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OPINION
Bharat Raj Paudyal



VIEWPOINT
Arup Rajouria



ENVIRONMENT
Batu Uprety

NEW SPOTLIGHT

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Dec-29, 2023
FORTNIGHTLY

PM PRACHANDA

One year on

INSIDE



INARUWA SUBSTATION
ERA OF HIGH VOLTAGE



IMPROVED COOKINGSTOVES
FROM DESIGN TO DISTRIBUTION



NEPAL LAUNCHED DECENT
WORK COUNTRY PROGRAM

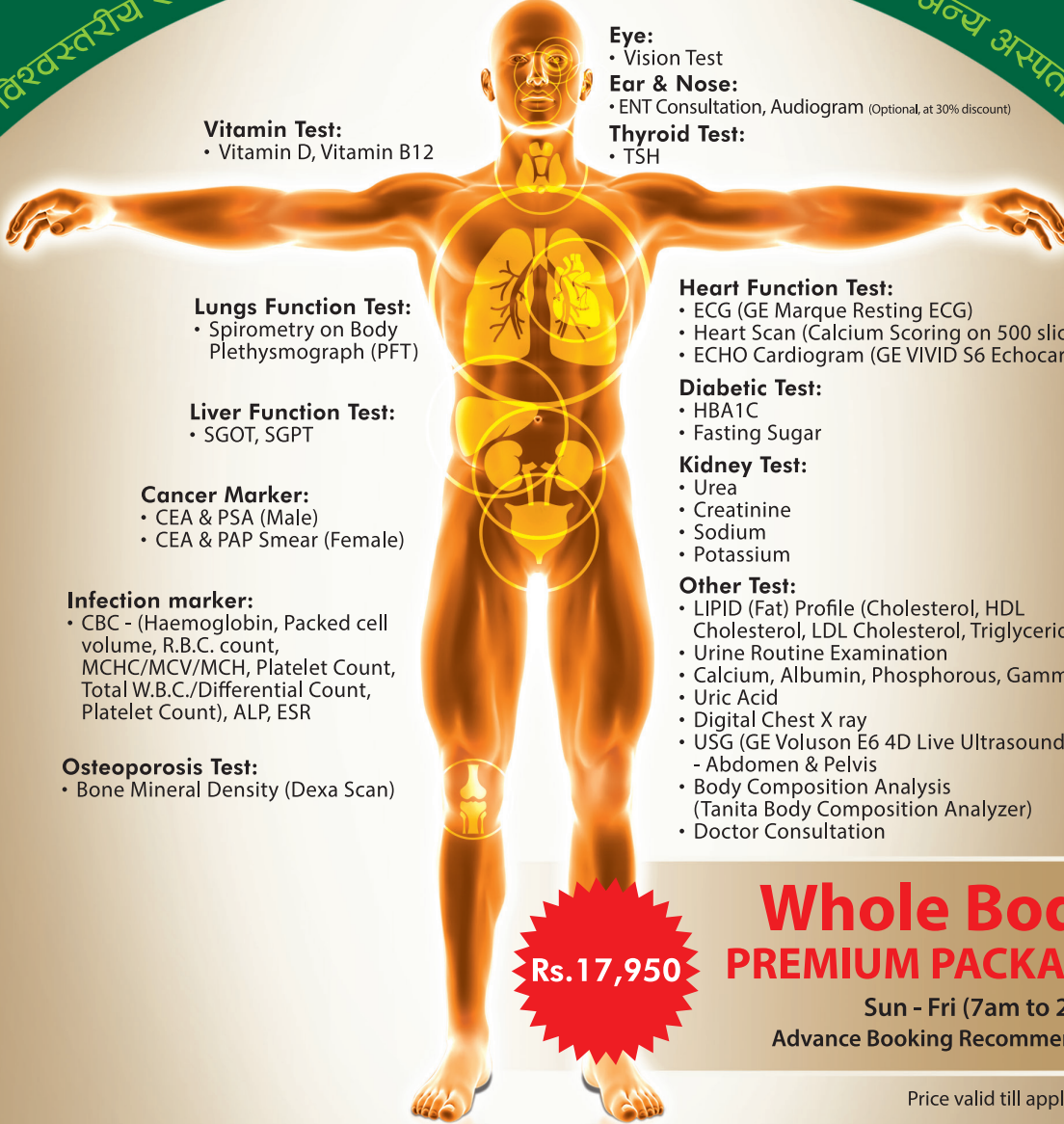
सर्वोत्कृष्ट स्वास्थ्य परीक्षणको लागि

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Liver Function Test:
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• CEA & PAP Smear (Female)

Infection marker:
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MCHC/MCV/MCH, Platelet Count,
Total W.B.C./Differential Count,
Platelet Count), ALP, ESR

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• Vision Test
Ear & Nose:
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Thyroid Test:
• TSH

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Kidney Test:
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• Creatinine
• Sodium
• Potassium

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Notes From The Editor



As Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda's government completes its first year in power, the prime minister himself has acknowledged the government's inability to make progress. While he has accepted the failure, he has also highlighted the success achieved in the energy sector. Despite facing several challenges, including in the economic sector, the government has made remarkable progress in the energy sector. During his last year in office, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda inaugurated several important transmission lines that increased Nepal's energy sector capacity to transmit electricity between regions. Under his leadership, Nepal even exported over 15 rupees worth of electricity to India, a significant achievement. The government also made progress in foreign relations with neighboring and other countries. Nepal has been managing its relations with India, its largest and most significant ally, with strong support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the minister. It has also maintained harmonious relations with China. This article will focus on Nepal's success story in the energy sector, specifically the efforts of NEA's MD Kul Man Ghising and his team to complete remaining projects and ensure a sustainable energy supply. Additionally, we will cover other current issues.

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

Keshab Poudel

Editor

CONTENT

NEWSNOTES	3
BUSINESS BRIEF	8
OPINION	
Bharat Raj Paudyal	10
VIEWPOINT	
Arup Rajouria	16
NEPAL LAUNCHED DECENT WORK COUNTRY PROGRAM	18
ENVIRONMENT	
Batu Uprety	24
INTERVIEW	
Karuna Bajracharya	31
INTERVIEW	
Vahid Jahangiri	32
ARTICLE	
Robert French AC	34



COVERSTORY: PM PRACHANDA : One year on

12



INARUWA SUBSTATION : Era of High Voltage

19



IMPROVED COOKINGSTOVES : From Design To Distribution

26

Nepal-China Media Summit Inaugurated

Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Rekha Sharma, has said healthy criticisms that appear in media are welcome as they discourage the government and political forces from possible deviation.



Inaugurating the second China-Nepal Media Summit organized by South Asia Network TV here today, the Minister said media content dedicated to healthy criticism of the government and warnings against possible wrongdoings are positive aspects of media.

Sharma, also the Government Spokesperson, said good governance, prosperity and social justice are top priorities of the government.

Citing that the status of political rights will remain incomplete in the absence of the guarantee of the right to Press and the freedom of expression, she said in Nepal political rights have been established along with the right to Press and freedom of expression. She acknowledged the role of media in making significant movements for democracy successful in history.

Though Nepal and China had officially established diplomatic ties in 1955, the close neighbors have enjoyed cordial socio-economic and cultural relations for centuries, according to the Minister who said, “Nepal and China are enjoying cordial relations since the evolution of human civilization in this region. Bhrikuti and Araniko had significantly contributed to strengthening these relations. These ties are becoming deeper.”

She also took time to say that the exchange of high-level visits between the two nations aims to enhance the bilateral relations.

The Communications and Information Minister said the impact of a global economic shrinkage of late has been seen in media as well, adding that it is our collective concern to face the challenges caused by social sites collectively. “Legal initiations have started to make the use of social sites safe and systematized. The latest IT innovations demanded a digital platform for each media.”

She added this type of event is vital for taking the government-government and people-to-people relations to a new height.

Officiating Ambassador for Nepal, Wang; Federation of Nepali Journalist (FNJ) Chair Bipul Pokhrel, Nepal Tourism Board chief executive officer Dr Dhananjay Regmi, Nepal-China Media Forum Chair Kishore Shrestha and South Asia Network TV founder Hou Zhihong spoke on the roles of media in further strengthening Nepal-China relations.

Maoist Centre Observes 131st ‘Mao Day’

Prime Minister and CPN (Maoist Centre) Chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’ has described Marxism as a philosophy to substantively analyse a concrete situation.

In his address to a programme organised at the party central office in Parisdanda on the occasion of the 131st birth anniversary of the Chinese leader Mao Zedong (Mao Day) today, Prachanda said, “The cultivation of Marxist thoughts remains a primary challenge for the Communist movement at present.”

He insisted on the need to develop an ideology based on the evolving global context. “Today’s national and international scenario differs from that of Mao’s lifetime. Significant global changes have occurred post-Mao, with imperialism persisting through new strategies and actions. We, as Maoists, need to adapt ourselves to the given context, but unfortunately, it has not happened.”

On the occasion, he said remembering Mao means



analyzing and understanding ideology and revolution fundamentally.

He said social justice, good governance and prosperity are bases for charting a course for socialism and the incumbent government is actively working towards that end. “The government accords top priority to social justice, good governance and prosperity to create a foundation for socialism. We will move ahead accordingly.”

NEWSNOTES

The Maoist Chair took time to say that the party would develop a new campaign once its ongoing campaign entitled “Maoists with people: special transformation campaign” concluded. The four-month campaign is set to conclude on January 1.

Mao Tse-tung (Zedong), a great Chinese politician, Marxist theorist and revolutionary figure was born on December 26, 1893, in Shaoshan, Xiangtan, China.

Maoist Centre’s vice chair Pampha Bhusal, general secretary Dev Prasad Gurung, and deputy general secretary Barshaman Pun were among those attending the event.

Melamchi water diversion starts, plan to distribute to consumers within a month

The process of diverting the water of the Melamchi River has been started. The process of diverting Melamchi’s water started after the people of Kathmandu held protests demanding Melamchi’s water supply.

Suresh Acharya, secretary of the Ministry of Wa-



ter Supply, said that construction professionals have been mobilized since Wednesday with an action plan to divert Melamchi river water and bring it to Kathmandu soon. On Tuesday, the board meeting of the Melamchi Water Supply Development Board (MWSDB) was held under the chairmanship of Secretary Acharya.

According to the spokesperson of the Board, Rajendra Prasad Pant, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with construction company Sinohydro to mobilize manpower in two shifts and complete the water diversion process within 28 days.

The supply of Melamchi drinking water was halted after the flood damaged the Melamchi water source and the access road. Before the onset of monsoon, Melamchi’s tunnel was closed and water supply was stopped. Melamchi water has not been supplied to Kathmandu even though the monsoon has been over for a long time.

The people of Kathmandu, who have been suffering from the lack of drinking water, formed the Valley

Struggle Committee and took part in a protest on December 18 with empty gagri (water vessel) and buckets.

A meeting of the MWSDB was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Suresh Acharya, secretary of the Ministry of Water Supply, in response to the demands of the consumers. In that meeting, it was agreed to start the work immediately through the construction company Sinohydro and to diversify the water of the Melamchi River.

According to the agreement, the construction business, Sinohydro, immediately initiated the water diversion work, according to the spokesperson Pant. “Unless there is an emergency situation, the necessary work for water diversion will be completed by mobilizing manpower in two shifts according to the 28-day work schedule,” said spokesperson Pant.

MWSDB said that Melamchi water will be provided at the rate of Rs 170 million liters per day after the diversion. The water will be processed by Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) at Sundarijal Water Treatment Plant and redistributed to households in Kathmandu Valley.

Japanese Ambassador Hands Over 2023 Foreign Minister’s Commendation to JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN)

Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal handed the Foreign Minister’s Commendation for FY2023 to JICA Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN) at his official residence today.

The Foreign Minister’s Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in international fields to acknowledge their contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries and areas. The Commendations also aim to promote understanding and support from the Japanese public regarding the activities of the recipients.

JAAN was awarded the Commendation on August 22, 2023, in recognition of its significant contributions over the years to the development of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Nepal. JAAN was established in 1973 as an alumni association by Nepali trainees



and students who received various training and academic education in Japan under JICA program. For half a century, JAAN has been producing many important personalities in political and business circles.

Some of them are serving as Chief Secretaries, Secretaries and Joint Secretaries in various ministries of Nepal, contributing to the development of Nepal using the knowledge and experience gained from training in Japan.

JAAN has also organized various events to share their skills and knowledge, as well as events to celebrate the anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Nepal.

On the occasion, Ambassador Kikuta congratulated JAAN on receiving the Foreign Minister's Commendation as a testament to the friendship between Japan and Nepal and said that JAAN's efforts and contributions are truly worthy of the Commendation. Ambassador also expressed his confidence that JAAN and its members will continue to take the lead in the development of Nepal. This year, 2023, is the half-century anniversary of JAAN.

At the ceremony, Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal, the President of JAAN, stated that this year has become the most memorable year for JAAN. He also expressed their great appreciation to the Government and people of Japan and their ambition that the members make further efforts to contribute more for the development of Nepal and JAAN and to serve as a bridge between Japan and Nepal for strengthening their good relations.

