens the bilateral relations.

Anil Regmi, Division Forest Officer, Kathmandu pled to grow, nurture the plants and take care of it so that the project is sustainable.

Babu Ram Adhikari, Deputy Secretary of Nepal National Commission for UNESCO showed their interest and willingness to work together for peace and greenery.



Shalom Club President Dr. Bim Prasad Shrestha said, “The Shalom Club Nepal feels honored to further strengthen ties with Israel with whom Nepal began diplomatic journey. We planted the trees at UNESCO Park to begin our journey towards multi-lateral dimensions.”

The Embassy is hopeful to spread a message that trees are vital; the roots of living and it’s a responsibility of each individual to take care of our natural world for the better today and tomorrow.

The Plantation Program was followed by the visit to B.P. Koirala Museum ‘Sundarijal Bandighriha.’ The relations between Nepal and Israel were established at the initiation of the two great leaders and Prime Ministers of their respective countries, B.P. Koirala and David Ben Gurion on 1 June 1960. Marking this important event, Ambassador Hanan Goder along with the Embassy staff and Shalom Club Members visited B.P. Koirala Museum. Nepali Congress CWC member Sujata Koirala, represented the Koirala family to pay tribute to BP Koirala. A tree was also planted at the premises of BP Museum as a symbol to mark the event.

Parsuram Pokhrel, Director at the Museum, briefed about the museum and talked about the the strong relations between Nepal, Israel and Koirala Family. Ambassador Goder expressed his appreciation to B.P. Koirala as a great leader and as a good friend of Israel. Israel will never forget that Nepal was the first and the only country from this part of the world that kept relations with Israel at the time.

BUSINESS BRIEF

Nepal, World Bank Launch \$60M Education Excellence Program

The Nurturing Excellence in Higher Education Program (NEHEP) was jointly launched on October 26 by



the University Grants Commission, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and the World Bank. The five-year program aims to improve the quality and labor market relevance of Nepal's higher education, scale up collaborative research and online learning, and

expand access to academic institutions for underprivileged and vulnerable students from disadvantaged areas.

"Investing in human capital from early childhood to higher education is key to helping young people in Nepal realize their development potential," stated Ram Prasad Thapaliya, Education Secretary. "This program will help strengthen the higher education sector in collaboration with industries and ensure students across Nepal including those from disadvantaged groups have access to quality higher education."

The Nurturing Excellence in Higher Education Program builds on the success of earlier higher education projects in Nepal to align its higher education sector with labor market needs, boost collaborative research and entrepreneurship, improve governance, and enhance access to quality higher education in general and especially for disadvantaged students. The COVID-19 pandemic has created strong incentives to expand online platforms and blended learning, which the program will help scale up across all universities in Nepal.

"Building on the successful partnership with the World Bank in earlier projects that improved research and innovation, quality assurance and accreditation, and COVID response, the program will further foster regional collaboration of higher education institutions across South Asia and beyond," stated Prof. Bhim Prasad Subedi, Chairperson of the University Grants Commission. *"This will help exploit the benefits of the knowledge economy and information era to increase participation, quality, and relevance of higher education programs."*

The program will also expand targeted scholarships to disadvantaged students to pursue labor market-driven academic programs and support equity grants to higher education institutions in needy and disaster-affected areas in Nepal.

"By improving access of students, especially those from disadvantaged communities, to quality higher education and skills that are in demand in the labor market, this program will support Nepal's COVID-19 recovery," said Faris Haddad-Zervos, World Bank Country Director for Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. "This is critical as the country forges efforts towards green, resilient, and inclusive development, which the World Bank is committed to support."

Nepali Film, A Scarecrow, Wins UNICEF Award

'A Scarecrow' by breakthrough Nepali director Rajesh Prasad Khatri, has won the UNICEF Iris 75 award at the UNICEF Innocenti Film Festival 2021 (UIFF). The festival, which is organized by UNICEF's Office of Research – Innocenti, celebrates films that have skillfully captured what it means to be a child today. Taking place 21-24 October in Florence (Italy), the festival featured 38 films from 29 countries.

UIFF has introduced the Iris Award

to recognize excellence in filmmaking about children and to encourage exploration of childhood all over the world as a cinematic theme. In its second edition, the response has been encouraging with a total of 1700 films submitted for consideration from 114 countries.

The honor for the best overall film at UIFF is the 'UNICEF 75 Iris,' created to mark UNICEF's 75th anniversary, now being celebrated around the world. An international jury selected 'A Scarecrow' written and directed by self-taught Nepali filmmaker, Rajesh Prasad Khatri, for the top award. Rajesh Khatri, who is also a schoolteacher, accurately depicts the cultural barriers that often prevent young girls from gaining an education.

"Being a teacher in the remotest village, I have had the privilege to interact with a group of innocent kids where I always learn to feel the stories of each students' cold homes, broken dreams, and their tears along with my experience. Most of all, these are the stories of truth which I am hoping to advocate for their rights and share their stories to the world through the medium of Cinema," said Khatri.

Japan Provides 114 More Oxygen Generators To Nepal

The Government of Japan has provided an additional 114 oxygen generators to support the Government of Nepal's efforts in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of Japan, YOSHIOKA Yuzo, said he was pleased to hand over more

oxygen generators to assist Nepali hospitals and hopes that medical equipment provided by Japan has been used to save many lives in Nepal.

Japan has been continuously supporting Nepal



in the fight against COVID-19 by providing medical equipment, such as 25 blood gas analyzers, 25 portable ultrasound image diagnostic systems, 6 ambulances and 274 oxygen generators that are now in use at hospitals across the country.

Japan has been implementing comprehensive support to the health sector of Nepal, with advanced medical equipment such as MRI machines provided to 8 public advanced hospitals. In August, Japan provided AstraZeneca vaccines to Nepal. Another project to transport the COVID-19 vaccines effectively is expected under the Last One Mile Program with UNICEF.

The Embassy of Japan hopes to see an end to the COVID-19 pandemic and looks forward to working with the Government of Nepal and development partners to support the health sector in Nepal and get Nepal back on track for economic recovery after the COVID19 pandemic.

KOICA Hands Over New Mugu District Hospital Building

KOICA officially handed over the newly constructed Mugu District Hospital to the Ministry of Social Development of Karnali Province in the Mugu hospital premises. The Hospital was constructed under the project “Improving



Maternal and Child Health Care in Mugu” with the total Budget of USD 5 million from the Government of the Republic of Korea.

The newly constructed Mugu District Hospital building

was virtually inaugurated by Social Development Minister of Karnali Province, Yagya Bahadur Budha Chettri along with the physical presence of Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Park Chong-suk. The event was attended by Rom Bahadur Mahat, Chief District Officer, Local parliamentarians, Country Director of KOICA, Sunghoon Ko, and other local government stakeholders and implementing agencies.

KOICA constructed 50 bedded District hospital, provided state of art medical equipment for better access to quality health service of Mugu people. In addition to this, through this project, KOICA in the partnership with UNICEF strengthened the health system to provide quality and equitable MNCH services of the entire Mugu District. The project also implemented activities to improve the behavior of caregivers, parents, families and communities on MNCH care practice in Mugu.

At the inauguration, the Minister appreciated the gesture from the Government of Korea to Nepal and added that the hospital will be the model hospital of Karnali Province.

He added, the support will be instrumental in continuing its quality health care services without any disruption in post COVID situation for the people of Mugu.

During the inauguration event, Park Chong-suk, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Nepal, hoped that this assistance will support effective and efficient health services to the people of Karnali Province and he expressed that he will do his best to support Nepal’s development process.

KOICA has been supporting Nepal’s health sector development since long and especially as a response to COVID-19 pandemic. KOICA supported protection equipment, Oxygen concentrators and PCR test kits. The Government of the Republic of Korea has been supporting the Government of Nepal through KOICA in various areas of health, education, IT and rural development since 1991.

Ayurveda Campus, Embassy Of India Organize Talk Program

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mi Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Kathmandu and Ayurveda Campus, Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University jointly organized a webinar “Ayurveda for Well Being - Prospects and Challenges” as a part of week-long



celebration of “AarogyaSaptaha” to observe 6th Ayurveda Day (DhanwantariJayanti) which is also celebrated as Rastriya Aarogya Diwas in Nepal.

The event was attended by Professor Shiv LalBhusal, Rector of Tribhuvan University, Prof. Dr. PradeepVaidya, Assistant Dean, Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University, Dr. Shiv Mangal Prasad –Campus Chief, Ayurveda Campus, and other leading academicians. Naveen Kumar, First Secretary (Press Information and Culture), Embassy of India, Kathmandu also attended the event and highlighted the usefulness of Ayurveda particularly during the time of Covid-19 pandemic. Nearly 200 experts and enthusiasts from India, Nepal and other countries virtually participated in the webinar.

Prof. Dr. Alathiyoor Narayanan Nambi, Principal and Chief Physician Ashtangam Ayurveda Chikitsalayam and Vidyapeedham, Kerala, India, and Dr. SMS Samarakoon from Institute of Indigenous Medicine University of Colombo, Sri Lanka shared their views virtually as Key Note speakers.

The event was organized as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

Back To The Future – With 1990!



BY: DIPAK GYAWALI

Even its most ardent advocates now admit the constitution of 2015 is not working and the country is heading towards total anarchy. All three arms of government – the executive, the legislative parliament and the judiciary – are in shambles. To make matters worse, the feckless provincial governments too are seeing musical chair games and have no achievements to their credits except as milch cows for party cadres to draw perks and privileges.

An executive with practically absolute majority, expected to finally give the country a stable government for five years, collapsed midway and has been replaced by motley coalition that was not able to form a cabinet for three months. When it finally did so, it even dragged the judiciary into controversy with charges of nepotism against the chief justice, dragging the legal community into open warfare. Most constitutional bodies and embassies – in countries that matter most to Nepal – are headless, since the Deuba government withdrew previous appointments. Given that the ambassadors were vetted and unanimously approved through parliamentary hearings that included all parties therein, this action is proof that the current crop of leaders do not respect the constitution they drafted and imposed on the country in 2015. They did not do so to the 1990 constitution as well in 2006.

The parliament is dysfunctional. It has been misused as a rubber stamp of party honchos, called to pass budgets so they can receive perks and then immediately prorogued thereafter if the opposition started sounding too noisy. Into this degeneration, the Supreme Court has dragged itself as not a fair adjudicator but a political player as well seeking and succeeding in appointing its favourites as state functionaries. In the process, the skeletons of endemic corruption in its closets are being openly discussed, and its credibility is being reduced to mud. It is nakedly obvious now that political honchos of this dispensation have violated every norm of democracy and good governance one can envisage.

Assessing this desultory scenario, *Swatantra Nagarik Samaj* (Independent Civic Society, Pipalbot, Patan Dhoka) met on 12th November Friday to revive the ***Restore 1990 Constitution Campaign***. It was start-

ed a decade and a half earlier by Nepali Kangress stalwart and its treasurer during the most difficult Panchayat days nonagenarian Ram Babu Prasain who passed away earlier this year. The movement included many who were opposed to the 12-point Delhi Deal of 2005 as well as Kangress and UML's unholy portering of the murderous Noida Maoists political agenda: former Kathmandu mayor PL Singh, Bipin Koirala, Prakash Koirala, journalist Anar Singh Karki and others including yours truly. It is now spearheaded by younger democratic non-Left political activists as yet not widely known such as Sharda Shahi of Bardiya, Hem Bickram Silwal of Sindhupalchowk, Gajendra Aryal of Chhetri Samaj etc.

In a manifesto read out and accepted during that meeting, it laid out how the 1990 constitution was illegally and immorally sidelined, why its reinstatement is necessary, what are its imperfections that need to be rectified, and how might that come about.

It was in 2002 that the fratricidal infighting between Girija and Deuba factions led to the collapse of a majority-holding Kangress government which dissolved the parliament, promising (as per the constitution) to hold elections within six months, which it failed to do. It is reminiscent of today's similar fratricide among the communists, leading many to ask if King Mahendra was right when he said party system governance is ill-suited to Nepal's ethos. Under the 12-Point Delhi Deal of 2005, the King was forced to abandon plans for a fresh election and to revive that dead parliament whose voter-given 5-year mandate had long expired.

The Girija government formed under such murky circumstances, and which had sworn to uphold the 1990 constitution, seduced by promises of Noida Maoists and their foreign handlers to make him Nepal's first president, proceeded to trample upon it. With more murky shenanigans, it shackled itself and the rights of Nepali citizens by a priori committing itself – and a future constituent assembly – to (borrowing former PM and Kangress president Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's words) "imported agenda of republicanism, secularism and federalism". Moreover, that agenda was tabled for voting in the first meeting of the constituent assembly

by a person who had lost the election and was not even a member of the House. No discussions were allowed. What a shame! What crass illegitimate birth of this dispensation!

The Movement argues that a primary reason for the corruption and failure of the 2015 constitution is in its failure to ensure a referee institution (monarchy) above competing political parties to ensure they play by the rules. Not only has office of the president, mere nominated party hacks, failed to uphold its non-partisan adjudicator stance, it has also hidden behind the narrative (and behaved to prove) that it is only a powerless rubber stamp of the prime minister of the day. Why does the country have to bear the burden of upholding such a mere clerical functionary? This absence of a referee institution such as the monarchy has made ruling party honchos mini-autocrats (the Nepali word ‘nirankus’ or ‘without any restraint’ is more evocative).

The restoration of 1990 constitution would correct this major lacuna. It would also be a fitting tribute to the founding fathers of Nepal’s democracy who were instrumental in its design and promulgation: King Birendra, Ganesh Man Singh, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, Man Mohan Adhikari, Sahana Pradhan, Madan Bhandari, and Nirmal Lama the Maoist Guru also a member of the 1990 Constitution drafting committee and others. Given that 2015 is totally dysfunctional, restoring 1990 would be the least disruptive of alternatives waiting just beyond the horizon, much less so than the rise of a Jung Bahadur via some form of military putsch.

Do these campaigners believe that 1990 is perfect, as was argued by its drafters such as former speaker Daman Nath Dhungana who then when on to trample on it without so much as proposing a single amendment? Far from it. They argue that certain features of the Westminster parliamentary model militate against proper democratic functioning and must be changed. First, by allowing a legislative representative MP to simultaneously become an executive minister, it violates the idea of “one person one office” principle of separation of powers. MPs should not be allowed to become ministers, and if they do, must resign from their seat to be followed by fresh elections for it.

Second, in its “first past the post” system, candidates who got less than 10% votes and thus forfeited their deposit were still elected members because

they received the most votes compared to many others who stood for elections. It is a travesty that a candidate should represent 90% of the people who had rejected his candidacy! It should be replaced by the requirement to get at least 50% votes with a run-off among top two candidates if otherwise. The provision “none of the above” should be included in the ballot, and if it got the highest vote among all, fresh elections should be held with none of the candidates that stood previously being allowed to stand again as they were rejected by the voters.

Third, bodies such as the Constitutional or Judicial Councils should be abolished as they allow chief justice and parliamentary speaker to engage in – with attendant corruption – executive decision making, thus debilitating both the Supreme Court and the Parliament where such executive decisions cannot then be challenged. The same goes for the many Commissions that are mere salary granting outfits for party cadres. Fourth, if the US and Japan can rise to top levels of prosperity by having only ten ministries, Nepal too should merge

and limit ministries to only ten (while devolving many of the functions kept at the center to local governance units), thus reducing administrative budget wastage significantly.

How is 1990 to be restored? The easiest would be if the parties that made it (and wrongly trampled upon it between 2005 and 2015) came to their senses and did so. That was the turn-

ing point into the current dead-end blind alley; and it is their responsibility to come back to the point where the mistake was made and take the country forward from thereon in the right direction. The current crop of top leaders in these parties are morally too weak to take such a bold decision. Perhaps a newer generation of untainted politicians can see the light and lead the country to its deserved peaceful and well-governed future.

If they fail, then it is up to the only untainted national institution – the Nepal Army keeping the King as its Supreme Commander – to do so by restoring a sovereign parliament envisaged by the 1990 Constitution through proper, free and fair elections within a year or two. Or else the country’s loot and free fall misery will continue.

The parliament is dysfunctional. It has been misused as a rubber stamp of party honchos, called to pass budgets so they can receive perks and then immediately prorogued thereafter if the opposition started sounding too noisy.

Unaccountable Bunch

As Prime Minister Deuba has defended that present alliance will last for the full term, formation of Coordination Committee to look after the government shows otherwise

By A CORRESPONENT

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has defended that this coalition government will complete full term saying that all the coalition leaders have been working to make the government successful. However, the recent decision of the alliance parties to constitute a coordination committee shows otherwise.

"The coalition will remain for the full term. There is no need for any doubt and confusion regarding the coalition," he reiterated, addressing a news conference at the VIP lounge of Tribhuvan International Airport.

The present coalition government under the leadership of Nepali Congress president Deuba has the participation of the CPN(Maoist Centre), the CPN (Unified Socialist), the Janata Samajbadi Party (JSP) and the Rastriya Janamorchha, in addition to the Nepali Congress.



Constituted under the chairmanship of NC leader Ramchandra Poudel, the functions of the committee will be likely to increase the differences between the government and alliance partners.

Although no political leaders including prime minister are opposition the committee, NC leader Prakash Man Singh has questioned the formation of high level political coordination committee.

NC leader Singh termed the committee is unconstitutional and irrelevant in the present context. "Any committee formed to direct the government and prime minister is unconstitutional," said Singh. Although they were not vocal, other Congress leaders also agreed that Coordination

committee could create the differences paving the way for collapse of the coalition.

Initiated by Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal, the committee, which is instituted by the ruling parties, aims is to look and guide the government on day-to-day administrative functioning.

With the consent of prime minister Deuba, a meeting of the ruling alliance formed an 11-member "coordination committee" to support the government. As per the agreement, the Nepali Congress, the Maoist Centre, the CPN (Unified Socialist), the Janata Samajbadi Party and the Rastriya Janamorchha each will send two members to the committee. Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, a Congress leader and minister for law, will represent the government in the committee.

Senior Nepali Congress leaders Ram Chandra Poudel and Krishna Prasad Sitaula will represent the Nepali Congress, Dahal and Narayan Kazi Shrestha will represent the Maoist Centre, Madhav Nepal will repre-



sent the CPN (Unified Socialist), Upendra Yadav will represent the Janata Samajbadi Party and Chitra Bahadur KC and Durga Poudel will represent Rastriya Janamorcha.

This is not the first time Dahal has pushed such an idea. He had made a similar push when KP Sharma Oli was prime minister. Although Dahal proposed the idea, PM Deuba has accepted it humbly. PM Deuba views the committee as a platform to make disgruntled leader happy.

Unconstitutional Committee

Forming any committee to guide and advise the government is regarded as unconstitutional. In parliamentary forms of government, the government is accountable to the parliament and no one can guide and advise the government except the parliament.

In this context, many question the need for such committee. Known for his power mongering capacity, Dahal intends to exercise the executive power influencing through the coordination committee.

However, it is not easier than done. With just over 13 months left for the new elections, such a committee can make any differences to the functioning of the government.

Having experiences of running such coalition government time and again, PM Deuba knows the tactics to woo leaders giving them certain power and role in the government.

“Do you think PM Deuba is foolish? No, he is very clever in politics. Through this committee, Deuba will adjust his opponents and critics in his party and outside,” said Deuba’s colleague.

Everyone knows that Dahal wants to fulfill his vested interest and protect his interest in the government in the process of appointment of ambassadors, administrators and others.

However, Maoist center leader and member of Coordination Committee Narayan Kazi Shrestha defended the formation of the committee



as necessary to make coordination between the government and party.

“First of all, I would like to convey the message that this committee is for the strengthening of the government and making the government more effective. We don’t have any interest to indulge in day to day activities of the government,” said Shrestha. “Since we have to hold the elections for three tiers, local, province and center, better coordination among the ruling coalition is a must.”

Whatever Shrestha said defending the committee, others do not agree with it. “Whatever the name they give, this committee can ultimately intervene in the day to day activities of the government. In this way, this is unconstitutional,” said a senior constitutional lawyer on condition of anonymity.

“If the political leaders are honest to abide by the constitution, the committee should be dissolved immediately. One cannot retain such committee saying this or that.”

Although CPN-UML leader K.P. Sharma Oli dismissed formation of such coordination committee to oversee day to day affairs of the cabinet, most of the prime ministers in the last 30 years agreed to work under such committee.

Time to time, political leaders have used this kind of committee to provide certain roles to the powerful leaders and make it free from hassles and conspiracy against the government.

“Our committee will work to protect democracy and constitution. We don’t have any other intention. The government will function as per of the constitutional role,” said Ram Chandra Poudel, the first convener of the committee. “How can you term us unconstitutional when our aim itself is to protect and preserve constitution?”

“As long as it does not harm his core interest, Prime Minister Deuba will promote such committees. I will tell you Deuba will give consent to form another four committees if it protects his position,” said a political analyst. Nominating two main rival colleagues Poudel and Krishna Prasad Sitaula in the committee, Deuba has already pacified his opponents.

Machiavelli said that the ruler is judged by who he is surrounded by. Formation of this committee and leaders chosen the committee exposed the current political leadership and their capacity.

Back In Track

The recent meeting between Nepali and Indian prime ministers in Glasgow brings Nepal-India relations back in track

By A CORRESPONENT

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has said that he had invited his counterpart Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Nepal. In response, the Indian Prime Minister Modi said that he was ready to visit Nepal and invited counterpart Deuba for the visit to India as well.

Two leaders of close neighbors exchanged the message of goodwill for the first time over the years. After the promulgation of new constitution in 2015, Nepal-India relations have never been in good terms. Despite several rounds of high-level meetings, the bilateral relations remain in low ebb.

Publication of new map by Nepal incorporating disputed territory of Kalapani in Nepalese map has virtually put the bilateral relations in lowest ebb closing the doors of high-level political contacts.

Although Prime Minister Deuba and all other political parties represented in the House of Representatives unanimously supported the constitution amendment bill to include a small portion of disputed territory in Nepalese official map, his party's stand was mild compared to communist government led by KP Sharma Oli.

After the reinstatement of House of Representatives and fall of the government led by PM Oli, both the sides have initiated new moves. Appointing Dr. Narayan Khadka as foreign minister and sending him to UN and meet Indian Foreign Minister; PM Deuba had quietly taken initiatives for rapprochement at political level.

Finally, PM Deuba's move is yielding results. On the sidelines of COP26, Prime Minister Deuba

and Prime Minister Modi held bilateral meetings and agreed to intensify high level meetings, which seem to be changing the situation.

Meeting After Meeting

After the formation of the government of Deuba under a verdict of Supreme Court, Nepali and Indian sides took quite a few steps to bury the differences.

Since taking office, Deuba and his administration have actively sought New Delhi's support and have made desperate attempts to reach out to New Delhi.

The visit of Bharatiya Janata Party's Foreign Affairs Department chief Vijay Chauthaiwale, who came to Nepal at the invitation of ruling NC, laid down the conditions. During his stay in Nepal, Chauthaiwale extensively discussed with Deuba and other top political leaders of major parties.

Reciprocating Chauthaiwale's Kathmandu visit, a team of Nepali Congress leaders visited India in early October and held talks with BJP officials and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

After laying the groundwork through party-to-party exchanges, Nepal's Foreign Minister Khadka and Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar talked on the sidelines of 76th General Assembly of the United Nations.

The two ministers discussed the wide range of bilateral issues at



the top of the priority list. After the meeting with Dr. Khadka, Jaishankar tweeted that they had "agreed that we should work together closely to take our special relation forward."

Then, Nepal and India met in 14th meeting of Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues in Bengaluru. During the meeting, mutual security concerns, training and capacity building requirements of defense forces of Nepal and bilateral cooperation in disaster management were some of the key issues discussed at the meeting.

"Discussions covered issues relating to mutual security concerns, training and capacity building requirements of defense forces of Nepal, cooperation in disaster management, requirements of Nepal Army for various defense stores and exchange of expert instructors," the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

Discussions Points

Although there is still a long way to go to build the confidence and change the state of current relations, the meeting between PM Deuba and PM Modi in the sidelines of World Leaders Summit of COP26 is a major step.

A decision of Indian Power Ministry to allow Nepalese surplus electricity to trade in Indian competitive market is taken as an outcome of the high level meeting of the two countries.

Prime Minister Deuba thanked the Prime Minister of India for its valuable assistance in socio-economic development of Nepal including infrastructures, railway links, petroleum pipeline, reconstruction projects among others.

He also thanked for the Indian support to Nepal in essential medical supplies and vaccines in its fight against Covid-19 pandemic. He expressed that India's support would continue in supply of chemical fertilizer as in the past.

He requested the Indian government to allow additional air entry routes through Mahendranagar, Dhangadhi, Nepalgunj and Bhairahawa. The Indian Prime Minister stated that he would work for further strengthening Nepal-India ties and assured of his full support to Nepal as required.

Prime Minister Modi also expressed his commitment to supply vaccines, and medical equipment from India to Nepal. The ministry of external affairs (MEA), in a statement, said that this was the first meeting of Prime Minister Modi with prime minister Deuba after the telephone conversation between them in July this year when Deuba assumed office as the prime minister of Nepal.