Nepal Hosts A Program To Celebrate 100 Years Of Nepal-UK Friendship Treaty

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a Commemorative Program to mark the 100 years of Nepal-UK Friendship Treaty, 1923 at Singhdurbar State Hall today. Foreign Minister NP Saud graced the occasion & highlighted the significance of the Treaty.

Addressing the program at historically important Sinha Durar Gallery Baithak, foreign minister Narayan Prasad Saud said Nepal and United Kingdom maintain cordial relationship. He said that the treaty of 1923 is a historical milestone between the two countries.

British Ambassador Rob Fenn also spoke on the occasion in Nepali. Foreign Secretary Sewa Lamsal made welcome remarks.

A Commemorative Programme was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to mark the 100 years of Nepal-United Kingdom Friendship Treaty of 1923 at Singhadurbar State Hall.

On the occasion, Narayan Prakash Saud, Minister for Foreign Affairs delivered his remarks highlighting various aspects of age-old relations between Nepal and the United Kingdom.

The Program commenced with welcome remarks by Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms. Sewa Lamsal.



Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Nepal H. E. Mr. Rob Fenn also spoke on the importance of the Treaty on Nepal-UK bilateral ties.

The program was attended by National Security Advisor, Chief Secretary, Secretaries of different Ministries, Ambassadors, Chiefs of security agencies, former foreign secretaries, former ambassadors, academia, representatives from the media, among others.

The Friendship Treaty was signed on 21 December 1923 at the Singhadurbar State Hall exactly one hundred years ago.

Nepal-Sri Lanka Discuss Trade, Investment Issue During Nepal-Sri Lanka Joint Commission Meeting

Matters concerning trade, investment and mutual concerns, and interests were discussed during the Nepal-Sri Lanka ministerial-level meeting.

During a meeting of the Nepal-Sri Lanka Joint Commission here today, topics relating to trade, investment



increase, expansion of air connectivity between the two countries, promotion of cooperation in culture, tourism and education sector, strengthening of SAARC and BIMSTEC

NEWSNOTES

and cooperation in the regional and multi-sectoral forums were discussed, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Minister Narayan Prakash Saud led the Nepali delegation and Sri Lankan Minister for Foreign Affairs M U M Ali Sabry headed the delegation from Sri Lanka in the meeting.

On the occasion both sides expressed satisfactions over the launch of the Kathmandu-Colombo air service, discussing about the plan to connect Colombo and Lumbini by air.

Foreign Ministers from Nepal and Sri Lanka also exchanged views on consequences of climate change both countries experience. They insisted on the need to primary mobilization of Climate Justice Fund and the Climate Impact Fund, and the promotion of regional and international cooperation, it is said.

They discussed different matters of Nepal-Sri Lanka relations and possible areas of cooperation.

The two ministers also co-chaired the first meeting of Nepal-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. A press release will follow.

South Asian University To Get Chairman From Pakistan And President From India

The South Asian University (SAU) - a flagship project of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) – convened Eleventh Meeting of its Governing Board on 18-19 December 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Governing Board Members from the Member States, and representatives from the SAARC Secretariat and SAU attended the two-day Meeting in Kathmandu. H. E. Mr. Md. Golam Sarwar, Secretary General of SAARC, addressed the Inaugural Session of the Meeting as Chief Guest.

In his address, Ambassador Sarwar expressed gratitude to the Government of India for hosting the University in New Delhi and facilitating its smooth functioning since its establishment. He thanked the Chairperson of the Governing Board for convening the Meeting and the Members for making it convenient to travel to Kathmandu to attend the Meeting. He also thanked the previous and present Chairpersons and Members of the Governing Board and Office-bearers of the University for their remarkable contributions to bring the University to where it stands today.

“One of the objectives of SAARC as outlined in its Charter is to promote welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life. This can best be achieved through education. The establishment of the South Asian University in New Delhi in 2010 is, therefore, considered as one of the significant accomplishments of SAARC,” Ambassador Sarwar asserted. He further said, “As the Centre of Excellence, the University holds great potential to foster socio-economic and cultural collabora-

tion among the South Asian countries.”



Prof. Dev Raj Adhikari, Chairman, University Grants Commission, Nepal, chaired the Meeting. In his opening remarks, Prof. Adhikari welcomed the participants to the Meeting. He appreciated the role of SAU in facilitating regional cooperation in higher education and research. He also thanked the previous Governing Board members for their hard work in making SAU a reputable platform for teaching, learning and research in the South Asia region.

The Governing Board decided to appoint Prof. K. K. Agrawal from India as the new President of SAU. The Board also agreed to transfer the Chairmanship of the Governing Board to Pakistan, after Nepal, on the principle of rotation in alphabetical order of the Member States, besides endorsing SAU’s budget for 2023-24 and academic calendar for 2024-25.

The Board also reviewed the progress and achievements of SAU since its last Meeting. It appreciated the untiring efforts of the Acting President, Acting Vice President, and Acting Registrar of SAU for their active role in successfully managing the affairs of the University during the transitional period.

As SAARC’s Centre of Excellency, the South Asian University is a unique seat of learning, research and creativity for the citizenry of the region, offering state-of-the-art learning and research facilities with a world-class faculty drawn from within and outside the region.

Currently, the University has five Faculties with 7 departments, offering both Masters’ and PhD programmes to around 600 students under the guidance of as many as 55 faculty members. Around 2000 students and research fellows have been educated at the University thus far.

Nepal-Sri Lanka Joint Commission Meeting Concluded

The first meeting of Nepal-Sri Lanka Joint Commission (JC) was held in Kathmandu. The overall state of bilateral relations between Nepal and Sri Lanka was reviewed in an atmosphere of warmth and cordiality.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged sub-

stantive views on further deepening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in the areas of trade, connectivity, investment, education, tourism, culture, and people-to-people relations, among others. The two sides also agreed to continue cooperation in the areas of mutual interest at regional and multilateral forums including SAARC, BIMSTEC and UN.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Narayan Prakash Saud and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka M. U. M. Ali Sabry, PC, MP led their respective delegations to the meeting.

The Nepali delegation included Foreign Secretary, Sewa Lamsal, Ambassador of Nepal to Sri Lanka Bashu Dev Mishra and senior officials of the Government of Nepal. The delegation of Sri Lanka consisted of the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Nepal Air Chief Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana (Retd.) and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kathmandu.

An MoU on cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation between the Ministry of Educa-



tion, Science and Technology of Nepal and the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka was signed and exchanged at the meeting. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal also hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting dignitary and the Sri Lankan delegation.

Earlier today, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka paid a courtesy call on the Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal, at his office in Singha Durbar. On the occasion, discussions were held on matters of mutual interest between Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Japan Hands Over the Turmeric Processing Center in Pyuthan

Japan Hands Over the Turmeric Processing Center in Pyuthan Municipality, Pyuthan District

Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, attended the handover ceremony of the Project for the Construction of a Turmeric Processing Center in Pyuthan Dis-

trict

Supported by the Government of Japan to Pyuthan Municipality, Pyuthan District, the project was implemented by the Volunteer Nepal National Group (Vol Nepal) and supported by the Government of Japan under the Grassroots and Human Security Grant Assistance Project (GGP) for USD 81,180 (approximately NPR 10 million).

The project aims to improve the livelihood of local farmers by increasing the production efficiency and developing the commercialization of turmeric for the people in Ward 8 of Pyuthan Municipality and neighboring areas.

In this area, the soil conditions are suitable for turmeric, but farmers cultivated the crop using traditional methods and the products were mostly for their own consumption. In addition, the farmers did not have machinery to process the products, and the low price of unprocessed products made it difficult for them to escape poverty.

Vol Nepal, since its establishment in 2005, has been working for sustainable development of rural communities, including this area, and requested the support from the Government of Japan to improve the situation. Upon the request, 10 mini-tillers were installed and a turmeric processing facility with necessary equipment was constructed through this GGP.

Ambassador Kikuta congratulated and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of all those involved in the project. He emphasized that the project would greatly contribute to improving the livelihoods of the farmers. The high quality products will help to increase the income of the farmers and lead to sustainable development of the local community. The Embassy hopes that the project will contribute to further deepening the friendly relations between the people of Japan and Nepal.

GGP was established to implement projects that directly benefit people at the grassroots level for the socio-economic development of communities. Since 1991, over 200 GGP projects have been completed in Nepal.



BUSINESS BRIEF

NAC To Handel Thai Airways Ground Services



The Nepal Airlines Corporation (NAC) has thanked Thai Airways and the government of Thailand for trusting it to provide the Airways with ground handling services at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA).

Issuing a statement on Sunday, the NAC formally expressed its gratitude and emphasised that it had been certified by the International Air Transport Association's Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO). ISAGO is an industry programme for the global oversight of ground handling service providers.

Thai Airways used to handle its ground operations at the TIA itself. However, on October 29 this year, it signed an agreement with the NAC to have the latter handle its ground services, which typically include aircraft cleaning, catering, ramp service, air cargo, and check-in services, among others.

As per the statement, Thai Airways also gave NAC 80 of its ground support equipment on December 16. The Government of Nepal had authorised the equipment transfer on July 19.

Foreign trade falls in first five months

The country's foreign trade has decreased during the first five months of the current fiscal year 2023/24. According to the foreign trade statistics of the Department of Customs, foreign trade has decreased by 3.64 per cent to Rs. 705.41 billion during the first five months of the current fiscal year.

A decline in both exports and imports has contributed to a fall in foreign trade during the review period. Imports have decreased by 3.39 per cent during the first five months of the current fiscal year. Goods worth Rs. 642.20 billion were



imported in the review period. The country imported goods worth Rs. 664.74 billion in the same period last fiscal year.

Not only imports but also exports have decreased during the review period. Goods worth Rs. 63.20 billion have been exported in five months of the current fiscal year. Goods worth Rs. 67.30 billion were exported in the first five months of the last fiscal year.

Although exports decreased by 6.09 per cent, there was some improvement in the overall trade deficit in the first five months of the current fiscal year.

The country faces a trade deficit of Rs. 579 billion.

This trade deficit is less by 3.09 per cent compared to the same period last year.

During the review period, the export has decreased due to a fall in the export of soybean and palm oil.

The country has exported soybean oil only worth Rs. 363 million in the first five months of the current fiscal year while soybean oil worth Rs. 6.98 billion was exported in the first five months of the last fiscal year. Similarly, palm oil worth Rs. 2.47 billion has been exported in the first five months of the current fiscal year while it exported palm oil worth Rs. 10.87 billion during the same period last fiscal year.

During the review period, tea and coffee worth Rs. 1.88 billion, carpet worth Rs. 4.86 billion, yarchhagumba worth Rs. 553 million, dog or cat food worth Rs. 1.18 billion and yarns worth Rs. 4.82 billion were exported.

In the meantime, the import of crude palm and soybean oil has reduced during the first five months of the current fiscal year. The crude palm oil worth Rs. 6.61 billion, crude soybean oil worth Rs. 7.24 billion and sunflower oil worth Rs. 6.83 billion were imported during the review period.

In the first five months of the current fiscal year, petrol worth Rs. 28.55 billion, diesel worth Rs. 53.90 billion, aviation fuel worth Rs. 8.66 billion and liquefied petroleum gas worth Rs. 20.65 billion have been imported.

Similarly, the country imported paddy and rice worth Rs. 8.24 billion, maize worth Rs. 4.95 billion and wheat worth Rs. 4.31 billion.

FNCCI demands high-powered commission to sort out disputes over arrears of dedicated power lines

The Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) has called for the establishment of a high-powered commission to resolve disputes regarding arrears of dedicated and trunk lines of electricity.



The FNCCI in a press statement on Monday stressed the need of a high-powered commission to effectively resolve the disputes.

The FNCCI urged Nepal Electricity Authority to refrain from cutting off power supply to industries, requesting the restoration of power to those that have already faced disconnection until the issue is sorted out.

According to the FNCCI, several industries may face closure, causing adverse impact on employment and revenue collection if the matter is not addressed promptly. The umbrella organization of businessmen and industrialists across the country has expressed confidence that the government will prioritize the concerns of the private sector, particularly amid the existing economic crisis, and take proactive measures to

address the issues.

NRB collecting additional deposit worth Rs 35 billion from excess liquidity with banks

Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) is set to withdraw an additional Rs 35 billion from the banking system, through receiving deposit collection from the commercial banks, while starting the process from Wednesday.

Amid the commercial banks witnessing excess loanable funds dumped with them due to the excessive deposit collection and low lending, the central bank is stepping up to implement the monetary tool to mop out excessive liquidity from the country’s banking system. This collection drive, spanning 14 days, invites applications from banking and financial entities interested in participation. By January 10, 2024, NRB will unveil the operation’s terms and interest rates.

Banks concerned are eligible to apply to collect their amounts ranging between Rs 10 million to Rs 50 million. Prioritization will center on descending interest rates, with the lowest bids taking precedence.



Participation is open exclusively to banks and financial institutions under the categories “A,” “B,” and “C” as classified by Nepal Rastra

Bank. The application process mandates clear specification of desired amounts and interest rates (up to four decimal places), emphasizing lower rates and pro-rata distribution for similar bids.

NRB’s recent efforts to bolster market liquidity have been evident. Within a month of initiating collections from November 22 in the fiscal year 2080/81, the central bank amassed an impressive Rs 197.25 billion.

Specifically, within four sessions since December 17, NRB withdrew Rs 70 billion, having initially invited applications totaling Rs 142.8 billion, but receiving requests amounting to Rs 139.8 billion from diverse banks.

Despite substantial reservations for investments, banks maintained notably low interest rates ranging from 0.7048% to 2.9957% for deposits placed with the central bank.

NEA Cuts Power To More Industries For Non-Payment Of Electricity Tariffs

From Friday, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has started to cut the lines of industries with more arrears

The Nepal Electricity Authority has cut the power lines of more industries for non-payment of electricity tariffs of dedicated and truck lines.

According to the NEA, electricity lines of Best Cement, Lakshmi Steel Industry, Triveni Spinning Mill and Ashok Steel have been cut.

The authority has claimed that 83 crores of Best Cement and 62 crores of Lakshmi Steel are outstanding. Claim-

ing that other industries also have arrears of more than 500 million, the electricity line has been cut.

Earlier on Friday, the authority cut power lines of four industries namely Jagdamba Steel, Ghorahi Cement, Reliance Spinning Mills and Arghakhanchi Cement.



iJatra Held At Pragya Kunja School

Kathmandu Pragya Kunja School (KPKS) has successfully organized iJatra from 16th Dec to 17th Dec. The innovations jamboree was attended by approximately 3000 parents, guardians, students and other visitors from various organizations, corporate houses and about 15 schools of the Kathmandu Valley.

The two-day innovation fair showcased a range of student creativities and innovative products. 3D printing, t-shirt printing, face-painting, various stalls depicting Newari culture, game stations, food stalls and VR game station to provide a taste of virtual world to visitors were some of the highlights. Being a fierce proponent of innovation and technology in education, KPKS organized iJatra in anticipation of building a critical learning and solving problems culture and trend through school premises.

KPKS, one of the finest activity based schools, situated at Sangam Chowk, New Baneswor, Kathmandu ritually organizes various educational entrepreneurial events that lay out exposures for children to learn various life skills and help foster entrepreneurial acumen to students. “iJatra is the dawn of innovations and creativity of our

children. Our kids are doing a lot of STEM projects at school through their innovation club, Engineers Without Borders Nepal ventures and so forth. There are a lot more at the table for them to showcase their learnings. We are just awaiting a perfect time and context.” said Sunita Poudel, the school Principal.



“We need exposures like iJatra for our school students that truly provide platforms for them to experience technology and innovation for life. Pragya Kunja is preparing a lot more and ever ready to collaborate with everyone.” said Er. Sojan Prajapati, Secretary, EWB Nepal and one of the organizing team members.

The innovation jamboree concluded with much enthusiasm and an inspiring and motivating talk show with Mr. Ujjwal Shretha, Networking Head at Karya Shala.

Nepal-UK Friendship Treaty Of 1923: A Historic Milestone



BY: BHARAT RAJ PAUDYAL

Nepal and the United Kingdom treasure over two hundred years of bilateral relations. As the first European power to come into contact, Nepal-UK relations constitute very important part of our external engagements in the 18th, 19th and 20th century and the treaty of 1923 stands as a historic milestone in the evolution and consolidation of those relations.

For a Nepali, it is a fact of history that we were never reduced to a colony and remained independent even during the climax of British Empire in the South Asian sub-continent. The Friendship Treaty of 1923 unequivocally reiterates that very fact in the form of a formal bilateral legal instrument.

The historic facts such as the Treaty of Sugauli, treaties of 1792 and 1801, the Extradition Treaty of 1855 and its two subsequent memoranda, Jung Bahadur's refusal to surrender the refugees taking political asylum in Nepal, Nepal's engagement with China and Tibet in 1792 and 1856 and continuation of diplomatic representation with them, and the fact that Nepal raised and maintained its independent army ever since its existence and no external power ever exercised extraterritorial rights over Nepal amply establish Nepal's uninterrupted independent status.

However, in the height of colonial expansion in the South Asia, the Rana rulers of Nepal chose the policy of self-isolation, tightly insulating internal political and social system from external influence.

It was during this prolonged period of self-isolation, particularly after the death of Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana, perhaps the de facto practice of our rulers gave sometimes the room for ambiguity as regard to Nepal's status in terms of her external engagements. This was a matter of concern to successive Rana Prime Ministers after Jung Bahadur.

The background of Nepal's critical assistance to control the mutiny in 1856, exceptional services rendered during the Younghusband's Mission to Tibet, the First World War and the third Afghan War of 1919 and the British decision to conclude Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1921 provided sufficiently right atmosphere for Prime Minister Chandra Shamsher to firmly assert for a similar treaty in favor of Nepal.

The two sides engaged in extensive internal consultation and preparation before the negotiation on the text started.

With prolonged back and forth, the negotiation of the Treaty took a considerable amount of time. Viceroy Reading gives the reason for delay "due to the necessity of subjecting all aspects of the question to that careful scrutiny which a matter so momentous deserves."

Chandra Shumshere was regarded as a close ally of the British Government. Throughout the negotiation process, he appears to have been concerned that the content of the Treaty should not be embarrassing to Nepal when it is brought to the public.

In his letter of 14 September 1923 addressed to the Governor General, he stated that "success or otherwise of the document in public estimation will form a criterion of the success or otherwise of his policy" and "when the document is made public, Nepal may not have to hang down her head." Therefore, in the process, references to the sensitive issues were either carefully crafted or avoided altogether.

At the end, the final text of the seven-article treaty was agreed upon a designed on 21 December 1923 in Singh Durbar under the authority of His Majesty's Government in London, with the full power credentials duly addressed to King Tribhuvan and vice versa.

On Nepal's request, the Treaty was ratified by King Emperor George V himself not by the Viceroy in India. The ratified copies were exchanged on April 8, 1924.

It was registered with the League of Nations on 3 August 1925 in line with the practice of "new diplomacy" that came into being after WWI implying that all treaties and engagements between States are conducted in open and transparent manner.

Through the Treaty, the Governments of Nepal and Great Britain mutually acknowledge and respect each other's internal and external independence and confirm all previous treaties and engagements, including the Treaty of Sugauli.

It recognizes the right of Nepal to import arms, ammunition, and machinery to meet its requirements.

The treaty also recognizes for the first time what we call today the transit right for the goods imported by

Nepal and provides for exemption of customs duty in the British Indian ports.

In the words of Prime Minister Chandra Shumshere, “the Treaty marked a new era in the traditional friendship between Nepal and the Great Britain” and in the words of Viceroy Reading it “inaugurated another prolonged period of concord and friendship”.

The treaty opened Nepal’s external engagements considerably. Representatives of France and Italy visited Nepal in subsequent years. Nepal was invited to attend international conferences under the auspices of the League of Nations and others, which Prime Minister Chandra Shumshere chose not to attend.

Nepal opened its first Embassy in London in 1934 with an enhanced level of representation, and the British Government reciprocated by appointing “Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary” at its legation in Kathmandu.

For a practitioner of diplomacy and foreign policy, the Treaty provides important lessons on many facets of our foreign engagement and diplomacy:

First and foremost, looking from the hindsight, the Treaty epitomizes the resilience and persistence of Nepali diplomacy in the height of colonialism in South Asia and provides a case study of friendly relations between two States of different size and power.

Second, going through the papers of negotiation and records of both encouraging and frustrating exchanges within and between the two sides, this treaty provides a case of reasonably successful negotiation to materialize the aspiration of securing de jure recognition of independence from the sole superpower of the time. There were many other bigger, more resourceful and perhaps more powerful states in the region that were vying for securing such recognition but could not succeed.

Third, the Treaty firmly established the historic fact that Nepal was different from princely states of the sub-continent in terms of its sovereignty and was capable of fully establishing that fact. This has been eloquently clarified by the British officials in response to the complaint lodged to them in 1924 by the Maharaja of Gwalior as why his state was not accorded the similar treatment to that of Nepal.

Fourth, this was a Treaty with the sole superpower of the time by completing extensive negotiation process

that provided a great deal of confidence to Nepal. It was a different time, when most countries of Asia and Africa were under colonial rule. The wave of independence in fact came only after the end of WW II. It was before the establishment of the United Nations and elaboration of its Charter principles. The League of Nations had just been established but lacked universal membership and the practice of “new diplomacy” was not as widespread.

Fifth, the Treaty introduced Nepal a modern practice of diplomacy and inter-state relations, brought Nepal into the comity of nations and facilitated expansion of its independent outlook to larger international arena. Significantly, the Treaty was a solid international instrument that Nepal concluded as a sovereign and independent country.



The mutual assertion of “internal and external independence” spelled out in Article I of the Treaty later served as an important window in Nepal’s pursuit of membership of the United Nations.

And finally, over the past hundred years, the treaty has served the interest of our two countries well and we have successfully lived up with the aspiration of “further strengthening and cementing of the good relations and friendship” as spelled out in the preamble of the Treaty.

Our friendship has remained solid, uninterrupted and has now been expanded to multiple areas of cooperation.

Before I conclude, let me underline that the substance and contours of Nepal-UK relations have significantly expanded and evolved over the past one hundred years encompassing political dialogues, economic partnerships, trade and investment, tourism, exploration, mountaineering, diaspora, British Gurkhas, and other dimensions of people-to-people linkages as well as working together in multilateral forums on several agendas of mutual interest. The Gorkha connection continues to be a unique link between our two countries.

It is now the time that we look for defining the relationship for the next hundred years by duly appreciating the past and providing a new direction of relations that is modern, forward-looking, founded on accepted norms of international relations, builds on our strengths, provides hope and scope for future generations to engage, nurture, and expand everlasting friendship and benefit from all aspects of it.

Bharat Raj Paudyal is a former Foreign Secretary of Government of Nepal. Excerpts of his opinion delivered at 1923 Nepal-UK Treaty Conference organized by Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Lalitpur last week.

PM PRACHANDA | One year on

Despite leading a shaky coalition, Maoist Center leader and Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda boasted of a successful year. He formed a short-lived coalition with the CPN-UML, the RPP, and the Swatantra Party before switching to the Nepali Congress. With Nepal's two largest political parties, Nepali Congress and CPN-UML, bitterly divided, Prachanda's future looks uncertain. How he will make strategic decisions in his second term remains to be seen.

By A CORRESPONDENT

Two massive anti-government demonstrations took place in Kathmandu just a month ago. One was led by Durga Prasai, a non-political actor, and the other by the Melamchi Water Concern Group, a non-political consumer group in the Kathmandu Valley.

Prasai's agitation was political. The second agitation, however, was purely consumer-driven, seeking the continuation of Melamchi's drinking water supply, a project funded by the Asian Development Bank and completed three years ago during the tenure of Prachanda's rival KP Sharma Oli.

Although the project's headworks were damaged by floods two years ago and the temporary diversion headworks buried last June, the water supply should have resumed by the end of October with a little maintenance work.

However, apathy on the part of the ministry responsible has delayed the cleanup. With the massive demonstration of the consumers and the inspection

visit of the Minister of Water Supply and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the project has awarded the contract to clean the headworks for the resumption of the water supply.

Had there been a technical expert like the then secretary Madhav Belbase, who is now a member of the Public Service Commission, the water supply would have started a long time ago. Due to the inefficiency and apathy of the minister and the project, the rehabilitation work did not start for long.

As the Prime Minister, Prachanda has to take the responsibility. Given this scenario, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda has to take some drastic step to make the delivery system effective.

Addressing the nation on the completion of one year in office on Tuesday, the Prime Minister said, "Today, in this declaration, I admit to the people of the nation that the government has not failed but the results have not met my aspirations."

"I publicly declare that the

working style of the government will now undergo a change," Prime Minister Prachanda said.

He also said that except for certain predetermined and unavoidable events, he would not be involved in external.

"I am restructuring the Prime Minister's Office this week, this will serve as a signal and a message for the entire state," he stated.

Prime Minister Prachanda has claimed that the 2080s will mark a decade of rapid development.

Prime Minister Prachanda noted that the development initiatives would be implemented in a manner that the citizens can realise their impact. He further mentioned, "This year, a total of 776.61 kilometres of blacktopped roads and 587.5 kilometres of graveled roads have been successfully constructed."

During this period, 181.29 km of new track has been opened, he said, adding, "An additional 162,000 safe houses have been constructed and provided to the beneficiaries."



While this figure indicates progress compared to previous years, I am not satisfied with the outcomes, he added. He informed that he was discussing policy and practice to ensure a minimum of two shifts in infrastructure development, aiming to align it as closely as possible to the ‘barracks model’.

He said that necessary initiatives would be taken to increase production by augmenting exports.

This year, there’s a 2.7 percentage point decrease in the consumer price growth rate compared to last year, he said, adding enhancing government policy and administrative capability is now his priority to further lower the inflation rate and make people realise the change. He also announced to expand the scope of health insurance.