"The two leaders noted the excellent cooperation between India and Nepal during the pandemic particularly through the supply of vaccines, medicines and medical equipment from India to Nepal as well as by ensuring the free flow of goods across the borders," the MEA said.

Both leaders discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation including in the context of ongoing efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic.

"PM @narendramodi met PM of Nepal @SherBDeuba In their

first engagement since PM Deuba assumed office, the two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen our close bilateral ties. Also discussed climate, COVID-19 & resolved to work together toward post-pandemic recovery,"

ministry of external affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Twitter.

The two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen the close bilateral ties.

Nepal-India Relations On Track

While the Government-to-Government level interactions are ongoing, PM Deuba is also promoting the party to party relations advocating for the party-level interactions in reaching out to India. This also helped this time to reduce the misunderstanding.

Traditionally, India and Nepal have resolved their misunderstandings through well-established bilateral diplomatic channels at the Foreign Secretary-level. However, party level meeting also worked successfully this time.

From the very beginning since coming to power, Deuba's main foreign policy priority has been finding a way to mend ties with New Delhi. However, the current scenario is just the beginning. Several key bilateral issues need to be resolved through dialogue in order to push the relationship to the next level. Despite some pressing bilateral issues, recent trends in bilateral relation are encouraging.

Despite the fluctuations in

the relationship at the political level, the overall bilateral relations are satisfactorily moving ahead, irrespective of whichever party forms the government. In recent years, bilateral meetings have been taking place on a regular basis and many pending projects are being completed or clearing hurdles.

The ongoing meetings and interactions between Nepal and India must be continued in the days to come.

Absence of talks at top levels creates suspicion and misunderstanding between two countries. The upcoming high-level visits between two



countries are expected to contribute to cement the bilateral ties.

Following 5-year long gloom and pessimism in Nepal-India official level relations, the two countries seem to be moving towards a reset in bilateral ties. Since taking office in July 2021, Prime Minister Deuba, along with his Cabinet members, has been making efforts to reach out to the leadership in India and resume the talks in several sectors, including railways trade, hydropower, culture and COVID-19. In reciprocation, India has also welcomed the Nepalese rapprochement.

Unique Tradition

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind conferred Nepal Army Chief General Prabhu Ram Sharma with an honorary 'General' rank of Indian Army

By A CORRESPONDENT

As Nepal and India have many commonalities, they too have several unique characters in their relationship. Sharing same civilization, the unique characters existing between the two countries have stood as solid foundations for enduring good and friendly relations all the time.

Although both the countries are independent, some of those traditions show how their common interest is inseparable. In continuation of the tradition, Nepal Army Chief General Prabhu Ram Sharma was conferred with the honorary rank of "General of the Indian Army" by President Ram Nath Kovind.

General Sharma completed his four-day visit to India aimed to explore ways to expand bilateral co-operation between the two countries. In a similar manner, Nepal conferred the honorary rank of "General of Nepal Army" to Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane during his visit to Kathmandu in November last year.

As China's influence is growing in South Asia, Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region and the visit of COAS General Sharma is highly important.

He visited the National Defense College (NDC) in New Delhi

where he was inducted into the "Wall of Honor" amidst a felicitation ceremony. He is the first one to be inducted into the "Wall of Honor".

"This honor is given to a distinguished NDC Alumni only. Gen Sharma completed his National Defense Course from the National Defense College in 2013," said the press release issued by Nepal Army.

The high importance accorded on General Sharma during his formal visit is understandable as India wants to further strengthen its existing military to military relations with Nepal Army.

Nepal-India diplomatic relations have seen many ups and downs in the last few years. However, the relations between the two armies remain cordial. The visit of Nepal Army Chief General Sharma also indicates the thaw in the relationship between the two countries which had been frosty over Nepal's claims at Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand.

According to a press release issued by Nepal Army, General Sharma paid courtesy calls to Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval during the visit.

Army chief General Sharma met all important officials including the three service chiefs and



defense secretary Ajay Kumar.

After the meeting with General Sharma, Indian external affairs minister, S Jaishankar said his visit underlines close relations between the two countries. .

"Pleased to receive General Prabhu Ram Sharma, chief of Army staff of Nepali Army. His visit underlines the closeness of our relationship," tweeted minister Jaishankar.

"COAS General Sharma exchanged views on issues of bilateral interests and discussed measures to further strengthen the existing bond of friendship and cooperation between the two armies," said a press release.

During 2015, visit of Nepal Army Chief Rajendra Chhetri helped to bring back two countries' relationship on the track. General Sharma's recent visit and his interactions with high level personalities will add something new.



SP SANGYA MALLA

Worth Recognition

Nepalese peacekeeper serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) receives the United Nations Woman Police Officer of the Year Award

By A CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Department of Peace Operations announced that Superintendent Sangya Malla of Nepal, currently serving in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), will be awarded the 2021 United Nations Woman Police Officer of the Year. Superintendent Malla was to be presented the award by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres at a virtual ceremony on 9 November.

Superintendent Malla currently serves as the Chief of the MONUSCO Police Health and Environment Unit, which she helped establish in the country's capital, Kinshasa. The unit is responsible for implementing policies and procedures concerning the health and well-being of personnel as well as United Nations Police environmental initiatives. Her contributions have added direct significance in the Democratic Republic of Congo in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and past outbreaks of Ebola virus disease, as well as natural and humanitarian crises such as the volcanic eruption in Goma last May, during which her unit alerted the local population and UN staff of precautionary measures.

"She helped establish and now leads MONUSCO's Health and Environment Unit, enhancing the safety and welfare of our peacekeepers by mitigating the risks from COVID-19 and other threats," said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. "And she represents something far larger — the many contributions of women police officers in advancing peace and security around the world. Through her work, Superintendent Malla embodies the best of the United Nations."

A medical professional by training, Superintendent Malla helped develop guidance for preventing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

She has organized over 300 awareness sessions this year on COVID-19 prevention as well as environmental protection for the local population, Congolese authorities and UN staff. As the MONUSCO Police's focal point on COVID-19, she has also been disseminating information about the vaccines and promoting vaccination efforts.

"I am honored to receive this award, and I hope it will encourage more young women in my country and around the world to pursue careers in policing, which is still too often viewed as man's work," said Superintendent Malla.

The United Nations Woman Police Officer of the Year award was established in 2011 to recognize the exceptional contributions of women police officers to UN peace operations and to promote the empowerment of women.

"Like many peacekeepers during this challenging time amid the pandemic, Superintendent Malla has gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve local communities," said United Nations Police Adviser Luis Carrilho. "Together with her team, her efforts to raise awareness about public health and natural risks have ultimately made her colleagues and the Congolese people safer—a core function of policing."

Superintendent Malla previously served with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) from 2016 to 2017, where she was a member of the Formed Police Unit's medical team. She joined the Nepal Police in 2008 as an inspector.

The award was to be presented during the 16th United Nations Po-



lice Week from 8 to 12 November. At this annual event, heads of UN Police components and police experts from peacekeeping operations, special political missions and regional offices and United Nations senior leadership discuss performance, conduct and discipline, protection of civilians, conflict prevention, sustaining peace and other topics and priorities affecting United Nations policing.

About 7,300 UN police, almost 27% of whom are women, are currently deployed in 14 United Nations peace operations around the world where they work to enhance international peace and security by supporting host countries in conflict, post-conflict and other crisis situations.

UNPOL has already achieved the 2025 targets set out in the Department's Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy for all categories of personnel. Women police officers comprise 30% of individual police officers and 15% of members of Formed Police Units. Women police hold 40% of professional posts at UN Headquarters and 33% in the field. Women also lead half of UN Police components in UN peace operations.

From Exchange To Trade

From old exchange system, Nepal has started export of electricity to India under a trade

By A CORRESPONDENT

Although Indian Power Ministry's recent decision to allow Nepal to export 39 MW of electricity to India is a peanut, this decision opens a new practice of trade. From exchange based agreement, Ne-

electricity could get access to broader market now. However, it was not possible through exchange.

For decades, Nepal-India exchanged electricity on the basis of exchange agreement which has limited scope. However, the recent decision of India allowing Nepalese surplus electricity to India is very small in volume but it is a breakthrough. India agreed to allow Nepalese electricity in the Indian market in competitive prices.

India opened its power exchange market to Nepal only for buying

electricity in April. Officials said it took four years for India to open its power exchange market to Nepal.

Some Nepalese critic termed the recent decision of India is no more than India's continual policy denying fair deal with Nepal. "Minister Pampha Bhusal hailed this 39 MW export as a '*kose dhunga*' in Indo-Nepal electricity trading. Some interpret this miniscule 39 MW power import from Nepal's tiny 1,907 MW system by the 388,134 MW strong India as mere continuation of India's previous 2016 Guidelines' policy wherein '*51% Indian equity holders*' was mandatory for access into Indian market," writes Shanta Bahadur Pun, former MD of NEA, in his article in New Spotlight. (Read Article The Story Behind: 200/600 MW of Electricity Wasted,

No Buyers Yet!)

However, government officials and NEA's officials dealing with India see the gesture of allowing Nepal's electricity to trade in India is a leap forward.

"Nepal will sell its surplus electricity to India at a competitive rate after New Delhi allowed the neighboring country to trade its power in the Indian power exchange market," said Minister Bhusal.

In expressing views, what critics ignore is the essence of trade and its lengthy process of give and take. One has to accept the fact that the trade is not a free lunch but a process of bargain and give and take.

If the current decision of India is taken in real trade term, it opens hope for days to come. The agreement shifting the current pattern of power exchange to power trade is a major achievement for Nepal.

For current policy shift, Nepali and Indian officials spent a lot of time in negotiations. Following an official level meeting last month, India finally allowed Nepal to export its surplus energy in competitive trading.

Following the decision, NEA has started to export 40 MW of electricity to India through Dhalkebar-Mujafarpur Cross Border Transmission line from November 2.

This is the first time Nepal exported electricity to India through this transmission line. Minister Bhusal said that Nepal is expecting to get permission to export electricity generated by 456 MW Upper Tamakosi, 69 MW Marsyangdi and 45 MW Upper Bhotekosi.

NEA has been importing electricity from India as per its demand since last April through the com-



pal and India have now entered into electricity trade. In this term, the decision is significant.

Trade is always a lengthy and complex process which involves many core interests and other bargaining points for both the countries. Nepal-India electricity trade is also not different.

According to dictionary, trade broadly refers to the exchange of goods and services, most often in return for money. Trade may take place within a country, or between trading nations. After getting access, Nepal can now seek more market on the basis of demand in Indian market and production in the country.

With growing electricity supply crunch in India, Nepalese surplus



petitive market. Minister Bhusal said that Nepal is the first country in South Asia to export electricity to India. “I would like to thank India for allowing the export of electricity to India,” said Bhusal.

Managing director of NEA Kul Man Ghising said that this will help end the loss of NEA by exporting the surplus electricity to India. He said that this was possible after holding several rounds of talks at the official levels of the two countries.

Nepal will sell its surplus electricity to India at a competitive rate after New Delhi allowed the neighboring country to trade its power in the Indian power exchange market. The Energy Exchange under India’s Power Ministry granted permission to Nepal _after persistent lobbying from Kathmandu, as NEA is now in a position to sell its surplus energy.

Gokarna Raj Pantha, joint spokesperson for the ministry, said that NEA would now be able to participate in an auction in the Indian Energy Exchange everyday to sell power. This transmission has until now been used just to import power as Nepal had already received permission for

purchasing and importing power in the Indian Energy Exchange.

The NEA has been importing power through Indian Energy Exchange at competitive rate since last April 30 as per need. After obtaining the approval, the power trade between Nepal and India has entered a new phase.

According to Madhu Bhetuwal, spokesperson for the Energy Ministry, the Indian authority has also been studying Nepal’s proposal to sell the electricity generated by two other power projects, including the 456MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project.

Nepal became an energy surplus country ever since the 456MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project came into full operation in August. According to the NEA, Nepal now has surplus power even during peak hours, usually between 7 and 8 pm. The peak hour demand stands at 1,500MW. The country is currently producing 2,000MW of electricity, of which 1,900MW is generated from hydropower projects.

Nepal, until 2017, was a power starved nation facing outages

of up to 18 hours a day. Now it has surplus electricity.

According to the authority, Nepal now has surplus power even during peak hours, usually between 7 pm and 8 pm. The peak hour demand stands at 1,500MW. The country is currently producing 2,000MW of electricity a day and of that, 1,900MW is generated from hydropower projects.

MD Ghising, managing director of the authority, said only 900 MW-1,100 MW is consumed at night when there is low demand for power. In the day, 1,200MW-1,300MW is consumed when daytime demand is the least.

MD Ghising said that the the wastage of electricity in monetary terms was around Rs (Nepalese Rupee) 1.8 billion in the last month and a half, if calculated at an average selling price of Rs.9.5 per unit.

Although it is in limited volume, Nepal is the first among all of India’s neighbors to participate in the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX). The recent decision could open Indian market to trade Nepal’s electricity. This is what is important for Nepal.

Motherland VS Fatherland



BY: HEMANG DIXIT

We, the beings of earth, are said to be in the third glacial age. Mother Earth is at this point in time is experiencing bush fires and floods in all continents of the world. One is left in wonderment at the colossal destruction taking place all around. The extensive pollution of the environment by human wastes, especially plastic has become a great hazard to marine life. The prospect of universal shortage of life giving water confronts us and one wonders if doomsday is around the corner. What does Fate have in store?

We in Nepal talk in reverence of our Matribhoomi as many in the English speaking world talk of Motherland. For the Germans it is Vaterland. What is the reason for this differentiation? Should we, in the context of gender sensitivity say 'Ourland'? Or perhaps say 'Grandfather land' considering that the current crop of our ex-PMs of Nepal, vying for the seat again are over sixties and nearing seventies? Whilst government servants are made to retire at sixty, why should politicians be exceptions to the rule?

Our multiple times, astrologer friendly PM has not been able to expand his cabinet even after being in the post and in power for over two months. This befuddles us considering that he is an old hand, having been PM four times previously. In comparison to this, a ruling party or even the opposition leader in the UK vacates that position if the party loses the election. If the concerned person has done remarkable service to the country and is agreeable, he or she is given a knighthood after stepping down as party head. Of course one can refuse or delay such an event, as Winston Churchill did for some time. The advantage of such a practice is that new blood is brought into the system and the old are shifted to the upper house where they can continue their tirade for or against the government in power. This is all proper for as they say, 'Old habits die hard'!

More recently the feeling in Nepal is that our regular party stalwarts are loathe forgoing their yearning for the PM's chair. This present government came to power in our Matribhoomi by benevolence of the court, though in a parliamentary system it should be Parliament that is calling the tune to which the political parties are expected to dance. Does this mean therefore that we have in Nepal a 'Highcourtland' which is calling the tune and our decade old leaders are playing musical chairs?

The time is ripe for change as all our political parties have scheduled their programs to have their internal elections for party posts. Some young leaders are raring to have a go. But is this for real or just a mirage to fool not only the party foot soldiers but also some of the gullible public? Is the pretence for change real? Mr. Madhav Nepal of the CPN United Socialist party created a sensation by stating that 'Government employees, in service teachers and professors and swindlers' will not be given membership of this new party. The party intends to give

priority to youth and does not plan in the immediate future, to unify with any other party. CK Raut's party in Pradesh No.2 is discouraging permanent government servants from joining. All very well in theory but will it be implemented? Madhav Nepal's words have doubtful meaning for whilst he said that he wanted the younger generation to take the lead, he ended up by becoming the leader once again!

A current practice that seems to be ingrained in the proportional representation system of ours is that the nomination of members to the house on the basis of elected seats is that it is the close relatives of the person elected. One has only to look at the fourteen pairs of husband/wife memberships of both the Upper and Lower Houses at the Centre. This practice probably also exist in the Pradesh assemblies. True that many countries in our part of the world viz Asia have a tradition of having 'Wives, husbands, sons, daughters and even nephews' to follow them. This has been exemplified in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and even Singapore. We in Nepal seem to be overdoing it! Unfortunately the political leaders of our country have been turned into political dealers by the external forces which have been interfering in our affairs for over seven decades. Keeping the handiwork of external forces in the dark, our leaders have been hoodwinking the public. Sadly such a culture exists in all political beings, though perhaps to a lesser extent in countries of the West. Whilst many children tend to follow the family professions and traditions, such practice is perhaps outdated.

Ignoring the reality that articles of our Constitution can only be amended by a 2/3 majority government, a political stalwart has voiced that we should switch over to having an elected president! The call for the reinstatement of both the House of Representatives and the National Assembly on 8th September was for the legalisation of the 'Splitting Parties' and other ordinances and perhaps for the MCC issue. What needs also to be noted is that the number of Bills waiting to be discussed and finalised stands at 55. Broken down these are 36 in the House of Representatives and 19 in the National Assembly or 43 and 12 as per another source. It is ministers who have the responsibility of getting the related bills passed. Have the concerned ministers and those in the opposition the realisation and conscience that this is a core duty? Amidst all this there is in the people of Nepal a great demand for change in the present set up of ours. As one looks around and sees all this, one can only mutter, 'May Lord Pashupatinath protect us all.'

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

COP26 Nepal Visible

Caused by extreme weathers in recent years, climate change has put people living in different parts of Nepal at a higher risk. The recent incidents of floods and landslides caused by intense rainfall have shown how dangerous the future could be in Nepal. The good news is that these incidents received the global attention in Glasgow recently. From the climate change crisis faced by people living in Mustang region to successful community forestry programs and community managed adaptation programs, Nepal's cases were exemplary in COP26. However, Nepal should implement the strategies to fulfill its ambitious commitments and explore funding for projects

BY KESHAB POUDEL

From the first day, Nepal's climate induced crisis received international attention at the COP 26 Summit participated by the Head of the State, the Head of the Governments and high level delegation from 195 countries.

In his opening remarks, Alok Sharma, COP26 President, mentioned Nepal's case along with other cases to illustrate to the world leaders how climate crisis is accelerating the natural disasters affecting the livelihood of people and forcing them to leave their homes.

"I have been humbled to speak over this year with communities devastated by climate change. On a visit to Jomsom in Nepal, in the Hindu-Kush region I spoke to communities literally displaced from their homes from a combination of droughts and floods," shared president Sharma at the gathering in Glasgow.

"In Barbuda I met communities still suffering from the ravages of Hurricane Irma four years ago. I have spoken with communities in East Africa fighting plagues of lo-

custs spawned by climate change. And earlier this month I spoke to a group of women in Madagascar, determinedly coping with what some describe, as the first climate induced famine in the world. In each of our countries we are seeing the devastating impact of a changing climate. Floods, cyclones, wildfires, record temperatures."

The presentation of Nepal's case in the inaugural speech was a significant achievement for Nepal. Not only on the opening day, the host UK Government whole heartedly backed Nepal's position during entire COP26 summit.

"Fantastic to have Nepal take bold steps to aim for remaining cumulatively net zero carbon between 2022-2045 and carbon negative thereafter. Nepal's drawn global attention with its community forestry model-it can do the same with carbon emissions," U.K in Nepal tweeted.

With such a generous support and goodwill of host country, Nepalese political leadership also firmly expressed

Nepal's stand and commitment before the global community.

"Hon'ble Ramsahay Yadav, minister for Forest and Environment Announces a world leading commitment that Nepal will remain cumulatively 'net zero carbon' between 2022-2045 & become carbon negative after that, at Meeting Climate Business in Nepal," tweeted UK in Nepal.

Nepal's Stand

Addressing the World Leaders during the 26th Conference of Parties (COP 26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow, leader of delegation and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba expressed that Nepal remains firmly committed to the implementation of Paris Agreement, which is evidenced by its ambitious NDC, the national plan to decarbonise Nepal's economy in all sectors and to reach a net zero emission by 2045.

He also urged the Parties to agree on a clear roadmap for a new collective, quantified and ambitious goal on climate finance before 2025. The Prime Minister said, "With abundant water,



forest and biodiversity resources, Nepal can be a leader in sharing clean, green and nature-based climate solutions in the region.”

PM Deuba urged the world leaders to recognize the specific climate vulnerability in the mountains and accord high priority to the mountain agenda in all climate-related negotiations. As all LDCs countries, Nepal has been facing severe damage from the climate induced disasters. Thus, Nepal has also raised the issue of loss and damage strongly.

PM Deuba underscored that loss and damage had become a key concern due to increased phenomena of climate induced disasters and called the Parties to agree on making Loss and Damage a stand-alone agenda for negotiations and agree on the framework of additional financing for it.

He said that the COP26 must ensure adequate support for adaptation in the most vulnerable counties by scaling up financial, technological and capacity-building resources.

From Nepal, a high-level delegation led by Prime Minister Deuba comprising the Minister for Forests and

Environment Ramsahay Prasad Yadav and the Secretaries of various ministries, among the government officials took part in the summit. Similarly, various non-governmental organizations also sent their delegations.

The Ministry of Forests and Environment had made preparations for the country’s participation in the COP26. As a Liaison Ministry for COP26 for Nepal, the Ministry prepared for the main conference as well as the side event where talks reached the final stage.

Nepal had made preparation to strongly raise issues in the COP26 like the impact of climate change on the entire Himalayan economy, on its ecosystem as well as on the ecosystem of the downstream region.

Besides this, topics as climate hazards, seeking resources for the implementation of the National Dedication Commitment (NDC) Report and Carbon financing were Nepal’s priority in the COP26 meeting.

As Nepal’s preparation was effective, Nepal was able to show its presence in the conference as all the more effective this time,” said Prem Narayan Kandel, secretary at the Ministry of En-

vironment and Forest.

Nepal prepared the report on climate-induced hazards and losses, the National Adaptation Plan, NDC, Third National Communication (TNC), the Technological Needs Assessment (TNS), Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy and its action plan, so as to support the implementation of Paris Agreement.

“While accelerating climate crisis affects many parts of the world, the HKS region, impacts are felt particularly acute. This region, source of 10 major river basins, home to 1.9 billion poles, is the Pulse of the Planet, its health indicative for rest of the planet,” said Kibal Kiran, secretary at the National Planning Commission, addressing the high level meeting.

Secretary Kandel said a plan has been brought for reducing the GHG to zero in 2045 AD itself through the long-term strategy. “We have already presented the report on the financial source required for reducing the climate-induced damages and losses and to adapt to it.” Nepal also expressed its commitment to increase forest coverage to 45 percent through community-based conservation programs.

Nepal has communicated its long term strategy just before COP26 with strong consideration and commitment to align it with sustainable development paradigm. Within 2045, Nepal's aim is to achieve net-zero emission to build climate resilient society.

"Nepal highlighted its support for the Adaptation Action and signed the declaration on forest and land use. We are proud to have supported the government through the policy and institution facility. On Potential investment on low carbon development in Nepal using innovative financing instrument for clear and inclusive growth," said secretary Kandel.

Some critics termed the commitments expressed through Nepal's positions as contradictory and over ambitious. "Nepal's commitment to zero emission is without solid programs."

However, Nepal needs finance for all this. Nepal has pressed the developed countries to provide the amount that they have committed as compensation for carbon emission.

Secretary Kandel said Nepal emphasized facilitating the tools of financial assistance and having the government's direct access to it.

Nepal has already tabled its NDC Synthesis Report alongside other countries which would help implement the roadmap

to reduce greenhouse gas emission to zero until 2050 as per the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Other goals of the agreement are to limit the world's average temperature increment rate to 1.5 degrees Celsius and not exceeding 2.0 degrees Celsius. Nepal is on the list of countries that have been most affected by climate change.

"We have prioritized climate



change-induced disasters this time," said Dr Radha Wagle, chief of the Climate Change Management Division under the Ministry.

Rain Loss

Just two weeks before the COP26, Nepal had suffered a huge damage by floods and landslides caused by extreme rainfall. According to the report, the rain and the disasters it caused have damaged rice crop worth Rs 7 billion throughout the country. Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Krishna Prasad Acharya said the off-seasonal

rain and the floods it caused destroyed 258 thousand 92 metric tons rice cultivated on about 68,000 hectares land.

The highest damage is reported in Bardiya, Kapilbastu, Banke and Rupandehi districts of Lumbini Province. The damage in these districts is put at Rs 4.51 billion. The rain damaged 161 thousand 223 metric tons of rice cultivated on nearly 42 thousand hectares.

Similarly, 68 thousand 400 metric tons rice cultivated on 18 thousand hectares has been destroyed in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts of Sudurpaschim Province. The market price of the damaged paddy is Rs 1.91 billion.

The rain has damaged 28 thousand 469 metric tons rice cultivated on 7,492 hectares land in Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari districts of Province no 1. The market price of the damaged rice is Rs 800 million.

The farmers, especially in these regions, are facing difficulties due to the incessant rains that occurred in various places of the country since October 17. According to a preliminary report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, the floods and landslides have





caused damages to paddy crops worth more than Rs. 7 billion in three provinces – Sudurpashchim, Lumbini and Province-1, said the ministry.

This will not be last for Nepal. The incidents are likely to repeat next year as well given the warming temperature. Loss and damage issue is important for Nepal in the circumstances.

Unfulfilled Global Commitment

Whatever commitments the countries like Nepal made, they would need funding. Countries like Nepal from the Global South, which have done the least to cause climate change but bear the brunt of its damages, fought for agreements on two key deals at the summit.