Stating that the government was committed to ensuring effective implementation of Health Insurance Act, he pledged to enhance current insurance coverage and integrate all free programmes, excluding the fundamental ones, into a unified health insurance framework.

He further said that significant success was achieved in fostering trust

in democracy by dismantling the VIP culture. Stating that previously a ‘VIP culture’ prevailed where high-profile individuals seemed untouchable by the law, he said, following the government’s extensive investigation and action, even top-ranking officials, once deemed beyond law’s reach, are now being held accountable.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister announced that political appointments in universities would come to an end and a merit-based approach would be adopted.

“Top-level meetings will now convene with the aim of enhancing universities, shaping a unified national perspective on foreign policy, fostering job creation, and enhancing the nation’s image for investment, rather than solely focusing on power distribution,” he added.

Qualified Nepalis residing anywhere in the world can aspire to become the Vice-Chancellor by presenting a transparent and convincing plan for university reform, he added.

“Meritocracy will now start and Tribhuvan University will be the point of departure,” he added.

Prime Minister Prachanda has

said that he is determined to complete the rest of the peace process with consensus.

Terming Nepal’s peace process ‘unique and exemplary’ for the world, he stated that it has gained recognition at the international stage. “However, some tasks of the process remain to be completed. Now, I am determined to complete the rest of the peace process with consensus,” he said in his address to the nation on Tuesday.

PM Prachanda said that during his foreign visits as the Prime Minister, he clearly stated the priorities, interests and issues of mutual cooperation of Nepal with the concerned countries.

“A strong and balanced relationship has been maintained with India and China. The cooperation and support of these neighbouring countries has increased in Nepal’s development efforts. At the World Food Conference held in Rome, Italy, Nepal’s presentation on food security and solving the problems of underdeveloped countries has drawn the world’s attention,” he said.

Likewise, the content presented by Nepal in the General Assembly of the United Nations and its other meet-

COVERSTORY

ings has received international attention. According to him, the United Nations Secretary General's visit to Nepal at his invitation and Nepal's presentation at the Climate Change Conference held in Dubai last month, 'COP-28', were effective.

Similarly, Tatopani-Khasa, Rasuwa-Kerung, Hilsa-Purang and Korala border point of Mustang, which have been closed for a long time, have been opened for bilateral trade. "I raised the issue of tri-national connectivity for the second time when I was the Prime Minister and announced to build the road corridor to connect China and India. Now the work of the Mahakali Corridor is moving at a fast pace. The budget has been assured for the

Dipayal-Khutia road connecting Taklakot in Tibet," said PM Prachanda.

Meanwhile, he also expressed his commitment to prove wrong the statement that the water of Melamchi will not come to Kathmandu, and said that he is working with a compact plan of 28 days with the target of delivering 170 million litres of water a day to the water treatment plants at Sundarjial within a month.

PM Prachanda also said that the minimum wage of workers in the country has been increased to Rs. 17,350. More than 950,000 people who have gone for foreign employment or are self-employed abroad, are in the informal sector or are self-employed within the country have been included in the contribution-based social security scheme.

Similarly, PM Prachanda said that the government's diligence in search and rescue operations in the aftermath of the Jajarkot earthquake has increased the

trust of the people towards the state. The government has decided to provide Rs. 50,000 per family for the construction of temporary housing for the families whose houses have been damaged in the earthquake and are not fit for habitation.



Rs. 2.26 billion has been disbursed for the same. The temporary reconstruction work will be completed within a month, said the Prime Minister.



"Development cannot be accelerated without democracy being strong, and its benefits cannot be equally distributed among the people. Now some people have resorted to false and misleading propaganda to create resentment towards the system," said PM Pra-

chanda while adding that their comment that the unitary rule was better than the republication system now is completely wrong.

"I am firm in favour of strengthening the provinces. Lately, I have heard and understood the dissatisfaction of the chief ministers. I assure them through this speech today that all knots of federalism are being untied very fast," he said. "It was me who convened the first meeting of the National Coordination Council."

Today, I want to bear witness to the people and also tell the ministers that we cannot afford to fail. I am in no condition and mood to forgive anyone for poor performance, stated PM Prachanda. "If I cannot create positive change and hope in the country, there is no need for me to hold the position," he said.

He also said that he would continue to strive for dialogue and understanding with the main opposition and other political parties for the implementation of the important issues related to the execution of the constitution, and for cooperation on other issues of national importance to complete the remaining work of the peace process.

Similarly, Prime Minister 'Prachanda' has said that the government is now focusing attention on game-changing large hydro-power projects.

He said that India, Bangladesh and China are ready to become partners in our electricity trade, so the government has embarked on mega hydropower projects as a game changer.

He said that the infrastructure tax levied on petroleum products for the Budhigandaki hydropower project will

be made available to the same project and there will be no dearth of resources.

The Prime Minister said that further study of the Karnali Chisapani hydropower project with a capacity of 10,800 megawatts has been started by the Nepal Electricity Authority with a goal of completing it within three years.

Likewise, study of the Mugu Karnali hydropower project of 1,902 MW capacity has been completed, Prime Minister Prachanda said, adding that he is also directly facilitating the 900 MW capacity Arun III hydropower project and the work of raising investment for the 1,063 MW Upper Arun hydropower project has reached its final stage.

Stating that about 564 megawatts of electricity will be added from additional projects undergoing testing commissioning within next two to three months, he said that power purchase agreements for 9,164 megawatts of hydropower projects have been completed with the private sector.

Out of this, power purchase agreements for about 2,200 megawatts have been completed this year alone, he said. Similarly, Prime Minister Prachanda said that the government is planning to implement the subsidy system based on production of power.

Prachanda said, “State investment in agriculture has not decreased but productivity has not increased. Agricultural loans at subsidised rates will be extended to real farmers.”

He said that the subsidies provided in the agricultural sector will be integrated within this fiscal year and

distribution of subsidies and fertilisers will be started from the next year based on the list of farmers.

“Production based subsidy system is being implemented for major food grains and vegetables. The remaining dues of milk farmers are being paid by mid-April 2024.

However, we are not in a situation where the agricultural sector will take a leap with these reforms alone,” he said.

Stating that about 400,000 tonnes of chemical fertilisers have been ensured on time, he said that irrigation facilities have been provided in 21,169 hectares of land in a year through surface and underground irrigation projects.

“Agriculture is no longer possible to conduct in a traditional way. For the transformation of the food system and the agricultural sector, the government is ready to move forward by announcing the Decade of Investment in the Agricultural Sector (2081-2091) to increase investment of the government, private sector, development partners and cooperative sector,” said the Prime Minister.

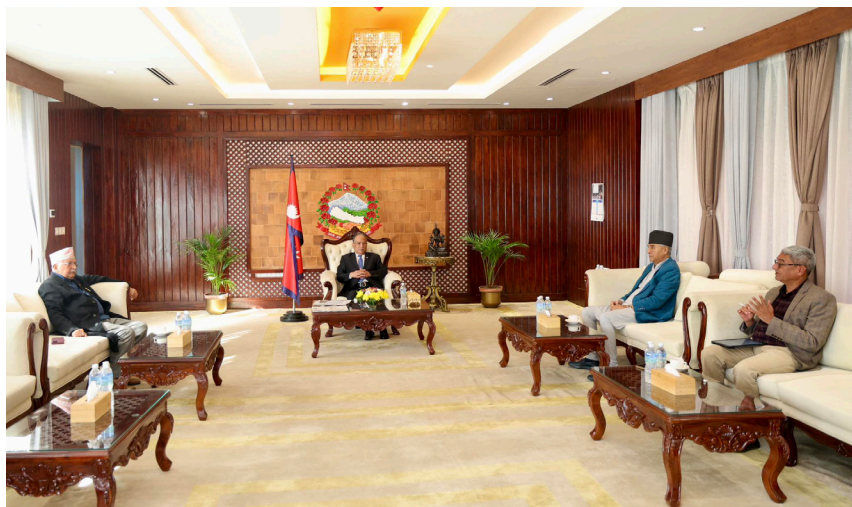


Prime Minister Prachanda claimed that tourist numbers reached a record high this fiscal year.

The Prime Minister said that while it may sound unbelievable now, he felt that the number of tourists coming to Nepal could double next year. “The Great Lumbini Project, which incorporates an area of eight square kilometres around Lumbini, is moving ahead. The Ramgram and Kapilvastu master plans are under implementation. The government has devised different strategies for tourists from different regions,” he said in his speech.

Regarding the operation of the Gautam Buddha and Pokhara international airports, he said that the government would provide subsidies on service charges related to fuel, terminal and ground handling, among others, to incentivise international carriers to fly here. For Gautam Buddha International Airport, he informed that steps were being taken to have small planes operate low-altitude flights from neighbouring countries.

Prachanda also stressed the need to ensure the construction of an international airport at Nijgadh in Bara district. Prime Minister Prachanda faces various challenges in the second half of his term. He will be under pressure from matters like Melamchi and Prasai, and he also faces a challenge from improving connections between the heads of two major groups.



A Cry From The Himalayas: Echoes Of Hope And Compromise At COP-28



BY: ARUP RAJOURIA

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP-28) highlighted the urgent need for action in response to the rapid melting of the Himalayan glaciers, which threatens the very existence of mountain and lowland communities, water security, and food for billions. The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, and Nepal's Prime Minister, Puspha Kamal Dahal, played a crucial role in amplifying the cry for help from the melting glaciers and raising awareness about the interconnectedness of mountain and lowland communities with the global fight against human-induced climate change.

The conference endorsed a move away from fossil fuels and increased attention to methane emissions acknowledging the need for policies and regulations to slow the powerful greenhouse gas's impact. However, the conference also highlighted the challenges that remain, such as bridging the financial gap for vulnerable regions and ensuring commitments translate into real-world actions.

After attending many COPs, or Conference of Parties, I have learned over the years that COPs are not about absolute victory or crushing defeat, but rather intricate negotiations where progress can be made, hope can flicker, and the future can inch closer

to sustainability. Negotiations at COPs are complex and require compromise. While progress can be made, it is important to remember that COPs are not pronouncements of absolute victory or loss or a success or a failure.

Though COPs offer a platform for compromise, the global community hungers for action and will no longer be satisfied with mere statements. The time for action is now, and the melting glaciers demand a laser focused

response. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a dedicated inter-governmental organization solely focused on studying glaciers and their downstream impacts. Such an organization would complement and bolster the efforts of existing organizations like the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICI-

MOD), Mekong River Commission (MRC) and similar other organizations. The need for a world-class action-oriented consortium of nations, equipped with cutting-edge research capabilities, robust data collection systems, and the mandate to translate knowledge into actionable transboundary policies and programs, is crucial for addressing global challenges such as climate change, transboundary water management, and





international security. This consortium would partner with international, regional and national stakeholders, sharing expertise, and empowering them to become stewards of their own glacial heritage.

The Himalayan glaciers sustain not only the ecosystems but also the rich and diverse cultures of eleven countries, with over 2 billion people, that are dependent on rivers originating from these glaciers – almost one-third of humanity– rely on them. From Afghanistan to Vietnam, from the Yangtze in China to the Ganges in India, these glacier-fed rivers serve as the lifeblood of mountain and lowland communities, providing them with water, fertile lands for agriculture, and sources of livelihood. They are also deeply interwoven with religious and cultural practices, serving as sacred sites and symbols of resilience and strength. The melting of these glaciers poses a grave threat not only to the physical environment but also to the ecosystems, biodiversity, cultural fabric and heritage of these nations/states and has the potential to lead to conflicts over water resources.

Preserving these glaciers becomes not only an environmental imperative but also a mission to safeguard the essence of these 11 nations and the communities that have been calling them home for millennia.

Additionally, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and various scientific studies have also highlighted the impacts of the melting of the Himalayan glaciers on water resources, ecosystems and communities in the region.

The private sector, fossil

fuel industries, civil societies, technological advancements, and unwavering political will are essential partners in this critical endeavor. Collaboration between NGOs, businesses, and academics can unlock diverse perspectives and drive innovation in climate solutions, providing crucial support for the lead actors. Investing in clean technologies and fostering knowledge sharing are vital for accelerating the transition to a low carbon future, ensuring that the music does not fade out. Addressing human-induced climate change necessitates a steadfast commitment from both industrialized and developing nations.

Without the collective effort, the fight against climate change may lose its direction and effectiveness.

Let COP-28 be a springboard of action, not just a stage for promises. Let us amplify the tears of the melting glaciers and the cry of the mountain and lowland communities, translating it into a united voice demanding a dedicated intergovernmental organization. Together, we can transform the echoes of despair into a symbol of optimism and hope, securing a future for the majestic Himalayas and those who depend on.

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



Nepal Launched Decent Work Country Program

A milestone towards social justice: Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) for Nepal has been launched

By A CORRESPONDNET

Reflecting the shared ambition of ILO, government, workers, and employers of Nepal, the Programme aims to improve access to decent work and better opportunities for more people in Nepal.