The first is to fulfill a broken promise made by rich countries at a climate summit in 2009 to give poorer ones \$100 billion a year by 2020 to green their economies and adapt to climate change.

The second is to acknowledge their role in the losses and damages caused by increasingly extreme weather events like tropical cyclones and wildfires.

“That has been an issue that the rich nations have not wanted to address at all,” said climate Action Network. The voices of poorer countries would be “critical” to ensure rich countries finance losses and damages.

“If the developed countries are serious, they need to show that leadership commitment,” said Halima Bawa-Bwari, an environmental scientist at the Department of Climate Change,

Nigeria, adding that many of the Nigerian delegation were missing meetings because they were commuting from outside the city.

Best Last Chance

The summit — hailed as the “best last chance” to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures — was an opportunity for world leaders to agree on deals that would stave off increasingly extreme weather.

The world has already got dangerous warming in the form of floods, record heat waves and wildfires, with a rise of just 1.1°C. That’s the natural world. But in the political world of COP26, things are looking a little brighter in the Glasgow sunshine.

Although expectations for this conference were low, the seasoned COP observers have been pleasantly surprised by a slew of announcements which suggest the world is on an unstoppable path to a low-carbon future.

Rich nations have clumsily failed to deliver their promised \$100bn

to poor countries by 2020. But the former Bank of England governor Mark Carney is looking to move trillions of dollars of private capital towards supporting clean technology.

He has gathered 450 organizations controlling 130 trillion dollars, or around 40% of global private assets, and they plan to shift finances to activities that help the move towards zero carbon, such as renewable energy. Critics complain the financial institutions will be allowed to invest in fossil fuels, but it’s a serious and novel offer

Who isn’t at the climate summit?

There are a number of notable absences from the talks. Xi Jinping, president of top carbon polluting nation China, and Russian President Vladimir Putin are both staying away.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also decided not to travel to Glasgow, the state-run Anadolu Agency said, without citing a reason for the change of plan. Reuters’ news agency quoted two unnamed Turkish officials, saying the trip was canceled after Britain failed to



meet Ankara’s demands on security.

“The president took such a decision because our demands regarding the number of vehicles for security and some other security-related demands were not fully met,” the senior official told Reuters.

PM Modi’s Announcement

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, however, has set aggressive targets for low-carbon power by 2030. Some people are worried that he doesn't plan to end greenhouse gases until 2070 - but the world will have changed completely by then, and India is likely to be forced economically come into step.

Indian Prime Minister Modi surprised domestic observers by announcing plans to cut emissions to net zero by 2070 at the conference. Two Asian leaders brought net neutrality pledges to the COP26 summit in Glasgow while China's president was noteworthy in his absence. Chinese President Xi Jinping, who has not left the country on official business since the COVID pandemic began, chose to skip the climate conference.

"The rest of the world looked at China and said 'what value are they providing?'" Biden said, adding that China was "walking away" from "gigantic" climate issues.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that while Xi's absence in Glasgow "doesn't mean the Chinese are not engaging" with the fight against climate change, he urged China to do more to slash emissions.

Xie Zhenhua, a UN climate negotiator and special climate envoy for China, told reporters that China's status

than China to cut emissions.

"We have already been making our biggest possible effort to address climate change," Xie said. "Regarding the fact that China is the current largest emitter, it's because China is at a special development stage," he added.

China submitted its updated nationally determined contributions — the non-binding climate change plans that are to be submitted to the UN as part of the 2015 Paris Agreement — on October 28.

How can world meet the 1.5 C climate target?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has shown that emissions need to fall about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030. By 2050, they would have to reach "net zero" — where people are adding as much CO₂ to the atmosphere as plants and technology are sucking out.

This could be done while growing the economy and providing



the complete transformation of the global energy system," the authors wrote.

Here's how.

Underpinning the transition is the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Starting today, that would mean approving no new oil fields, gas fields or coal mines, according to the report. All coal and oil power plants whose emissions aren't directly captured would be phased out by 2040.

Instead, solar and wind would become the leading sources of electricity by 2030 — and together generate nearly 70% of electricity by 2050. Nuclear power would double by 2050 to make up almost 10% of overall electricity generation.

Such a transformation would mean rich countries make all their electricity from low-carbon sources by 2035, with the rest of the world getting there five years later.

In India, the fourth-largest electricity market in the world, this would mean the end of a polluting coal industry. Across sub-Saharan Africa, where most people do not have access to electricity, it would mean avoiding investments in dirty infrastructure.

Despite many shortcomings, COP26 is meaningful for Nepal as Nepal's recent climate related disaster received the global attention. Although some of the commitments Nepal has made at the global scale are ambitious and difficult to achieve, Nepal has now to start implementation of the new strategy.



as the world's biggest emitter of carbon is due to the fact that the country is still developing.

He reiterated Beijing's stance that the US and other developed countries should be put under more pressure

everybody with stable and affordable energy access, according to a roadmap of 400 milestones published by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in May. However, achieving net-zero emission by 2050 "will require nothing short of

Nepal In CoP26: Commitments And Funding



BY: BATU UPRETY

After entry into force of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, Heads of States or Governments of Parties to the Convention made statements in the High Level Segment (HLS) or Leaders' Summit in three sessions of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) namely, CoP 15 in Copenhagen, CoP 21 in Paris, and CoP 26 in Glasgow to provide political guidance to reduce GHGs emissions and help climate vulnerable people and resources to adapt and build resilience to climate change. Heads of the Government of Nepal attended Copenhagen and Glasgow Climate Change Conferences (CCC). In addition, President of Nepal made a statement in the HLS in 2018 in Katowice, Poland.

Nepal drew attention of the international community on climate change impacts in the Himalayas in 2009 by organizing a cabinet meeting at Kalapatthar (with Everest Declaration), demonstration including of mountaineers in Copenhagen, and a conference on 'Kathmandu to Copenhagen' to develop a common voice of the South Asian countries for CoP 15, including a 'gift' of 'Kalapatthar, black stone' to the then US President in New York. At the sideline of the regional conference, A 'compact on climate change' was signed between the Government of Nepal and development partners namely CIDA, SDC, Finland, AusAID, SNV, European Commission, ADB, WB, DFID, Germany, Embassy of Denmark, Norway, USAID and UNDP. This compact includes, inter alia, 'the development partners fully appreciate the urgency of climate change challenges in Nepal and express their willingness to assist Nepal in addressing climate change vulnerabilities'. It would be appropriate to document the support received and its effectiveness in reducing climate vulnerabilities.

In Copenhagen, then Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal informed to launch 'Mountain Initiative' (MI). As a part of MI, Nepal planned to organize international conference of mountain countries on climate change in 2010 but it could not happen and this conference was organised in April 2012 with participation of around 30 countries which agreed on Kathmandu Declaration. In 2014, Rara declaration on climate change and environmental threats: protecting lives and livelihoods of mountain people was also released.

In 2018 in Katowice, Rt. Hon. President Bidya Devi Bhandari focused on impacts of climate change in Nepal and the Himalaya. The President inaugurated a national climate change conference in Gufadanda, Sindhu Palchowk in January 2019 which also released 10-points declaration. A 17-points

Nepalgunj declaration was also made in 2019 on the occasion of the World Environment Day. These declarations provide ample opportunities to implement climate change programmes.

In Glasgow, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba re-informed on 'decarbonizing Nepal's economy in all sectors .. and reach to a net-zero emission by 2045' by highlighting, inter alia, climate change impacts in the Himalayan region and by mentioning around 80 percent of the total population at risk from natural and climate-induced hazards. The Prime Minister has urged the world leaders to accord 'high priority to the mountain agenda in all climate-related negotiations' and called upon to make 'loss and damage a stand-alone agenda for negotiations' in line with LDC's call. 'Conditional net-zero emissions' was previously informed to achieve in 2050.

The Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage associated with climate change impacts was established in 2013 (CoP 19) at a time Nepal led the LDC Co-ordination Group. It recalls Nepal's stake on loss and damage in climate change negotiations, and damages from 2021 climate-induced disasters urged to wake-up and raise this issue repeatedly. Issues raised are recorded without decisions and future actions. Recalling the previous negotiations, it is most likely that LDCs will continue to raise it and developed country Parties to UNFCCC will further continue to 'dilute' negotiations on this issue and limit on WIM.

In October 2021 (before attending the Leaders Summit in Glasgow), the Government of Nepal approved three documents and shared with Parties through the UNFCCC Secretariat. They are: (i) Nepal's Long-term Strategy for Net Zero Emissions (LTS), with required estimated cost of US\$ 42.8 billion (b) from 2021 to 2030, 34.4b from 2031 to 2040, and 56.2b from 2041 to 2050 under With Existing Measures (WEM) scenario. In With Additional Measures (WAM) scenario, estimated cost totals to US\$ 46.6b from 2021 to 2030, 53.4b from 2031 to 2040, and 96.3b from 2041 to 2050. In terms of national GDP, annual investment requirement for WAM scenario is estimated at 22.05, 14.07 and 16 percent in 2030, 2040 and 2050 respectively; (ii) National Adaptation Plan (NAP) (2021-2050) with 64 priority adaptation programs with estimated funding requirements of US\$ 47.4 billion (US\$ 1.5b internal resource, and 45.9b external support); with the need for disbursing US\$ 2.1b annually till 2030 and with the provision of mid-term review in 2031; and (iii) National Framework on Loss and Damage (2021). Estimates on required investment would be much high-

er to meet net zero emission target as compared to estimates for reducing vulnerability, adapting and building resilience through NAP.

CoP 26 press notice of the Government of Nepal mentions conditional recommitment on net-zero emission by 2045 and carbon negative thereafter. Nepal will require US\$ 250 billion to deliver her green, resilient, inclusive development goals and climate targets.

Mitigation commitment and/or net zero emission is extraordinary for a LDC Nepal. Recalling Nepal's greenhouse gas emissions (around 0.056 % of the total global GHGs emissions as per Third National Communication Report, 2021), Nepal's fulfillment of net zero emission commitment by 2045 with full funding and effective implementation will contribute to reduce less than 0.1 percent of the total GHGs emissions. Nepal's mitigation commitments would have no global significance in reducing GHGs emissions. If financial and technological support received, it may change existing track towards climate-friendly development and infrastructures. Key question is: will we get around US\$ 140 billion to implement long-term strategy and NAP as estimated or US\$ 250 billion for green and resilient development? Let us 'dream' that Nepal will be supported financial-

ly to make our economy and infrastructures climate-resilient and protect life, property, livelihoods and resources from climate change impacts.

In Glasgow, most of the high GHG emitting countries have 'pledged' to reduce GHGs emissions but it would not contribute to keep temperature rise to 1.5 degree Centigrade by the end of 2100. Let us hope that political message of the World Leaders Summit will guide negotiations to reduce GHGs to meet the legal provisions of the Paris Agreement by 12 November 2021.

Glasgow decisions on adaptation would help climate vulnerable communities and natural resources to adapt to and build resilience to climate change impacts, and implement NAP as well. Few conclusions of the first half of the CoP 26 indicate hopes.

On LDC matters, CoP 26 is expected to extend the mandate of the LDC Expert Group (which supports LDCs on ways of accessing relevant sources of financing, capacity-building and technology transfer for adaptation) till 2031 (10-years extension) with provision for review its progress and terms of reference in 2026. The composition of the Group is also extend-

ed from 13 to 17 members. Unlike previous decisions, Parties are encouraged to take into account, inter alia, gender balance, youth engagement, experience in climate finance, and expertise in project design and implementation, indigenous and traditional knowledge, and education while proposing LEG members. Nepal served as the Chair of the LEG for two years (2014-2015). CoP26 is expected to decide to initiate the assessment of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAP taking into consideration its guiding principles.