The International Labour Organization (ILO), the Government of Nepal, the employers' and the workers' organizations jointly launched the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) for Nepal, 2023-2027, amidst a special event graced by Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and the UN Resident Coordinator for Nepal Ms. Hanaa Singer-Hamdy.

The DWCP for Nepal, built on the pillars of Jobs, Rights, and Partners, outlines a comprehensive plan for the next five years. It is a collaborative effort reflecting the dedication of ILO and its constituents to realize decent work for all in Nepal. The programme envisions creating employment opportunities, fostering sustainable enterprises, and enhancing social security. It places a strong emphasis on International Labour Standards, focusing on fundamental principles and rights at work, and commits to strengthening government, employers', and workers' organizations to facilitate effective social dialogue.

ILO Country Director, Numan Özcan In his address, the ILO Country Director, Numan Özcan, emphasized that the DWCP is not just a plan; it's a reflection of the shared ambition of ILO, and government, workers, and employers. He added "the DWCP is a compass guiding us to create opportunities for productive work, ensuring fair income, workplace security, and social protection. Let's work together to make Decent Work a reality for every person in this beautiful country". He also reiterated ILO's invitation to the government, employers, and trade unions to join the Global Coalition for Social Justice, an initiative aimed at addressing social justice deficits worldwide.

UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Hanaa Singer-Hamdy The Guest of Honour of the event, the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Hanaa Singer-Hamdy highlighted that if Nepal is to achieve the SDG targets and have a smooth and sustainable graduation from LDC, we need to work together to effectively create more and better jobs in Nepal. She added that she is very optimistic that the implementation of DWCP will focus on the opportunities for jobs, social security, equal opportunity for all gender and races. She also emphasized on putting a resilient policy to be benefited from the imminent graduation of Nepal from the least developed countries.

Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secre-

challenges ahead of us. He added "the new DWCP at this critical point represents both our vision for overcoming existing challenges, and our hope for a better future".

Binod Shrestha, President, Joint Trade Union Coordination Centre. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Binod Shrestha, President of the Joint Trade Union Coordination Centre (JTUCC), stated that the implementation of labour-related laws, regulations, international labour standards, proved to be inadequate, resulting in workers being deprived of their fundamental labour rights. He added "despite the establishment of a contribution-based social security system, a significant number of employers, including contractual employees within government institutions, have yet to implement it. It is imperative that we take on the responsibility of bringing all workers into the social security system during the upcoming DWCP period".

The launch highlighted the vision of creating a labour market with decent jobs, ensuring workplace safety, fair income, social protection, and promoting a work culture that respects

the rights and dignity of every individual. Further, it underscored the responsibility of every organization, institution, and individual in the labour market to contribute to the creation of decent jobs.

The signed Memorandum of Understanding.

During the event, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the implementation of the DWCP was signed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, President of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) Mr. Chandra Prasad Dhakal, President of the Joint Trade Union Coordination Centre (JTUCC) Mr. Binod Shrestha, and the ILO Country Director for Nepal Mr. Numan Özcan, which marked the official launch of the DWCP.



tary, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security In his remarks, Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, while emphasizing the importance of DWCP for Nepal, he called for a strong commitment from all the partners and stakeholders for the effective and successful implementation of the DWCP. He added "to achieve the 2030 Agenda of SDGs, it is imperative that DWCP must be implemented effectively".

Chandra Prasad Dhakal, President, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Chandra Prasad Dhakal, President of the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), said that Nepal is currently facing economic turbulence and that we have the possibility of graduation from a least developed country and all its possible

INARUWA SUBSTATION

Era of High Voltage

Nepal has added a new, highly significant transmission project to its power sector with the formal inauguration of the 400 kV Inaruwa Substation, Nepal's second largest substation. Although the construction of the 400 kV line from Inaruwa to Hetauda has faced several obstacles and is not yet complete, the operation of this substation is important to maintain power supply in the eastern part of the region. Once the 400 kV, which has recently made progress in construction, is completed, this substation will be a game changer. As NEA Managing Director Kul Man Ghising has publicly stated that his second term will be to strengthen and expand transmission and distribution, the inauguration of the Inaruwa Substation by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda is of great significance.

By A CORRESPONDENT

Inaruwa Substation was inaugurated by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. Inaruwa Substation is considered as one of the important projects to strengthen the power transmission and distribution system.

Prime Minister Prachanda inaugurated the 400 kV capacity Inaruwa Substation built in Bhokraha Narsingh Rural Municipality - 4 of Sunsari to strengthen the power transmission and distribution system in the country.

With the inauguration of Inaruwa 400 kV substation and the recent inauguration of 200 kV transmission line, Nepal is entering a new era of power transmission and generation. Dependent on 132 kV transmission line for power transmission for decades, Nepal's power sector remains unreliable and inadequate,

But now things have started to change. As the generation capacity of Nepal has reached close to 2700 MW, Nepal cannot depend on 132 kV and expansion of higher voltage transmission line is imperative.



After the completion of the country's second largest substation based on Gas Insulated System (GIS) in the second week of October, the power starved eastern region and industrial corridor has got great relief.

Inaruwa Substation, which cost 4 billion, is Nepal's second largest 400 kV capacities based on Gas Insulated System (GIS), will

now change the country's capacity of export and import as well.

Two substations of 4000 and 220 kV have been constructed in Inaruwa. Under the National Electricity Development Decade Program, a 400 KV substation has been constructed from Hetaunda, Dhalkebar Inruva 400 KV Substation Expansion Project with the joint investment of Nepal Govern-

ENERGY

ment and Nepal Electricity Authority.

A substation of 220/132/33 KV was constructed under the Nepal-India Electricity Transmission and Trade Project with the investment of the Government and the Authority and the concessional full loan from the World Bank. The cost of 400 and 200 kV substations is about three billion 83 million rupees.

The 400/220 kV Inruwa Substation was constructed as part of the Hetaunda-Dhalkebar-Inruwa 400 kV Substation Expansion Project. It has three power transformers with a capacity of 315 MVA. Its capacity is 945 MVA. Similarly, there are two power transformers of 220/132 kV, 160 MVA capacity and 220/33 KV, 63 MVA capacity.

After the construction of Inaruwa-Dhalkebar 400 kV transmission line is completed, about 4000 megawatts of electricity can be exchanged from Inruwa substation. The Inaruwa-Dhalkebar transmission line is currently under construction.

In addition, arrangements have been made for local power supply from substations through 132 and 33 kV transmission and distribution lines. The substation has been constructed in such a way that it can be further expanded as required in the future.

The power generated from the hydropower projects constructed/to be constructed on the Arun and Tamor rivers and their tributaries will be transmitted to the Inruwa substation through the Koshi

Corridor 220 kV transmission line.

The construction of the Inruwa-Basantapur-Tumlingtar section of the Koshi Corridor has been completed while the Basantapur-Dhungesanghu section is under construction. Similarly, the Tumlingtar-Shetalpati 220 kV transmission line project is under construction. Construction of Arun Hub-Inruwa 400 KV transmission line has been proposed.

In 2075, a contract was signed with the Indian company Siemens Limited for the construction of Inruwa 400 kV substation. In 2075, a contract was signed with a consortium of Indian companies Siemens and Telmos for the con-



struction of a 220 kV substation. In addition, in November 2077, a contract for the supply and installation of 220/132 kV transformers was signed with the Indian company TBEA Energy.

The design and construction supervision of the 400 kV substations was carried out by NEA Engineering Company. The consultants for the 220 kV substations were Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and NEA Engineering Company.

PM Prachanda

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Prime Minister Prachanda said that the inauguration of the substation, which is capable of supplying about 4,000 megawatts of electricity, has set the stage for improving the quality and reliability of power transmission and distribution in the region and has added a new chapter to the success story of the government's Bright and Prosperous Nepal Program.

He said that the completion of the construction of such large scale infrastructure has given a message of hope when there is only cultivation and talk of despair because there is nothing in the country.

Prime Minister Prachanda expressed his belief that in addition to supplying power to the national transmission system through the substation, the voltage of the region will be improved and the power supply will be reliable and of good quality.

Prime Minister 'Prachanda' said that all preparations have been made to declare the country fully electrified within the next one to one and a half years.

"Nepal's energy sector is taking a step forward with the leadership of the Government of Nepal, the plan of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), and the support and cooperation of the people of Nepal. Encouraging work is being done with the plan of power generation, transmission and distribution not only to light up the houses

and settlements but also to achieve prosperity and make the country itself bright,” he said.

According to the Prime Minister, the government under his leadership has freed the people from the terrible time of darkness due to load shedding in the past and has continued the journey towards a bright Nepal.

He added that a few days ago, the government received from the Council of Ministers the Action Plan for Increasing Electricity Consumption in order to consume the electricity produced in the country in the country itself. According to him, this action plan has provided broader guidelines for increasing electricity consumption.

“It is a matter of happiness that more than 15 billion rupees will be earned and deposited in the national exchequer by exporting the surplus power to India after consuming it in the country. A country like ours with immense potential for hydropower development would benefit greatly as the participating nations are ready to put into practice the zero carbon emission policy by promoting renewable energy. We should pay special attention to this,” he stressed.

The Prime Minister said he was pleased to inaugurate the Inaruwa Automatic Substation - the second largest substation in the country - equipped with GIS technology for power trading with India and Bangladesh and for providing reliable and quality power by consolidating the power transmission and distribution system.

Prime Minister Prachanda

mentioned that the Inaruwa Substation would act as the backbone for sub-regional and regional power trade, not only to feed the power generated from the Arun and Tamor rivers and their tributaries into the national transmission grid and the East-West power line, but also to enhance bilateral power trade



between Nepal and India.

Prime Minister Prachanda expressed his belief that the voltage problems faced by the people of the area would be improved, thereby ensuring reliable power supply. He further said, “Around 98 percent of the population has access to electricity. All preparations have been made to announce the complete electrification of the country within the next one to one and a half years. This golden day is coming soon.”

Clarifying that high-capacity transmission lines are now being constructed to connect East-West and North-South, he said that the expansion and strengthening of the power distribution system has been launched as a nationwide campaign for reliable, adequate and safe power supply and billions of rupees have been invested in this regard.

During his visit to China, an agreement was reached for the construction of the Chilime-Kerung transmission line and a tripartite agreement was reached among Nepal, India and Bangladesh to export Nepal’s green clean energy to Bangladesh, he opined.

He claimed that Nepal effectively and objectively drew the attention of the international community to the agenda raised by Nepal in the recently held 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28).

“Our country, which has immense hydropower potential, would greatly benefit as the participating countries in the COP28 were ready to practically implement the zero carbon emission policy by promoting the use of renewable energy,” the Prime Minister said.

He promised an early decision on issues related to the construction of transmission lines, including the use of forest land, tree felling and land acquisition.

Mega projects in the offing Prime Minister Prachanda informed that the construction process of various mega projects in Koshi Province was about to begin. According to him, preparations were underway to implement the 1,061 megawatt Upper Arun Hydropower Project and the 635 megawatt Dudhkoshi Reservoir-based Hydropower Project af-

ENERGY

ter raising investments.

These projects would be implemented under the guidance of international financial institutions such as the World Bank and Asian Development among others to ensure public investment.

Prime Minister Prachanda informed that the government has decided to allow NEA to prepare a detailed project report and investment proposal for the 10,800 megawatt Karnali.

In addition, the 1,200-megawatt Budhi Gandaki Reservoir-based hydropower project has been advanced by arranging funds, the prime minister said, expressing hope that Nepal will continue on its path of prosperity. (RSS)

Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Shakti Bahadur Basnet has said that the country has moved forward on the path of prosperity through the energy sector.

Speaking at a program organized to inaugurate the 400kV Inaruwa Substation in Sunsari, Minister Basnet mentioned that the generation of more than 500MW of electricity in one year has proved that the country is moving towards progress.

Mentioning that there is a reliable base to produce around 30,000 MW of electricity within the next 10 years, he was of the view that additional legal arrangements are being made to address the issues of right of way in the

construction of transmission lines and the demands of the locals.

Gopal Sigdel, secretary at the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, said the substation would be a milestone in the country's power consumption and export.

Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, said that in the past 78 years of hydropower development in Nepal, only 150 megawatts of electricity had been produced, but the current addition of 500 megawatts of electricity in one year confirms the country's



progress.

Mentioning that there is a reliable base that can produce about 30,000 megawatts of electricity within the next ten years, Minister Basnet said that additional legal arrangements are being made to address the right-of-way issues and the demands of the locals in the construction of transmission lines.

MD Ghising

Kulman Ghising, Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority, said: "The Inaruwa Substation is a backbone for transmission of electricity generated

by hydropower projects in various districts of Koshi Province for local consumption and export to India.

He informed that in addition to the flow of electricity in the national transmission system through the substation, local supply will also be done. He also informed that Inruva-Purnia 400 kV international transmission line and Inruva-Anarmani 400 kV transmission line for trade between Nepal, India and Bangladesh have been proposed from this substation.