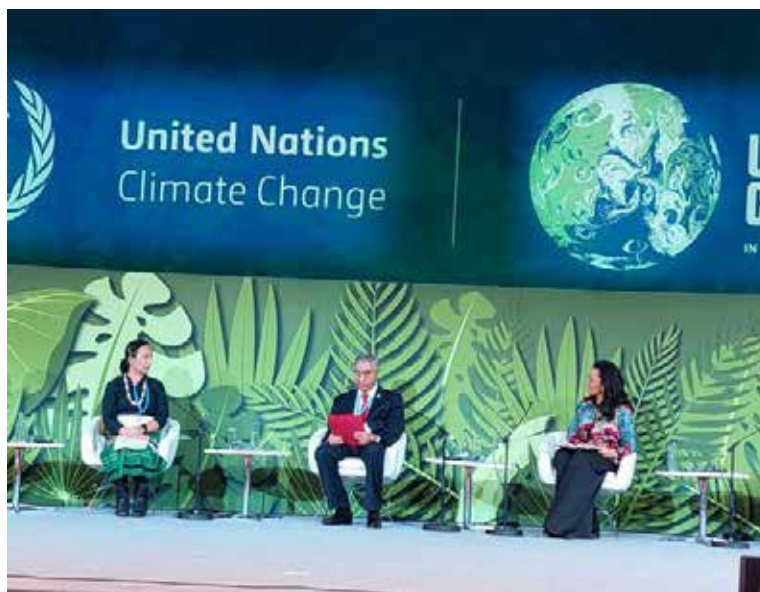
As of 10 November 2021, several countries have pledged a total of US\$ 413 million to LDC Fund. Each LDC receives equal amount from LDC Fund. If all pledges are timely channeled to LDCF, Nepal's share would be close to US\$ 9 million (from this pledge). Fifteen countries have pledged nearly

US\$ 352 million for the Adaptation Fund (Nepal served as the Chair of the Fund Board in 2016), including first-time contributors USA and Canada. Nepal may access financial resources from Adaptation Fund as well.

Climate vulnerabilities & risks and climate-induced disasters in 2021 indicate the urgency of huge investments to reduce vulnerability, adapt and build resilience to climate change. No doubt, Nepal requires large amounts of

investments to implement priority programs under NAP. About US\$ 1.5 billion would be required annually for next 30 years to implement NAP programs. Let us assume that developed countries fulfilled their commitments of disbursing US\$ 100 billion each year through Green Climate Fund (GCF) from 2022 onwards. All non-annex 1 countries (154 Parties to UNFCCC) can access GCF resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Of US\$ 100 billion, 50 percent is allocated to adaptation. Accessing funding from these Funds is not easy. How much resources will be received from existing funds and bilateral support largely depend upon the national efforts.

Financial pledges on LDCF and Adaptation Fund indicate higher possibility of showing interest to support to LDCs and dilute 'loss and damage' agenda sufficiently. It indicates to channelize funding for adaptation actions, and engage Parties to implement their NDCs. Implementation of Nepal's targets to net-zero emissions by 2045 and NAP priorities may hopefully not be like the previous environmental action plans and pollution control commitments, including of Kathmandu Valley.



DCA REPORT

Stress Adaptation Measures

Climate Induced Loss And Damage Report Stresses Need For More Adaptation Measures

By A CORRESPONDENT

While there continue to be disagreements about how to address climate induced loss and damage in the negotiations at the UN Climate summit, COP26, people in many developing countries struggle daily with climate related disasters.

A new report ‘When the climate becomes a threat: Evidence of Climate Change induced Loss and Damage in Nepal’ by Dan Church Aid was launched on 8 November at the COP 26. The report was launched in the presence of Minister Ramsahay Prasad Yadav, Ministry of Forests and Environment. The report assesses the situation in three municipalities in Nepal.

All three areas have experienced either flooding or landslides, two natural hazards which are linked to climate change. Nepal is vulnerable, and affected both by melting glaciers, and increased temperatures and rain. In such a mountainous country this has dramatic effects.

The report shows how people were forced to leave their houses, and how the water and the landslides destroyed their property and fields and killed their cattle. None of the three municipalities received international support, but local authorities and civil society organizations provided some immediate support. However, this support was far from enough and 82% of the

households had to take out loans to recover and reestablish their homes. 9% chose to permanently leave their homes and can thus be called climate-induced displaced people.

Marco Aviotti, Country Director, Dan Church Aid Nepal suggested, “Loss and damage could possibly have been prevented if sufficient adaptation measures had been

for addressing the loss and damage people face.

Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen, Secretary-General at Dan Church Aid, said, “The situation is tragic. These people have not been contributing much to global warming, but at the same time climate change has a huge impact on their lives and livelihoods. This is not fair! Climate



taken in advance. However, for these three communities, as for many other communities in poor and vulnerable countries, adaptation is lacking. The conclusions of the paper are therefore clear: more international support is needed, both for adaptation, and

induced loss and damage must be addressed globally, and big polluters must mobilize the support needed.”

The climate action advisor at the Dan Church Aid office in Nepal, Rajan Thapa, shared, “The assessment shows that people have

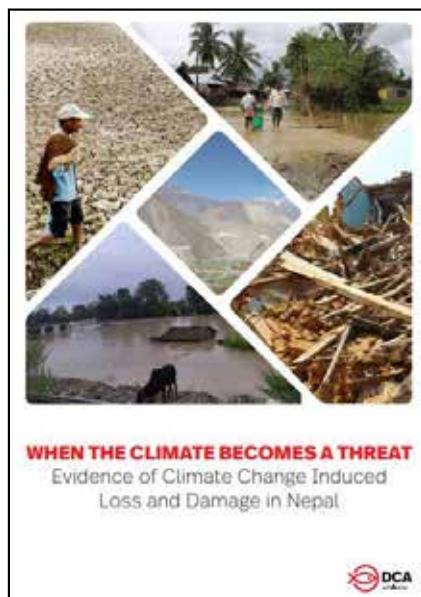
been forced from their homes, and that some people choose never to return. This is sad, but also understandable, as climate change continues to pose a threat to these communities. Without adaptation to reduce the risk for flooding and landslides, it is likely that these municipalities will continue to face similar disasters, leading to more climate induced loss and damage.”

“It is not fair that these poor families should have to take loans to recover,” Thapa continued “This will put a debt burden on their shoulders, as they will have to repay the loan with interest. There is a real need for loss and damage finance, from developed countries, to support people who face climate change on the ground.”

The report highlights a variety of findings based on the research in the three municipalities namely Aathbis of Dailkeh District, Panchadewal Binayak of Achham District and Barbardiya of Bardiya District.

Highlights include:

Both economic and non-economic loss and damage is



very evident in Nepal and is a common concern, as well as an issue of climate justice.

Although the study covered a limited number of households,

the total economic loss for those interviewed in the three municipalities was very high at around USD 388,355, with an average loss per household of approximately USD 4,176.

Displacement is a huge problem. The majority of people return, but 9% have permanently relocated.

A majority of the affected people, 82%, were forced to take loans, to resettle after the disasters.

None of the villages received international support, and they had to rely on the local government and local organizations. However, the support they received was not enough- an average USD 1000-13500 per household is not covered by the received support.

As the insurance coverage in the affected communities is very weak and no international support was received, the response came from local actors. This shows why locally led initiatives are so important.



The Story Behind 200/600 MW of Electricity Wasted, No Buyers Yet!



BY: SANTA BHADUR PUN

Foreword:

Recently on October 7, 2021 Kathmandu Post, Nepal's daily newspaper, headlined '*Nepal's surplus energy is going to waste as there are no buyers yet*'. According to Post, with the commissioning[1] of 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi, Nepal is spilling/wasting 200 to 600 MW of electricity daily. This power was touted to be traded in the Indian power exchange market. Yet the Post further quoted NEA's Managing Director, Kulman Ghising, as saying that this wastage of electricity, in monetary terms, is around Rs 1.8 billion in the last one and half month and that next year another 300 to 400 MW of hydropower projects are expected to come on line. There are already under construction[2] 138 numbers of big/small hydropower projects totaling 3,507 MW that are expected to be commissioned shortly. NEA's system Peak Load[3] on April 26, 2021 (*Baisakh 13, 2078*) was 1,482 MW. This would, hence, mean billions of Rupees worth of more energy wastage/spillage in the coming years. Why have we landed up in such an '*energy wasting*' scenario when barely five years ago in 2016 we were suffering from around 18 hours of painful load shedding? This article attempts to discuss the genesis of our '*surplus energy*' as well as that of '*no buyers yet*'.

Genesis of Surplus Energy:

i) Two Actors – Two Load Forecasts: To try to fathom out why we have landed in such a sad situation, it is, perhaps, necessary to relate a brief history of our power sector. The Ranas' **Bijuli Adda**, since 1911, was unbundled in 1962 into the government's **Electricity Department** (ED) and the semi-government **Nepal Electricity Corporation** (NEC). The Electricity Department planned and executed all generation, transmission and electrification projects required for the country. The Electricity Corporation, recipient of those projects after commissioning, operated them as a commercial entity. The mandate to prepare the national Load Forecast [4] fell on the shoulders of Electricity Department. Load forecast is a tool by which

the country's overall power system master plan is prepared. Based on this forecast, the country's least cost generation expansion plan (LCGEP), transmission line expansion and even long-run marginal cost analysis are prepared. That is, decisions are made as to which generation projects (*hydro/thermal based on Least Cost Generation Expansion Project, LCGEP*) when and in what sequence. The execution of high voltage Transmission lines followed suit as required by the generation projects to be implemented. The Distribution system, similarly, was implemented as per the government's electrification plan. As a commercial entity, Nepal Electricity Corporation also prepared its own load forecast. Thus, the two forecasts prepared by ED and NEC became the **bone of contention**. The Electricity Corporation, in its quest to be a responsible commercial organization answerable to its consumers, had the inherent urge to "*push-up*" (termed **optimistic**) the load forecast so that its operational deficiencies may not result in load shedding. On the other hand, the Electricity Department had that inherent urge to "*pull-down*" (termed **pessimistic**) the load forecast so that its inefficiencies in project implementation delays, hence load shedding, will be duly covered by the load forecast. Occasionally, these two load forecasts resulted in bitter acrimony between the Chief Engineer/Electricity Department and General Manager/Electricity Corporation. This is but natural when the government has **two actors**[5] on the same stage – each protecting its own selfish interests. It was, thus, left to the wisdom of the concerned Minister to decide which path to tread on – the *pessimistic* or the *optimistic* one!

ii) Liberalization/Privatization – Three Actors – No LCGEP: Unwittingly, this acrimony over the two load forecasts got buried, at least temporarily, when the multilaterals (World Bank and ADB) amalgamated Electricity Department and Electricity Corporation into **Nepal Electricity Authority** (NEA) in 1985. The entire jurisdiction of generation, transmission and distribution fell on the shoulders of NEA and that included



the task of load forecasting as well. Close on the heel of this bundling process, the global wave of liberalization and privatization “*mantra*” also rolled into Nepal’s power sector. The entry of the private sector was, thus, enacted in 1992. A small unit, the **Electricity Development Centre**[6] (EDC), was created in 1993 to assist the Ministry of Water Resources to formulate policies, regulations and acts to promote private sector. The iconic axiom *‘history repeats itself’* began its churn. By 2001 the Electricity Development Centre bloomed into the **Department of Electricity Development** (DOED). Like all institutions, DOED wanted more elbow room and concluded the department’s job of promoting private sector in electricity was hampered primarily by NEA’s ‘*pessimistic*’ load forecasts. Essentially, ‘*pessimistic*’ load forecast meant DOED could not issue more licenses to the flood of **Independent Power Producers** (IPPs), who at one time were tagged with ‘*jhola ma khola*’ credentials. Having tasted fresh hydropower blood, the IPPs in the *avatar* of the financially strong **Independent Power Producers of Nepal** (IPPAN), also came to the same conclusion that without an ‘*optimistic*’ load forecast Nepal’s ‘*apar jal-shrot*’ would never be exploited. There were, thus, **three**

actors on the same stage. The LCGEP concept of which sequence of projects to implement went into the dustbin in favour of the first-come first-served approach.

iii) Enter National Planning Commission, Fourth Actor: With the powerful IPPAN lobbying hard, an interaction on ‘*Facing Energy Crisis – Preparing Responsibly*’ was organized by *National Business Initiative* in December 2015. Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, the then Vice-chairman of National Planning Commission, stated [7] in that interaction that the government was working on a mechanism that forecasts electricity demand. Dr. Khatiwada added, ‘*As the forecast through the **linear analysis model is not effective**, we are planning to **develop an exponential-based modality**.*’ It is difficult to fathom how Dr. Khatiwada came to favour such exponential-based modality. Subsequently, the board meeting of the Investment Board Nepal (IBN), chaired by Prime Minister KP Sharma (Oli), constituted[8] a high level committee with Vice-chairman Dr. Khatiwada as coordinator to ‘*ascertain the actual energy demand*’. The committee comprised members from the Ministry of Energy and IBN but sans the recalcitrant NEA! The Dr. Khatiwada-headed Committee conducted[9] the load

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forecast study on the basis of *Model for Analysis of Energy Demand* developed by the *International Atomic Energy Agency*. That Committee's study forecasted that by 2030 Nepal's energy requirement will surge to 33,400 GWh from 5,006 GWh of 2015[10]. This, thus, became the *Gayatri Mantra* of Energy Ministry for Nepal's *Electricity Development Decade 2016-2026*.