The next substation of 220/132/33 kV has already been commissioned at Inaruwa. There are three power transformers of 315 MVA in 400/220 kV Inaruwa Substation constructed under the 400 kV Hetauda-Dhalkebar-Inaruwa Substation Expansion Project. Approximately

4,000 MW of electricity would be transmitted from the Inaruwa substation upon completion of the 400 kV Inaruwa-Dhalkebar transmission line.

NEA Managing Director Ghising said that the Inaruwa Substation is the backbone for transmission of power generated from hydropower projects in various districts of Koshi Province for local consumption and export of surplus power to India.

MD Ghising said, "The power will be supplied locally in addition to the power flowing from the substation to the national grid.

This will improve the voltage in the area and ensure reliable power supply". Ghising further said that the Inaruwa-Purnia 400 kV cross-country transmission line has been proposed for power trade with India and the Inaruwa-Anarmani 400 kV transmission line has been proposed for trade between India and Bangladesh from this sub-station.

According to him, Inaruwa substation has become another huge power center to supply power from east to west within the country and export to India besides regional power trade.

In addition, the substation would provide significant additional power to industries within the Morang-Sunsari Industrial Corridor. The power generated from the Arun and Tamor rivers and their tributaries would be transmitted to the Inaruwa sub-station through the Koshi Corridor 220 KV transmission line.

It may be noted that there was

a proposal to construct the Arun 'Hub' Inaruwa 400 kV transmission line. The authority stated that the Inaruwa substation has been constructed in such a way that it can be expanded in the future.

Various factors such as flooding, COVID-19 pandemic, prohibition orders, and lack of timely availability of tools and technicians, among others, had adversely affected the substation construction process.

Hetauda-Inaruwa 400kV

transmission line under construction

With the completion of the Inaruwa substation, NEA is now focusing on completing the stalled work on the Hetauda-Dhalkebar-Inaruwa 400 kV transmission line project. The project, which has been stalled for seven years in Lalbandi Municipality-12, Jiyajor of Sarlahi, has been progressing.

Work in the Jiyajor area had been stalled for seven years due to obstruction by the local people over the land compensation dispute. The foundations of eight towers remain to be dug at this site, while the foundations of three towers have already been laid.

After many discussions with the locals, the dispute over

moved forward. Under the Dhalkebar-Hetauda section of this transmission line, the work was stopped at Jiyajor in Sarlahi and Hatiya in Makwanpur due to obstruction by local people.

Among them, the work in Jiyajor area has progressed. The Nepal Electricity Authority has planned to complete the entire transmission line work within the next three months.

After the Nepal Electricity Authority started the work by deploying police, the locals went to the District Administration Office, Sarlahi, on Thursday and again demanded proper compensation.

Durga Bahadur Ale Magar, Ward Chairman of Lalbandi Ward-

12, who reached the District Administration Office with the locals, said that attention has been drawn to address the demands of the residents.

The Ward Chairman said that they have demanded compensation for the acquisition of the land where the tower will be erected, along with compensation for

the land occupied by the wires and also for the crops that will be damaged.

There has been no disturbance from the locals in the Jiyajor area for the past three days and the construction work is going on smoothly. The Chief District Officer of Sarlahi, Komal Prasad Dhamala, said that the work has progressed after explaining the benefits of the transmission line to the locals.



the compensation has not been resolved, and now security personnel have been deployed for the construction of the towers. Since last Wednesday, under the security of the Nepal Police and the Armed Police, the construction of the foundation of the tower is in full swing.

Shyam Kumar Yadav, chief of the Hetauda-Dhalkebar-Inaruwa 400 kV transmission line project, said the work, which was stopped at the Jiyajor section, has

Decoding The Mountain Call Into Action At Home



BY: BATU UPRETY

Nepal organised the high-level roundtable discussion on “Call of the Mountains: Who saves us from the Climate Crisis?” on 02 December 2023 during the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP28), 18th session of the CoP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP18), and 5th session of the CoP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA5) held at Dubai, UAE from 30 November to 12 December 2023. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Puspa Kamal Dahal reiterated in different events at Dubai, inter alia, the record level climate-induced disasters, informed ‘69 percent of deaths caused by climate-induced disasters in LDCs in the last five decades’, and urged for ending ‘climate injustice to Nepal’, ‘protecting the mountains and people’, stopping the ‘war against nature and humanity’, saving ‘mountains tortured by rising temperature’, and making ‘double the adaptation finance by 2025’ and so on. The Prime Minister also urged to initiating a dialogue on mountain and climate change. The UN Secretary-General has reiterated his on-the-site experience about the adverse impacts of climate change on snow-melting and glaciers’ retreat at the Climate Summit and high-level round-table discussion at Dubai.

Recalling the news coverage and CMA5 decisions on global stocktake and adaptation, this call has been heard by the climate change negotiators. As water is one of the severely affected resources from climate change and climate-induced disasters in water sector are pronounced in the land-linked mountainous Nepal, decisions related to the mountain and water resources deserves special attention for the Nepali people.

Article 14 of the Paris Agreement provisions for periodically taking stock of its implementation to assess the collective progress to achieve the objectives of the Agreement. It also provisions to assess the means of implementation and support. The Paris Agreement specified to undertake the first global stocktake (GST1) in 2023 and every five years thereafter unless otherwise decided by the CMA.

Heads of States and Governments of 154 Parties provided political guidance to the negotiators. In the last three days of the Conference, ministers made several rounds of negotiations and agreed on 13 December to effectively implement the Paris Agreement by adopting the outcome of the GST, and matters relating to adaptation, mitigation and finance etc. The GST1 outcome calls for updating and enhancing actions at home. The GST1 held at Dubai recognised, inter alia, the “critical role of protecting, conserving and restoring water systems and water-related ecosystems in delivering climate adaptation benefits and co-benefits ..”, and noted the “importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including .. mountains and cryosphere

..”. The GST1 calls Parties, inter alia, to “tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling energy efficiency by 2030, accelerating phase-down of unabated coal power, net zero emission energy systems and utilising zero- and low-carbon fuels, and zero- and low-emission technologies .. and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies ...” etc.

Domestic actions are urgently required to implement the GST call to reduce greenhouse gas emissions towards limiting to 1.50C. Decisions encourage Parties to implement, inter alia, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, including in the mountains. Mountain and climate change is expected to get momentum after the expert dialogue that will be held in June 2024 under the ‘science and technology stream’. This undertaking would open avenues for future decisions in addressing the impacts of climate change in the mountains and implementing appropriate measures.

Decisions on global goal to adaptation provide multiple opportunities to implement adaptation actions at home as it urges to increase ambition and enhance adaptation action and support to meet several targets by 2030, including to significantly reduce the impacts of climate change on water and mountain ecosystems. In addition, Parties decided to “launch a two-year work programme on indicators for measuring progress achieved” on targets ... A decision on the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund provides a mechanism to channel funding to countries severely affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. The call of the mountainous countries has been heard and it will contribute to enhance our understanding on the impacts of climate change in the mountains and take necessary actions to address them jointly and individually by ensuring sustainable flow of financial resources, transfer of technologies and accelerated capacity building in future.

CoP28 enhanced understanding of over 230 delegates of Nepal on climate negotiations. Three Hon’ble Ministers - Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation; Forests and Environment; and Urban Development - along with several high-level government officials attended CoP28. Nepal’s participation was sufficiently ‘rich’. For the first time, Nepal shared its national initiatives on climate change and lessons learned through the lectures or panel discussions in its pavilion. Participants, including Nepali, were informed about the national and local climate change activities. Considering this, climate change awareness has heightened in Nepal at political, bureaucratic, and advocacy levels. In other recent events, Hon’ble Ministers - Foreign Affairs, and Finance - have flagged climate change impacts in the Himalayas, mountains and the economic sector.

Nepal's National's National Adaptation Programme of Action (2010), Climate Change Policy (2011, reissued in 2019) and a National Framework on Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA, 2011, reissued in 2019), contributed to implement adaptation interventions at local level to help climate vulnerable communities to adapt to, and build resilience to, climate change by accessing bilateral and multilateral funds, including from LDC Fund, Special Climate Change Fund, Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund. Nepal also initiated REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and sustainable management of forests) activities to reduce GHGs emissions. The 2019 Environment Protection Act provides provisions to implement adaptation and mitigation actions, including carbon trade. In 2020, Nepal submitted its second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC2) with some unrealistic commitments. Before attending the Dubai Climate Summit, Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the NDC Implementation Plan and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in November 2023. NAP was shared with the UNFCCC Parties in 2021 at Glasgow during the CoP26. Necessary pre-requisites are in place, including the national framework on Loss and Damage. In addition, non-governmental organisations are also engaged in implementing adaptation actions. Nepal has generated knowledge and learning on adaptation interventions through three-pronged approaches - ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), community-based adaptation (CbA), and nature-based solutions (NbS).



Recalling the commitments on climate change at the political level during the visit of the UN Secretary General in Nepal and CoP28, the government may wish to inform people on efforts made to: (i) access resources from climate dedicated funds during its tenure by aligning with the national priorities and international commitments; (ii) climate change-related projects linked with the Bank loan; (iii) list of pipeline projects on adaptation and technology; (iv) state of implementation of climate change-related projects and implementation complexities; (v) observed inclination of the national designated ministry towards 'climate loan' and non-inspiration to the professional ministries to access dedicated climate funds; (vi) resource-tapping priority of the climate change focal point for climate projects or its shadow effect on climate change; and (vii) call for the new initiatives by forgetting the previous ones. It is high time to encourage the champions in 'facilitating' to access climate funds, and those 'blocking' the process, and 'implementing' the climate projects at home. Recalling the political commitment on climate change in the present context, implementation level must of proactive. If

not, 'a tree without roots can't support and sustain'. It also looks like a 'tree that grows but bears no fruits'. It clearly indicates the urgency for grounding the political messages into actions.

As usual, developed countries have pledged to support the developing countries to implement climate change activities. Relevant news inform the pledge of US\$ 174 million to LDC Fund (only the LDCs can access it) and Special Climate Change Fund, US\$ 188 million to the Adaptation Fund; slightly above US\$ 4 billion to the Green Climate Fund (largest dedicated climate fund); and around US\$ 700 million to the newly operationalised Loss and Damage Fund. At Dubai, developed and developing countries have pledged a total of over US\$ 5 billion for climate change activities. However, it is necessary for early transfer of these pledges to the respective Funds. To access these funds, Nepal may wish to form a dedicated team of professionals to initiate the development of proposal(s) and complete the national process to access funding. The Ministry of Finance should

facilitate the 'fund accessing process' and realise the 'cost of delay action' over the proposal(s) forwarded by the competent and professional ministries to access resources from the dedicated climate funds, bilateral and multilateral sources.

The climate change focal ministry may wish to prepare a report on the achievements of the CoP28, CMP18 and CMA5 and make it public with a view to develop a core team for future negotiations. Recalling the return of the Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Environment just before the start of the negotiation at political level, two events are documented here for future considerations: (i) final negotiations are at political (minister) level, and minister in-charge for climate change should continue participation to the end of the CoP or CMP or CMA to actively negotiate with Parties on the political messages of the Heads of States and Government and the national priorities; and (ii) former climate change focal person(s) should not be registered under 'Party overflow' stream to best utilise his/her experience in the climate negotiation process.

As clearly reflected in the GST decision under CMA5, the government is encouraged to form a team at the earliest possible to prepare at home for the expert dialogue on mountains and climate change to be held in June 2024. This dialogue would create multi-fold opportunities to reflect the national needs and priorities in the climate negotiation processes.

IMPROVED COOKINGSTOVES

From Design To Distribution

At a time when all three tiers of the Nepalese government have made clean cooking for all a priority, the joint launch of an improved cookstove project by Imperative Global Projects Pte Ltd and Sustainable Prosperity Initiative Nepal (SPI-Nepal) is a significant event. The project aims to replace over 275,000 traditional, smoky cookstoves in two regions of Nepal, and will benefit large numbers of rural people

By A CORREPONDENT

The stark truth is that, according to a CBS report, over 51% of Nepalese households use fuel wood for cooking. This number rises to over 80% in remote and rural areas of hilly and Terai regions.

Although many households depend on forests for their cooking energy needs, the forest areas in Southern terai are not easily accessible.

Without alternatives, individuals are forced to resort to other sources such as cattle dung, agricultural residues, and the like in order to prepare their meals. However, the use of these alternative sources poses significant health and environmental concerns.

According to a World Health Organization report, over 22,000 women die each year due to lung and respiratory issues caused by smoke, with asthma being the most common disease among women. Women typically spend between 3 to 4 hours per day collecting fuel



wood.

In this context, any effort to modify cookstoves would be a significant stride. The Improved Cookstove Program, jointly initiated by Imperative Global Projects and Sustainable Prosperity Initiative Nepal (SPI-Nepal) and currently in the design phase, is expected to assist

tens of thousands of households to have access to improved cookstoves.

Imperative is an international carbon offset project developer and operator, utilizing best-in-class knowledge from mature markets and in-house tech-

nical carbon expertise to deliver high-quality projects with maximum sustainable development co-benefits. Imperative serves as the Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) for the PoA.

Sustainable Prosperity Initiative Nepal (SPI Nepal) primarily focuses on developing programs and projects, supporting state agencies in creating inclusive public policies, and enhancing the organizational capacities of development partners. Currently, SPI Nepal is concentrating on clean cooking, carbon financing, energy transition, and policy advocacy to promote sustainable development and prosperity in Nepal.

During the launch of national level project design consultation meeting for “Improved Cookstoves Programme of Activities (PoA) in Nepal” on September 26, Mohan Das Manandhar, chairperson



of SPI-Nepal, stated that the implementation of the proposed project in Nepal would provide improved stoves to a large number of rural households in remote areas of the Terai and hilly regions. Subjectivity was avoided in the statement.

Notable speakers included Arnaud Dore, Chief Carbon Officer and Nihar Kumar, Carbon Technical Manager at Imperative Global Projects; Mohan Das Manandhar, Chairperson, Purushottam Ghimire, Senior Policy Advisor and Sarita Karki, Managing Director of Sustainable Prosperity Initiative Nepal.

During the presentation, Technical term abbreviations were explained where needed and conventional structure was maintained. The language was clear, objective and neutral throughout the text. Passive tone was favored over personal perspective. Citation and footnote styles were maintained, quotes were marked and filler words were avoided. Formal language was used with precise word choice, and grammatical correctness was ensured. The text's logical progression remained intact, and causal connections between statements were sustained. Lastly, balanced language avoided bias towards any particular viewpoint.

Manandhar stated that replacing traditional, smoky cook stoves with improved versions is essential to reduce CO₂ and smoke in households, empower women, and



save lives. Additionally, Manandhar emphasized that it is crucial to replace all traditional 3-stone stove or inefficient stoves in order to achieve the SDG goals of zero emissions by 2045.

He reported that the use of smoky traditional cook stoves remains widespread in Madhesh Pradesh and many hilly areas of Bagmati. The project's objective is to eliminate all traditional stoves by distributing improved stoves.

High-level government officials, elected leaders from local government, representatives from INGOs and NGOs, experts, and media personnel attended a meeting where Sarita Karki, Managing Director of SPI Nepal, emphasized the significance of the design phase. She also highlighted how the project will be implemented in Nepal by Imperative and SPI-Nepal in collaboration with local partners.

Purushottam Ghimire, Senior Policy Advisor of SPI Nepal, facilitated the meeting while Nihar Kumar, Carbon Technical Man-

ager at Imperative Global Projects, presented different types of improved stoves along with their usage.

“Our program is committed to deploying specially designed improved cookstoves in the Terai and Hill regions, with a foundation built upon direct community consultation and design collaboration. The Program of Activities (PoA) is poised for expansion beyond 275,000 households in Nepal to cater to future demand. The improved cookstoves distributed by the program are designed to grant clean cooking access to households and communities, significantly reduce fuel wood consumption, curtail greenhouse gas emissions, and alleviate deforestation pressures in the project areas,” explained Nihar.

“In addition to these objectives, the program is dedicated to delivering significant co-benefits. This includes enhanced health outcomes by mitigating smoke inhalation from cooking, which is particularly advantageous for women and young girls. Moreover, it aims to save time otherwise spent on fuel wood collection and reduce expenses in fuel wood purchases at the household level. This multifaceted approach also seeks to create a substantial number of jobs for local residents, thereby improving the economic





scenario in the project area.”

As many rural households in Nepal rely on traditional stoves that are often poorly designed and release harmful pollutants, the proposed program aims to mitigate these negative impacts by introducing portable ceramic Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) in the Terai region and fixed-type two-burner ICS with chimneys in the Hill region, Nihar stated.

Initially, the PoA will be implemented in selected districts and municipalities in the Terai and Hill regions of Nepal, with plans for expansion later.

The distribution and installation of cookstoves is scheduled to commence in early 2024 and should be completed by 2027/28. The Program of Activities aims to achieve certification by the Gold Standard, the most reputable carbon standard for community-based projects. Each individual project will be registered as a Voluntary Project Activity (VPA) under this PoA, and both the PoA and subsequent VPAs will adhere to the “Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TP-DDTEC) v4.0” methodology and other GS4GG requirements.

“The lifespan of the PoA will be 15 years, while each VPA

will span 5 years from its start date, renewable twice” said Nihar. “The individual VPAs may generate carbon credits (GS VERs) by avoiding the release of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (CH₄ & N₂O) into the atmosphere. The generation of carbon credits will contribute to improving existing technologies and financing the program.”

The Improved Cookstoves Gold Standard PoA has set a target of providing improved cookstoves (ICS) to 60,000 households in the hilly region and 215,000 households in the Terai region. These efforts are focused on those households still

reliant on firewood as their primary source of cooking fuel, using 3-stone or traditional cookstoves for their cooking needs.

The cookstove design process for this project follows a “COMMUNITY-CENTERED DESIGN” approach, involving a series of deliberate steps to engage and empower the community throughout the design process. The aim is to create solutions that are responsive to the specific needs, aspirations, and cultural context of the community.

The overarching goal of this initiative is to increase access to clean cooking solutions for households and communities by reducing fuel consumption, improving health, enhancing safety features to minimize the risk of burns or accidents during cooking, and saving time while also increasing livelihood opportunities.

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LSC Meeting at Terai Region

With the active participation of more than 85 individuals representing a wide range of sectors, including local government, community forest user groups, women’s groups, mothers’ groups, local NGOs, cooperatives, and farmers’ groups, the Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) meeting convened in Bardibas, Mahottari District featured robust discussions on various aspects related to cooking stoves.

The attendees provided



invaluable constructive feedback, comments, and suggestions regarding the project and its implementation. The former Chairperson of the Community Forest User Group emphasized the significance of improved cook stoves in conserving the forest, noting that the Terai region is located within the Chure Range.

Gopal Pariyar, Mayor of Hariपुर Municipality, drew attention to the limited forest resources available for firewood collection and stressed the role of Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) in supporting households and communities with their cooking needs. He also highlighted the additional benefits of ICS, such

as the reduction of health hazards and domestic workload.

A representative from Bagmati Municipality emphasized the necessity of providing ICS to squatters, as there are 4,100 squatter households in the area. She also stressed the importance of conducting an awareness program for end-users to boost their willingness to adopt ICS.

The participants also addressed various issues, including the cultural considerations in stove design and the efficient heating pace. They discussed how the stove could fulfill various household needs, including cattle food, and even showcased samples of the stoves required for their specific requirements.

LSC meeting at Hilly Region

After successfully conducting two meetings in Kathmandu and Bardibas in Terai, the third Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) meeting took place in Sindhupalchok District. The meeting garnered participation from more than 80 individuals representing a wide array of sectors, including local government, community forest user groups, women’s groups, mothers’ groups, local NGOs, cooperatives, and farmers’ groups. During the meeting, extensive discussions were held regard-





ing the pressing need for improved cookstoves within the local areas. Valuable feedback, comments, and suggestions were provided with regard to the project and its technology designs. Some of the key feedback and comments are highlighted below:

Jhamka Nath Nepal, Chairman of Indrawati Rural Municipality, emphasized the project's immense utility for Sindhupalchok District, where a significant 74% of households still rely on firewood, with 70% of them being dependent on agriculture and livestock rearing. His municipality is renowned for its milk production, churning out 1,400,000 liters annually. He expressed his municipality's readiness to support and contribute to the project's success.

Harka Tamang from AR-SOW-Nepal stressed that cookstoves are intrinsically linked to geography, culture, caste, and household prosperity. Thus, careful consideration should be given to the types of food people consume when designing the stoves.

A representative from a women's cooperative commended the program's target groups, particularly households using three-stone or traditional stoves. The improved cookstoves, she emphasized, would

have a significantly positive impact on the health of women and children by preventing smoke inhalation. She also pointed out that, despite the earthquake, people continue to maintain separate kitchens for firewood stoves due to the preference for the taste of food cooked on them. She expressed her commitment to supporting the program through awareness-raising activities to ensure its success.

The Chairperson underscored the long-standing promotion of improved cookstoves and advised that the size of pots used in stove design should be considered. He firmly believed that there is no question as to whether Improved Cookstoves (ICS) are needed, as they are crucial for conserving firewood.

The active engagement and constructive input from these stakeholders underscored the significance of the Improved Cookstoves Program in meeting the specific needs of Sindhupalchok District and the importance of adapting the technology to the local

context.

Contribution to SDGs

This program is committed to actively contributing to several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including SDG 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 13. Project's contributions will be verified according to the Global Goals Safeguarding Principles and Requirements of the Gold Standard (GS).

With the successful conclusion of the stakeholder consultation meetings in three regions, the Improved Cookstove Program of activities in Nepal is entering new phases. As Vahid Jahangiri, Global Heads of Projects at Imperative Global emphasized, the project is now operating at the community level, requiring increased collaboration among stakeholders, including Imperative and SPI-Nepal, as well as local community representatives, to ensure the project's success. The project design consultation meetings have demonstrated that the community is ready to take ownership of the project, in partnership with elected local governments.



CCA Is Focusing On Electric Cooking: Karuna Bajracharya

KARUNA BAJRACHARYA, the country Manager of Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) Nepal, discussed the ongoing clean energy alliance with NEW SPOTLIGHT.

As someone with extensive experience in the clean cooking sector, how do you plan to contribute?

CCA has primarily been supporting policy at the national level in Nepal, with a focus on electric cooking. Having worked extensively with various communities throughout Nepal in the cooking sector, I possess the technical expertise to support Imperative and SPI with clean cooking techniques and advancements in stove technology. While CCA has emphasized policy-level support for electric cooking, there remain opportunities for us to address biomass stoves within the field.

How important is the campaign from an expert's perspective?

The importance of the campaign from an expert

point of view is significant due to over 50 percent of the population in Nepal utilizing biomass without access to electricity. The improvement of cooking stoves for clean cooking cannot be underestimated. Many impoverished communities require this type of technology. I will support Imperative at a professional level above all other levels. Having worked in this sector for so long, I can also support Imperative, SPI, and other local partners on a personal level.

What CCA is currently undertaking

is the launch of a small electric cooking project in Madhesh Province, showcasing the community-level significance of this form of cooking. As transmission and distribution expansion and improvement projects continue in Madhesh, CCA is directing its attention towards electric cooking. The Nepal Electricity Authority reluctantly supports clean cooking due to concerns that widespread use of electricity for cooking will strain the distribution system once everyone switches to electric cooking. Despite this, we will implement smart cooking in 5,000 households. However, it will take decades to fully transition to electric cooking in the Madhesh province. In the meantime, improved cooking stoves will significantly contribute to clean cooking.

As an experienced expert in this field, how do you perceive the current campaign in comparison to

previous improved cooking campaigns?

Because cooking is a vital aspect of women's daily lives, stove design should prioritize their comfort and needs. I trust that Imperative and SPI-Nepal will address and prioritize this issue. Active female par-



ticipation is essential for the success of any campaign aimed towards stove improvement. My impression is that Vahid Jahangiri and SPI Nepal's Chair, Mohan Das Manandhar, are investigating women's preferences in kitchen fuel design. As women consider the economic aspect of fuel, they tend to opt for low-cost and high-value options.

What is your opinion on this project?

It is significant because it will provide direct financial and health benefits to women. Additionally, as this project pertains to the kitchen, it is likely to empower women the most. This project has significant potential to benefit women's health and the economy, while also reducing CO₂ and indoor air pollution. This project has significant potential to benefit women's health and the economy, while also reducing CO₂ and indoor air pollution. However, this traditional practice contributes to poor indoor air quality. The project aims to promote alternative termite control methods and improve indoor air quality. Many rural houses are constructed of wood, and smoke is used to control termite infestations. It also raises important questions about the cultural significance of smoke in rural household practices.

Imperative And SPI-Nepal Are Worked Closely To Distribute Improved Cookstoves In Nepal: Vahid Jahangiri

VAHID JAHANGIRI has worked in the cookstove, energy, and water sectors for over 18 years. During this time, he has designed multiple sub-Saharan Africa and Haiti projects, including technologies and manufacturing set up in both rural and urban contexts. He has served as a key advisor and leader for various UN agencies, such as the World Food Program, in introducing innovative energy programs in different countries. Vahid Jahangiri co-authored numerous policy initiatives with local government agencies to develop national energy strategies. He also co-authored the State of the Humanitarian Energy Sector report. Since 2009, he has been implementing carbon programs for cook stoves. In 2023, Jahangiri joined Imperative Global Projects as the Head of Global Projects. He recently spoke to NEW SPOTLIGHT about the Improved Cooking Stoves Program in Nepal. Excerpts from a thirty-minute meeting at SPI-Nepal's office in Kathmandu regarding the current status of the Improved Cookstove Program:

What is the state of Improved Cookstove Program now?

The purpose of my recent visit was to add value to the program. SPI-Nepal and Imperative have been working closely to implement activities related to the program in two regions of Nepal. Recently, a Project Design Consultation meeting was concluded in three different regions - Kathmandu, Terai, and Hilly region. The implementation stage has already begun. The distribution of cookstoves will likely to start from early 2024.