iv) Electricity Development Decade (2016-2026) – 10,000 MW in 10 Years: Based on the load forecast study conducted[11] by the Committee headed by the Planning Commission Vice-Chairman, Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, the Energy Ministry prepared the concept paper on *National Energy Crisis Eradication and Electricity Development Decade 2072*. That concept paper stated “Load forecasts made within a **constrained environ do not project the actual picture**. In the present context, if the supply was not constrained then the electricity demand **could be near double**. So basing the present demand as double and with an annual increase of 12% plus a reserve margin of 15% of the installed capacity, the **demand for 2082/’083 would be about 10,000 MW**.” To meet such a demand, the Energy Ministry immediately lined up 117 run-of-river projects worth 2,587 MW, 5 peaking run-of-river projects worth 1,975 MW and 11 storage projects worth 5,373 MW giving the grand total[12] of 9,935 MW.

v) From ‘Take or Pay’ to ‘Take and Pay’ PPAs: The 60 Mw Khimti and 36 MW Bhotekosi[13], the first two private sector hydropower projects of the mid-1990s, were responsible for introducing the term **‘Take Or Pay’** in the PPAs. This meant even if NEA did not **‘Take’** the power from these two hydropower developers, NEA was legally bound to **‘Pay’** them. The logic then was that the international Bankers (*IFC and ADB’s private sector window*) would otherwise walk away from these two projects and hence send the wrong signals to other private investors interested in Nepal's hydropower development. Based on the same logic, this **‘Take Or Pay’** Power Purchase Agreements followed suit for all Nepalese hydropower developers financed by local Nepalese banks. By November 2018 (*Mangsir 2075*) NEA had signed 3,353 MW projects under this **‘take or pay’** agreement. Realizing that these Megawatts of projects far exceeded that of its Load Forecast, NEA resorted to **‘Take And Pay’** term in the PPAs for all incoming IPPs. That is, NEA paid the IPPs only when power was taken from them. In fact,

IPPs signed 1,247 MW of projects under the **‘take and pay’** PPAs with NEA. Naturally, both DOED and IPPAN were unhappy. Hence, this led to what Kathmandu Post[14] reported “*Ministry of Energy, NEA Clash over Power Purchase Modality*”. According to Post's report, the Ministry asked NEA “...to convert all the PPAs it has signed with [run-of-river] hydropower projects under the **‘take and pay’** modality to **‘take or pay’**.... until their combined **installed capacity reaches 5,250 MW**.” This was justified by Dinesh Kumar Ghimire, the then spokesperson for the Energy Ministry and later its Secretary, “As per the **white paper** issued by the Ministry in May [2016], **our plan is to generate 15,000 MW of electricity in 10 years** and up to 35% of the total installed capacity will come from run-of-river type of hydropower projects.....If the **NEA signs ‘take or pay’ PPAs for up to that limit [5,250**



MW], the government will cover the losses arising from such agreements.” Some say this change of gear from **‘take and pay’** to **‘take or pay’** is not dissimilar to **‘from frying pan into fire’**!

Such a policy to safeguard its sacred *Mantra*, 10,000 MW in 10 years[15], is essentially the genesis to Nepal's present 200 MW to 600 MW of **‘.... surplus energy going to waste**’ Only time will tell from whose coffers/pockets the Energy Ministry's spokesperson **‘.... will cover the losses arising from such agreements.**’ Without buyers, this 200/600 MW of energy going to waste is merely the tip of the much larger iceberg!

‘No Buyers Yet’ Background:

i) Past History: Public memory is very short. Regarding the history to **‘No buyers yet’**, Nepal, for the last seven decades since the 1950s' Kosi/Gandak days, has been basking in her **‘apar jalshrot’** and the **‘apar**

market across the border'. From early 1960s, the Panchayat governments tooled around with the 10,800 MW Karnali Chisapani Multipurpose Project that the World Bank was keen to finance. In fact, 410 engineers, through the kind funding of UNDP, were produced from India's premier Roorki University for the Karnali Chisapani Project. Why did that project fizzle out and where did all those engineers end up? Our naïve Singha Durbar mandarins never bothered to delve into such travail issues. Then in 1996 the 6,480 MW[16] Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project flowered into the Integrated Mahakali Treaty. Politicians of all hues (*Nepali Congress, CPN-UML and RPP*), hailing that Nepal's sun would now rise from the west, jostled desperately to shower credit on themselves. Unfortunately Nepal's sun continues to rise from the east with the '*Sarda barrage of Yesterday, Tanakpur of Today and Pancheshwar of Tomorrow*' languishing sedately for the last 25 years! All the principal actors of the 1996 Integrated Mahakali Treaty are still around firmly on the driver's seat governing the country sans the Pancheshwar-pinpricks to their consciences. Instead of delving into the '*why*' debacles of Karnali Chisapani and Pancheshwar Projects, our governing elites at Singha Durbar are now proceeding full steam ahead[17] with India '*.... to accelerate work on areas like preparation of DPR of SaptaKosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi storage-cum-Diversion Scheme.*' This is the same 269 meter (887.7 feet) high dam at Barahchhetra/Nepal to control/mitigate the '*Sorrow of Bihar*' that India in 1953 spurned and implemented instead the Kosi Barrage Project at Bharda. Yet by 1991, India came to the conclusion[18] that '*The Kosi Barrage has outlived its life and Kosi Multipurpose Project can only protect this asset*'.

ii) **Non-discriminatory Electricity Access:** The following is an interesting episode[19] regarding electricity access through India to Bangladesh from Nepal and Bhutan: "*A tripartite ministerial meeting between India, Myanmar and Bangladesh held in Yangon in January 2005 agreed to import natural gas through a pipeline from Myanmar via Bangladesh..... The deal, however, could not be implemented purportedly because India actually did not immediately agree to Bangladesh's three demands – transmission of hydro-electricity from Nepal and Bhutan to Bangladesh through Indian territory; corridor for the supply of commodities between Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh through Indian territory; and adoption of necessary measures to reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries....*". This should be an eye opener for our Singha Durbar manda-

rins. India believes and maintains that the Nepalese and Bhutanese hydropower energy is only for Indian use – India's monopoly. India clearly does not want Bangladesh, a country hungry for renewable energy, to compete with her. However, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first premiership '**Neighbourhood First**' policy, the Indo-Nepal *Electric Power Trade, Cross Border Transmission and Grid Connectivity Agreement* was signed on October 21, 2014. A month later, the *SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity)* was also signed in Kathmandu on November 27, 2014. Both agreements stipulated '**non-discriminatory access for cross border electricity trading.**' In fact, Article 12 of that **SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity)** stated:

Member States shall, for the purpose of cross-border trade, enable non-discriminatory access to the respective transmission grids...

iii) **Bangladesh Request Spurned:** With our (im)potent Prime Ministers remaining silent on the above '**non-discriminatory access for cross border electricity trading**', Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Begum during her official India visit in 2017 did request Prime Minister Narendra Modi to '*facilitate*' the Bangladesh-Nepal electricity trade through India's 18 km stretch. But India remained eloquently silent on this '*non-discriminatory access facilitation*'. Both the 2014 Indo-Nepal Power Trade and SAARC Framework Agreements were merely, in Nepalese parlance '*dekhaune dant*'! Our Singha Durbar governors fail to see the real '*khane dant*'!

iv) **2016 and 2018 Guidelines - Strategic, National and Economic Issues:** To counter Nepal's Electricity Development Decade 2016-2026 (10,000 MW in 10 years), India quickly in December 2016 issued her **Guidelines on Cross Border Electricity Trading** that cited electricity trade as "**issues**



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of strategic, national and economic importance". Even the so-called improved 2018 Guidelines of India was also entirely against the spirit embodied by the *SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity)*. As far as Nepal's 10,000 MW in 10 years was concerned, observers believe India's Guidelines were specifically targeted towards China. The growing investments in Nepalese hydropower by the financially muscular Chinese companies were "**issues of strategic, national and economic importance**". The Indian elephant, since 1962, is extremely wary of the Chinese dragon lurking across her border in Nepal. Clearly, the loud message emanating from India's 2016/2018 Guidelines is: '**Achtung! You are trespassing over somebody else's private property!**'

Such policies and Guidelines of India and the complete failure of our Singha Durbar governors to comprehend them are the background to our present '**no buyers yet.**'

Final Words: The key milestones in why Nepal ended up in such a pathetic '**surplus energy**' and '**no buyers yet**' situation are: i) roles of various Nepalese power sector actors in interpreting Load Forecast to suit their own conveniences ii) entry of the private sector resulting in the first-come first-served projects instead of the Least Cost Generation Expansion Plan (LCGEP) projects iii) the mere formality Indo-Nepal *Electric Power Trade, Cross Border Transmission and Grid Connectivity Agreement* of October 2014 for domestic consumption



iv) *SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity)* of November 2014, another mere formality agreement for international consumption v) Nepal's failure to comprehend India's 2016/2018 Guidelines that termed electricity trading as '**Strategic, National and Economic issues**' and finally vi) Nepal's grandiose '*gayatri mantra*', the 10,000 MW in 10 years Electricity Development Decade 2016-2026.

Yes, nature has kindly endowed Nepal with '*apar jalshrot*' and yes there is '*apar market*' across the border in India. But then the old Norwegian owl, Odd Hoftun, who worked over 40 years in Nepal's hydropower sector, had the following wise words[20] for

Nepal:

Nepal's water resource is both a **Blessing and a Curse!**

Indian market as **Potential Source** for Nepal's water resources development is **tremendous**.

Big projects **should and must be undertaken** but that is **Only Possible through Export to India**.

For something like that to work, **there has to be Fair Agreements** and a very **High Level of Trust between the two countries!**

With India '*having no time*' to accept the Report of the mutually constituted Indo-Nepal Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on the irritant 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, with India imposing 5 months' transit embargo on land-locked Nepal when she was just devastated by the massive 2015 earthquake, with India's 2016/2018 **Strategic, National and Economic** Guidelines to counter the Chinese dragons in Nepal's Electricity Development Decade 2016-2026 and with massive muscular India swallowing up tiny helpless Nepal's Kalapani-Limpiyadhura territories in 2019, has Mr. Hoftun's '**high level of trust for fair agreements**' developed between the two countries? Our Singha Durbar governors, of course, know best.

During the 1950s' days of Kosi/Gandak Projects, India's foreign related matters were left entirely to Nehru for '*Panditji knows best!*'[21] Should we, similarly, leave all our '*apar jalshrot*' on the shoulders of our Singha Durbar governors for '*they know best*'? Unfortunately, they have completely missed the larger picture in the Ganges Basin. India's greatest burning problem in the Ganges Basin, that supports nearly fifty per cent of her 1.3 billion people, is **WATER – freshwater** to produce food, to drink and to bathe! This thirst for freshwater in India will increase to formi-

dable proportions by 2050 when her population is expected to stabilize at around 1.64 billion[22]. India desperately needs of storage projects in Nepal. For Nepal, despite having a mere 13% of the Ganga basin catchment area, contributes 47% of the average annual flow of the Ganges. But during the critical dry months of February, March and April Nepal's contribution to the Ganges flow increases[23]dramatically to as high as 72%. This is the picture Nepal adamantly refuses to see. With Nepal desperately pursuing her 10,000/20,000 MW in 10/20 years, India is graciously availed **stored WATER in GRATIS** through Nepal's own **default! Hydro**, the scarce diminishing resource globally, has no alternative[24] but **hydro-**

power has other alternatives like coal, gas, nuclear, solar and wind!

Before this **‘Nepal’s Surplus Power and No Buyers Yet’** article could be published, Nepal’s Kathmandu Post reported[25] **‘Delhi Opens Door for Nepal to Sell Power in India’s Energy Exchange Market.’** Nepal’s Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Ministry stated **‘... the Indian authority concerned – Central Electricity Authority – ... decided to allow Nepal to sell 39 MW of electricity produced by the 24 MW Trishuli Hydropower Project and the 15 MW Devighat Hydropower Project in the India Energy Exchange Limited (IEX)[26i] after receiving a nod from India’s Ministry of Power.’** Both projects were developed[27] with the southern neighbour’s assistance. Minister Pampha Bhusal hailed this 39 MW export as a **‘kose dhunga’** in Indo-Nepal electricity trading. Some interpret this miniscule **39 MW** power import from Nepal’s tiny **1,907 MW** system by the **388,134 MW** strong India as mere continuation of India’s previous 2016 Guidelines’ policy wherein **‘51% Indian equity holders’** was mandatory for access into Indian market. At the recent October/November 2021 **COP26 Global Climate Summit** at Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared five Indian commitments to mitigate climate change. Besides achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, Prime Minister Modi declared that 50% of India’s energy requirements will, by 2030, be through Renewable Energy. 75.4 % of India’s present 388,134 MW is supplied by fossil fuel. Only time will tell whether or not Nepal’s tiny 39 MW export is a **‘kose dhunga’** to India’s huge 50% energy requirements through renewable energy by 2030. And our Singha Durbar mandarins will, no doubt, weigh in the pros and cons of **Hydro** and **Hydropower**!