What was your impression of the local context?

In April 2023, I visited Nepal first time as part of a joint field visit with our partner, Sustainable Prosperity Initiative (SPI), and other local partners. During the visit, we explored the terai and hilly regions, where we had the opportunity to interact with diverse communities in terms of demographics and cuisine. Based on our visit and consultations with the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) and SPI, we have determined that our project is justifiable and we are now aiming to launch a large-scale initiative. Our program has a clear vision, target, and impact, unlike many other projects that lack such focus.

What progress has been made on the project?

Since April, we have collaborated with SPI and other partners in Nepal to develop a high-quality carbon project. The SPI team has worked tirelessly to ensure success. Our focus has been on implementing crucial activities, preparing for the project, and coordinating programs with field partners. SPI-Nepal has worked with provincial and local governments, community-based organizations, and local leaders at various levels. We recently conducted a consultative meeting in three regions with government officials, agencies, local leaders, communities, and organizations in collaboration with our team at SPI-Nepal.

What is your impression of the local stakeholder consultation meeting?

Two meetings were held at the local level, one in Terai and the other in Hill, to ensure that we provide the right solution to the local communities. Imperative and SPI worked closely with CCA to ensure that we have the right technology for these two different contexts. This pertains to the research and development and

process of cook stoves. Complaints were maintained throughout the meetings. The solution has been developed through collaboration with the community and users. Currently, we have reached this stage thanks to our consultative approach. Over the past three meetings, we have also engaged with governments, local partners, organizations, and users. The feedback received so far has been overwhelmingly positive and we are proud to say that SPI is regarded as a reputable organization on the ground.

How will the project proceed?

We are eager to collaborate and create a significant impact by developing a large-scale project in this region, not limited to cook stoves. Furthermore, we aspire to find methods to add value to agro-forestry in partnership with the government. The communities from the Terai and Hill regions appear to be zealous and ardently supportive of this project.

What significant feedback has your organization received from local communities?

One crucial piece of feedback was the need for projects to be sustainable in the long term and highly adaptable. This feedback was delivered in a positive manner. It is worth noting that SPI was successful in communicating that the community's concerns will be addressed during the design phase. The funding will support this aspect. If this project is solely driven by the NGO, then funding may be seasonal and limited, hindering our ability to achieve our goals. As a team, we are considering not only a single technology, but also transitional technologies for the future, considering the potential changes in Nepal's energy context over the next four to five years.

How do you anticipate the future of the project?

Our team is collaborating with several investors who have expressed a keen interest in Nepal. Personally, I hold an optimistic outlook, and I have observed a positive sentiment among the communities. It is essential to consider the future in the present moment, rather than five years from now, in order to secure the necessary investment. It is heartening to note that the communities are also eager to contribute their own resources to bring the project to fruition. Communities are investing in this project with

the anticipation that it will have a positive impact well into the future. This is precisely what we hoped for.

While many NGOs and INGOs have already launched various projects, what sets this project apart?

We do not wish to devalue other initiatives since every contribution has its own unique worth. As long as their contributions are making a genuine impact, we support their work. Technology, though, represents only a small fraction of the overall effort. It is a complex process to implement a project. I can only speak from my experience with cookstoves over the past 18 years, but ensuring the quality of the implementation of a cookstove project is extremely challenging. It requires quality control from the initial stage, all the way through mobilization, technology manufacturing and deployment, and training and monitoring.

How does your project differ from others?

We distinguish ourselves on multiple levels. In the past, many carbon agencies operated from a distance, leaving all responsibility to partners; however, this resulted in limited understanding of cookstoves and the environment on the ground, which are crucial factors. If you are not from this area, everyone here is essentially a tourist. Cultural issues can be complicated when food is involved. As humans, we cook food and everything revolves around it. It is an intimate experience. However, Imperative always collaborates closely with partners and stays connected to the local community.

How do cookstoves relate to our culture?

Food is at the heart of our identity, culture, and memory. However, certain models lack necessary direction. On our end, our foundation is based on SPI (Social Performance Index) or philosophy being built on the ground. This signifies that we have an integrated leadership approach where we collaborate and utilize our collective expertise as a team to execute the project. I am not working outside of our community in Washington, Milan, or New York, but rather, I am connected to the effort on the ground. We work closely with our partners to implement high-quality projects, minimizing any gaps that may arise. Many individuals discuss the quality of these projects, but it remains unclear whether they truly intend to follow through with their words or if their remarks are simply superficial.

How does your organization differentiate itself in finding solutions?

We stand out in all aspects, particularly in providing solutions that are grounded in context. The lack of sufficient training for maintenance and repair has rendered this technology obsolete, resulting in either disposal or recycling. During my recent visit, I observed brief cook stove ventures that were essentially technological gadgets. That is because the design process was not sufficiently executed. Currently, our team is collaborating with local stove consultants and SPI experts. Their prior experience as consultants for CCA and other women's organizations within the community provides a valuable perspective for achieving long-term sustainability solutions.

How do you quantify program success?

While high-performing cookstove technology may appear impressive to government investors and donors, adoption rates may be low. For example, a cookstove technology that saves 80 percent of fuel may only have 50 users, while a technology with only 30 percent fuel savings may have 500,000 users. Nobody needs to evaluate the superior approach. However, cookstove efficiency measurement lacks this mathematical calculation. Overall, 90% of people do not understand the cost perspective of this breakdown. For example, if 80% fuel-saving cook stoves are introduced at a cost of \$120, but only fifty people use it, the total cost will escalate to millions of dollars. If a cook stove costing \$15 can be used by over half a million people, the cost will be lower.



Realistic cost considerations are necessary. This is precisely what we have been doing during the designing phase. Our efforts are aimed at a smoother transition to the future. Building trust with the communities during this initial phase is crucial, as it will ensure their trust during the transition.

What changes can new cooking stoves bring?

The major change will be the use of sensor technology. We plan to use this technology to monitor the use and adoption of cookstoves. We are investing a significant amount of funds to ensure that we can track the use and adoption of cookstoves. If any issues arise, we will address them accordingly. In addition to deploying the new technology, we are also considering further project benefits for the communities. In addition to distributing stoves, we will assess other potential contributions to improving community well-being.

Lastly, why was Nepal selected for such a large project implementation?

While we have extensive experience in Sub-Saharan Africa, we lack experience in this specific region. We selected the country based on the prevailing needs. Currently, Nepal is in need. After discussions with Karuna and eventually with Mohan and SPI, it was apparent that a project in Nepal is justified. Hence, we have decided to commence the project in Nepal.

Co-Operation Within A Federation - It All Depends On The People



BY: ROBERT FRENCH AC

Introduction

Australia and Nepal have federal Constitutions with very different histories, very different societal contexts and quite different provisions. It is, however, a common feature of all federal constitutions, including those of Australia and Nepal, that division of powers between components of the federation requires cooperation when a national approach is necessary in areas of public policy.

The Australian Constitution does not spell out mechanisms for cooperation. The Constitution of Nepal on the other hand, makes express provision in Pt 20 for managing relations between Federal, Provincial and Local Level governments. The Constitution of Nepal is an exercise of the sovereign authority of the people of Nepal. The inclusion of cooperative mechanisms sends a clear message to those who are entrusted with government at the Federal, Provincial and Local Levels. But in the end the success or failure of cooperative federalism depends upon the people who have to make it work. It depends upon their vision, their good faith and their ability to put the interests of the whole nation above their own political or other interests. As the great Indian Constitutionalist, Dr BR Ambedkar said on the eve of India's independence and the inauguration of a complex federal constitution: However good a constitution may be, if those who are implementing it are not good, it will prove to be bad. However bad a constitution may be, if those implementing it are good, it will prove to be good.

Those who seek to advance cooperative federalism must work with the constitutional text they are given. They do not have the luxury of having the constitution amended whenever there is a problem. Constitutions are not easy to amend. That feature is a

built in protection for the stability of the legal framework within which law-making power, executive power and judicial power are exercised.

No amendment can be made to the Constitution of Nepal 'in [a] manner to be prejudicial to sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence of Nepal and sovereignty vested in the 2 people.' There are therefore fundamental, albeit not well defined, limits on the power of amendment. Amendment to Provincial borders or the list of Provincial Powers set out in Schedule-6 of the Constitution, require the consent of Provincial Assemblies. If a majority of Provincial Assemblies give notice of rejection of such a Bill to the relevant House of the Federal Parliament within three months, then the Bill shall be inoperative.¹ Bills not requiring the consent of Provincial Assemblies require at least a two-thirds majority of the total number of the then members of both Houses of the Federal Parliament.

On paper and in the light of experience it is harder to amend the Australian Constitution. Any proposed Bill for the amendment of the Constitution must pass through the Parliament. It must then be submitted to a popular referendum. It requires a majority of electors voting in a majority of the States of the Federation before the amendment can come into force. Australia has had 49 Referenda and only seven have succeeded.

Given the challenges which may be involved in amending our respective Constitutions it is important that constituent governments cooperate in the national interest to ensure that constitutions work effectively in dealing with national issues which engage the powers and responsibilities of all components of the federation.

Cooperative Federalism

Broadly speaking, cooperative federalism describes an attribute of a federation under which its component governments engage in cooperative action with a view to achieving common objectives. Cooperation may take various forms:

In law-making — the making of complementary and common form laws by different levels of government.

By inter-governmental agreements between different executive governments which may be reflected in cooperative administrative arrangements and also cooperative law-making.

In funding arrangements — conditional funding may be made available by the central government to State or Provincial governments pursuant to agreements about how it is to be applied.

In the establishment of mechanism for regular communication between the different components of the federation — for example ministerial councils and councils of senior officers of different components of a federation who have interacting responsibilities.

Cooperation may be vertical, involving central and regional governments. It may be horizontal, involving regional governments only. It may use joint decision-making mechanisms set up with the support of laws made by the national and regional governments and/or executive agreements between the different governments. It may use joint decision-making mechanisms or a single decision-maker which is set up by one government but has a process of consultation with the others. Federal government and Provincial or State governments legislative powers may also be used to set up a national authority for particular purposes exercising powers conferred on it by a law made by the Federal government and laws made by Provincial governments.

Any observations about cooperative federalism in Nepal from a comparative Australian perspective must acknowledge that our federal Consti-

tutions come out of very different eras and histories. Australia's federation was borne out of negotiation between six selfgoverning colonies on the Australian continent who saw it in their common interest to combine to form one nation.

There were no diverse geographically defined ethnic communities to be accommodated. Diversity was not part of the nation-building agenda. Nor was social inclusion. Of course, much has changed since the Australian Constitution came into existence. Contemporary Australia is a multi-ethnic society which comprises people from 180 different countries and a population of whom nearly half were born overseas or have one parent born overseas. Our ethnic diversity is a product of immigration which began to be diversified in the second half of the 20th century. Recognition of Australia's indigenous people in the Constitution does not appear in the text of the Constitution. On the other hand, a referendum to amend the Constitution to authorise the federal government to make laws with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was passed in 1967. A recent referendum to create a constitutional Voice to the Parliament and Executive Government for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was defeated on 14 October 2023.

Nepal and Australia differ significantly in population and population density. Australia's population is a little over 26.5 million people. The total land area is 7,682,300 square kilometres. That makes three people per square kilometre. Nepal's population is a little over 31 million, with a total land area of 143,350 square kilometres, which makes 216 people per square kilometre. As you can see from that, a lot of Australia is empty space. Find full article

in PDF [Australian Chief Justice Robert French - Cooperative federalism, Nepal \(1\).pdf](#)

Robert French served as Chief Justice of Australia from 1 September 2008 until 29 January 2017. He served as a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia from November 1986 until his appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court on 1 September 2008. Excerpts of the paper presented in an international conference in Nepal on 22-23 November 2023.



जाडोबाट बच्न निम्न उपायहरू अबलम्बन गरौं

- तातो, झोलिलो पदार्थ प्रशस्त मात्रामा पिउने गरौं,
- न्यानो कपडा लगाऔं,
- घाम वा आगो तापौं,
- तेल मालिस गरौं,
- शारिरीक व्यायाम गरौं,
- बालबालिका, जेष्ठ नागरिक तथा अशक्तले सकेसम्म चिसोको समयमा घरबाहिर ननिस्कौं,
- ताजा र पौष्टिक खानेकुरा खाऔं,
- जाडोबाट बच्ने नाममा धूम्रपान तथा मद्यपान नगरौं,
- स्वास्थ्यमा कुनै समस्या परेमा चिकित्सक वा स्वास्थ्यकर्मीसँग परामर्श लिऔं ।



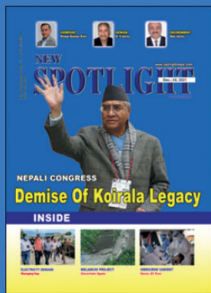
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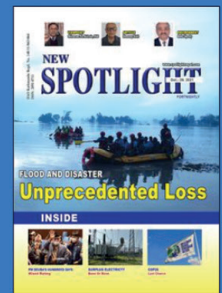
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