The End

[1] Prime Minister KP Sharma (Oli) inaugurated the commissioning of the first of the six 76 MW units of the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydroelectric Project on July 5, 2021 (*Asar* 21, 2078) in the district of Dolakha.

[2] NEA’s *A Year in Review August 2012* (*Bhadra* 2078).

[3] NEA’s *A Year in Review August 2012* (*Bhadra* 2078).

[4] The Energy Ministry has unfortunately, in its concept paper on Electrification Development Decade 2016, dumped this Load Forecast task on Water and Energy Commission. The appropriate institution should have been, as in the past, the newly re-emerged Department of Electricity Development (DOED).

[5] Nepal Telecom, fortunately, does not suffer from the same chronic disease of power sector. The Telecom has neither a Department nor a Division at the Ministry to breathe down its neck – just a mere Section! This could be the reason why Telecom is slush with money that has been interestingly invested in the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydroelectric Ltd. (6%) and 37 MW Trishuli Jal Vidhyut Company Ltd. (30%).

[6] This Centre was formed from the remnants of the Electricity Department engineers who, refusing to join NEA, were incorporated into the Ministry of Water Resources.

[7] *The Kathmandu Post*, December 8, 2015

[8] *The Kathmandu Post, Money*, December 21, 2015

[9] *The Himalayan Times*, August 2, 2016, Business

[10] According to NEA’s *A Year in Review 2020/2021*, Nepal’s actual energy requirement in 2021 was 8,851 GWh (*NEA-2,804 GWh, IPPs-3,241 GWh and Indian Import-2,806 GWh*). Only time will tell whether or not Dr. Khatiwada-led Committee’s 33,400 GWh will be required by 2030!

[11] *The Himalayan Times*, August 2, 2016, Business

[12] *National Energy Crisis Eradication and Electricity Development Decade 2072 – Concept Paper and Work Plans, Falgun 2072*, Energy Ministry, Government of Nepal.

[13] The Ministry of Water Resources had given the Bhotekoshi developer license for 36 MW only. But the Ministry (*Electricity Development Centre*) had its eyes closed when the developer installed 45 MW machines. This 36/45 MW controversy continued to rage for quite some time after commissioning. The heavy load shedding came to the rescue and settled this extra 9 MW controversy.

[14] *Kathmandu Post, Money*, November 27, 2018 (Mangsir 11, 2075).

[15] This 10,000 MW demand was later upgraded to 15,000 MW and 17,000 Mw within 10 years by various authorities to suit their own interpretations.

[16] This 6,480 MW is Nepal’s dream of capturing the peak energy price of electricity. India’s dream, however, is to slowly grind down that capacity to 2,000 MW. It is Regulated Water that she wants from Pancheshwar and Not electricity!

[17] This 8th Meeting of Indo-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) was held on 11th January, 2019 at New Delhi.

[18] 1991 Secretary level meeting of the Indo-Nepal Sub-commission on Water Resources held at New Delhi.

[19] *Kathmandu Post July 15, 2020. How India Lost a Gas Pipeline to China* by Mahendra P Lama. Dr. Lama was a member of the Indo-Nepal Eminent Persons Group (EPG) from India.

[20] In an interview with **Nepali Times: Issue # 376 30 Nov. 2007 – 06 Dec. 2007.**

[21] AS Bhasin. *Nehru Tibet and China*. 2021. Penguin Random House India Pvt. Ltd. Haryana India.

[22] Suresh Prabhu’s *The Vital Links in Interlinking of Rivers in India: Issues and Concerns* edited by MMQ Mirza, AU Ahmed and QK Ahmad, 2008, Taylor & Francis Group, London. Suresh Prabhu, was Union Minister for Power, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Environment & Forest and Industry at various times. From December 2002 to April 2004, he was Chairman of the Task Force on *Interlinking of Rivers* with the rank and status of Union Cabinet Minister.

[23] SB Pun’s *Overview: Conflicts Over the Ganga? in Disputes Over the Ganga* edited by Bhim Subba and Kishor Pradhan for Panos Institute South Asia. 2004. Kathmandu.

[24] Salman Haider, India’s former Foreign Secretary, at an Indo-Nepal Mahakali Treaty discussion in New Delhi uttered what many mandarins in India would hesitate to utter **‘... India has alternative sources of power supply. We do not have alternative sources of Water Supply...’**

[25] *Kathmandu Post* November 3, 2021 (*Kartik* 17, 2078).

[26] That is, NEA, through its Indian agent National Vidhyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), makes a **Day Ahead** (24 hours) bid in the Exchange Market. If the bid/rate is acceptable then NEA’s 39 MW power will be absorbed into the Indian grid at what is termed the **Average Market Clearing Price**. This average market clearing price in the **Eastern Regional Grid on November 5, 2021 at 10:15 am was IC Rs 1.99 per unit**. During the load-shedding days, Nepal used to import through the Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar transmission line electricity at around **IC Rs 5.50 per unit!**

[27] The India financed **21 MW** Trishuli Project was commissioned in 1967 and the **14.1 MW** Devighat, also financed by India, commissioned in 1984. As part of the strategy to fill the supply gap before the commissioning of 201 MW Arun III in 2003, the World Bank rehabilitated the Trishuli-Devighat projects in 1995 wherein Trishuli was upgraded to 24 MW with Devighat remaining the same.

Honor Of The Rising Sun

Japanese Government honors Himalaya Shumsher Rana conferring The Order Of The Rising Sun Medal

By A CORRESPONDENT

Himalaya Shumsher Rana, the first governor of Nepal Rastra Bank and first finance secretary, is a well known figure in Nepal and abroad. However, Rana has a long legacy and family contribution in strengthening Nepal's relations with Japan.

For his contribution in strengthening Nepal-Japan relations, the Government of Japan honored Himalaya Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana with 2021 Autumn Conferment of Japanese Decorations on Foreign Nationals.

Given his and families contributions, Rana is most deserving of persons for the medal. The Government of Japan has recognized the contributions given to strengthen Japan-Nepal relations.

The Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2021 Autumn Imperial Decorations naming Himalaya Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana as one of the recipients.

Founding Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (Central Bank) and Former Finance Secretary Rana was awarded the Order of Japan (The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star) among foreign nationals among this year's 2021 Imperial Decorations conferred by the Government of Japan.

Rana was recognized for his efforts to initiate economic ties between Japan and Nepal after he had visited Japan and witnessed Japan's rapid economic recovery from World War II devastation.

He had also successfully persuaded the board of NRB to open the bank account at the Bank of Japan (BOJ) in 1960s, believing that could lead to the activation of economic re-

lations between the two countries. The NRB was the first foreign central bank that had opened an account at the BOJ.

Rana's great grandfather Dev Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana, the Prime Minister of Nepal in 1901 had decided to send the first Nepali students to study in Japan. People to people contacts between Japan and Nepal began with the visit of Japanese monk Kawaguchi Ekai to Nepal in 1899 and with the travel of eight Nepali students to Japan in 1902.

Rana tried to make this fact known to Nepali people at every opportunity, including at the symposium on the centennial celebrations of Nepali students in Japan in 2002, and he had delivered a lecture on the same theme at the annual meeting of the Japan University Alumni Association of Nepal (JUAAN).

The Embassy congratulates Rana on being conferred with the Order of Japan. Next year will be the Japan Southwest Asia Exchange year and marks 120 years after the first batch of eight Nepali students had travelled to Japan in 1902. Japanese decorations are conferred upon foreigners twice a year, on 29th April and 3rd November, concurrently with the conferment of decorations and medals on Japanese nationals.

The Order of the Rising Sun is bestowed upon individuals of merit, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the nation or public. This award is also conferred upon foreign nationals who have made notable contributions to the promotion of relations between Japan, and other countries for excellence in politics and diplomacy, research and education, medicine and



social welfare, economy and industry, and culture and sports.

Sending students in Japan to learn Japanese technology and industrial development, his great-great grandfather Prime Minister late Dev Shumsher Rana, who ruled Nepal for a short period of time, had shown Japan's technology and industrial development suited for Nepal compared to the Europe.

Isolated from the rest of the world except England, Europe and China, late Dev Shumsher Rana opened for an alternative development pattern for Nepal.

Born on January 8, 1928, well respected Rana laid the foundations of Nepal's institutions, including Nepal's Central Bank and Ministry of Finance. He is the only living memory of Nepal's political, social and economic transformations.

As Himalayan Shumsher Rana's great-great grandfather opened door to Japan sending Nepalese students, he himself recognized the importance of Japan's growing global role making Japanese Yen as other reserve foreign currency during his tenure as governor of Nepal Rastra Bank.

Condition Of Public Transport In Nepal



BY: REEZAN POUDEL

Whatever the universal definitions and functions of public transport may be, Nepal has its own kind of public transport. According to the universal definition, public transport means all the buses, trains, cars, and other forms of transport that are available to the public in their nearby station, charge set fares, and run on fixed routes at different times.

Examples of public transport include city buses, trolleybuses, trams, and passenger trains. Public transport is a vital form of transport in all parts of the world. The public transport system must have some good qualities or features such as being affordable and accessible, with proper management of seats and so on. Public transport is very crucial for all the people. It has a lot of importance and many advantages. It helps people to travel and meet different needs. A single public bus can carry tens of people and still occupies almost the same space as some large personal vehicles. Moreover the public transport tends to be cheaper than using a private car.

Apart from generating employment opportunities, from drivers to attendants, the public transport systems are also the means of livelihood for many, either directly or indirectly.

However, Nepal's public transport does not follow the universal definition. Although Nepal's Transport Management Act has defined the term public transport, no one follows the term. The regulations prepared under the act have often been amended to suit the interest of the persons in power. Nepal's act is so flexible on the definition. From six-seat three wheelers to big bus up to 70 seats, all are regarded as public transport.

Although private owners have their monopoly in the public transport, they do not abide by the universal meaning. Riding a public transport in Nepal is like a curse as they often violate the capacity rule, allowing as many passengers as possible. Thus, they are overcrowded and cramped. Nepal's main public transport systems have middle size buses with the capacity of up to 30. However, they run with people double the capacity. Due to over loading, public buses are prone to fatal accidents.

Besides all these, the condition of public transportation in the context of Nepal is extremely poor. It has been causing noise pollution, air pollution, and so on. The rules and conditions are not being followed by the people and transport owners. The fare rate has increased at a very high level. Con-

ductors are using advantages from it and taking fares more than its original fare rate. Suppose the fare rate from JADIBUTI to Maitighar is Rs.18, but it is common that they are asking Rs. 20 as fare rates. They are breaking the rules and regulations made by the government just to get more profit. Public transport in Nepal does not stop at the precise address that a passenger is traveling to, forcing them to look for additional means.

Proper hygiene is also not maintained. People gather at gangway area, there is no proper place to walk, Youngsters go and sit at the female and orphanage seats. Some public transport crews play too loud music forcing the passenger to signal at the driver to stop. There is a limited number of seats but to get profit public transporters add more and more people no matter what the passengers are thinking. They use all kinds of offensive and vulgar words. The condition is very bad in the context of Nepal about public transportation because of these and similar reasons as mentioned above.

In the context of transport and public transport anarchy, Sajha Yatayat, a cooperative, has been making efforts to offer international level public transport service in the Kathmandu Valley. However, it is yet to receive full hearted support from the entire sector. With the monopoly of certain transport owners, Sajha has been facing resistance.

Sajha Yatayat has also shown how public transportation should be. However, majority of public transport owners are just concerned about profit over the service. To improve

public transport in Nepal, the owner of public vehicles should be aware of the rules and regulations and follow those rules and regulations strictly. Also, the government should focus on bringing various advanced public transportation vehicles which can run from alternative sources of energy like electric vehicles rather than vehicles that use petrol and diesel which will help to save the non-renewable sources of energy as well as there will be proper utilization

of alternative energy sources and thus it cannot have any negative impact on the natural environment. In conclusion, public transportation can be useful for the country only if all the passengers and owners follow the proper rules and regulations provided by the government and government should also be aware as to whether the rules and regulations are being properly followed. If not, strict actions should be taken against violators.



राष्ट्रिय जनगणना २०७८ मा सहभागी हुनुभयो ?

हुनुभएको छैन भने,

- नजिकको जनगणना कार्यालय, वडा कार्यालय वा गणकसँग सम्पर्क राख्नुहोला ।
- यदि मंसिर ८ गतेसम्म गणकहरू तपाईंको घरपरिवारमा आएनन् भने टोल फ्रि (निःशुल्क) नं. ११७८ मा सम्पर्क गर्नुहोला ।



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