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**OPINION**  
Madhu Kumar Marasini



**ENVIRONMENT**  
Batu Uprety

NEW

# SPOTLIGHT

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September 13, 2024

FORTNIGHTLY



**POLITICS**

# Do Or Die

**INSIDE**



**COAS GENERAL ASHOK RAJ SIGDEL**  
Chief Of Nepal Army



**EK NARYAN ARYAL**  
Chief of Civil Service



**UPPER TAMAKOSHI**  
People's Choice



# TANAHU HYDROPOWER LIMITED

## तनहुँ हाइड्रोपावर लिमिटेड

**Tanahu Hydropower Limited (THL)** is the subsidiary of Nepal Electricity Authority and has currently undertaken construction of 140 MW Tanahu Hydropower Project (THP) and other 126 MW Lower-Seti Hydropower Project is under EIA and DPR study. Now currently in full fledged construction, THP has three major packages for construction: Package 1 for construction of Headwork, Package 2 for construction of Powerhouse, Waterway and Related Equipment and Package 3 for 220 KV double-circuit Transmission Line. Almost 53% of construction has been completed and project is expected to come into operation by June 2026.



### Salient Features of Tanahu Hydropower Project (THP):

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



### Milestone Achieved for THP:

- ❖ River Diversion for construction of Main Dam.
- ❖ Excavation works and slope cutting for Main Dam Foundation.
- ❖ Headrace Tunnel Breakthrough.
- ❖ Installation of Overhead Crane and other major underwater components of the Powerhouse.



### Total Cost and Development Partners of THP:

The total cost of the project is 505 million USD. Government of Nepal and Nepal Electricity Authority are the owners of the project and is co-financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

### Consultant and oversee agencies and the Contractors:

Project Supervision Consultant (PSC) of THP is Tractebel Engi GmbH (Lahmeyer International GmbH), Germany in association with Manitoba Hydro International Limited. And to look after social and environmental issues, safeguard monitoring and planning, Electro Consult (ELC), Italy in association with GEOCE Consultant Limited, Nepal has been working as the Environmental and Social Management Service Provider (ESMSP). Contractor for Package 1 is Songda-Kalika JV, for Package 2 is Sinohydro Corporation Limited, China and for Package 3 is KEC International Limited, India.



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**Notes From The Editor**



While the coalition government led by CPN-UML leader KP Sharma has a two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives and is one of the strongest governments in recent times, the political reality is different. Despite having the strongest government, Prime Minister Oli has not been able to deliver according to the aspirations of the people. The economy is recovering slowly despite the rise of the stock market, which has crossed the historic mark of 3000. The exodus of youth from the country is yet to come down and the government is yet to announce tangible programs to raise the hope among the youth. Though there are several challenges in the country, PM Oli's eye is on handing over EPG report to Indian PM Narendra Modi and printing new notes with new controversial map. Similarly, PM Oli has also been pushing one point agenda how to remove NEA MD Kul Man Ghising. As the government has been spending valuable time on unnecessary issues, other major programs are yet to get prominence. Besides, CPN-Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who was unceremoniously sacked by PM Oli, is also waiting for the right time to take revenge. As CPN-UML and Maoist Center leaders are fighting to end war, Nepal is likely to have more unstable situation in coming days. We have decided to cover the internal politics and its consequences as our cover story for this week. Along with this, we also cover other pertinent issues of contemporary Nepal.

**Keshab Poudel**

Editor

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220 KV CHILIME-TRISHULI TRANSMISSION LINE:  
Final stage for completion

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COAS GENERAL ASHOK RAJ SIGDEL

# Chief Of Nepal Army

*After President Ram Chandra Poudel confers rank insignia, General Ashok Raj Sigdel takes charge as Chief of Army Staff of Nepal Army*

By A CORRESPONDENT

President Ramchandra Paudel has conferred the rank insignia on the newly appointed Chief of Army Staff (CoAS), General Ashok Raj Sigdel. CoAS Sigdel took the oath of office and secrecy at a special ceremony held at the President's Office, Shital Niwas.

Sigdel is the 45th CoAS of the Nepal Army, the country's main security force. He will formally assume the office for a three-year term from September 9.

The special ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister, Defense Minister, Chief Justice, Speaker and Chairman of the National Assembly.

President Paudel has appointed Sigdel as the Chief of Army Staff in accordance with Article 267 of the Constitution of Nepal, according to a statement issued by the President's Office.

According to the statement, Sigdel, who has been performing the duties of the Acting Chief of Staff of the Nepal Army, has been appointed as the Chief of Army Staff with effect from September 09.

As per the over two centuries old tradition, Lt. Gen. Ashokraj Sigdel, who is the senior most in Nepal Army, has been given the responsibility of COAS of Nepal Army.

Sigdel also performed a puja at Nishan Bhagawati Temple at the Army Headquarters. A contingent of the Nepal Army presented a guard of honor to the new CoAS General Sigdel. He also addressed a program attended by generals.

With the appointment of the new CoAS, the three-year tenure of former CoAS Prabhu Ram Sharma came to an end.

As the oldest institution of Nepal, estab-



lished for the unification of Nepal, it is always a lifelong aspiration of the Nepal Army Cadet to head the institution. This time, General Sigdel takes over the responsibility.

In a press conference held recently, Nepal Army spokesman Gaurav Kumar KC said that there was no difference in age, certificate number and date of issue between the citizenship certificate that Sigdel first obtained from the District Administration Office, Rupandehi and the "first copy" that was taken later.

He said there was no difference in the date of birth between the SLC certificate submitted by General Sigdel when he joined the Nepal Army and the certificate issued by the then Suping Multipurpose Campus (now Sainik Residential College).

This opens the door for General Sigdel to become the 45th Commander-in-Chief of the Nepal Army.

## Who is Sigdel?

Born in Bhairawa, Rupandehi District, General Sigdel joined the Nepal Army 37 years ago. He has completed post-graduate studies in strategic studies from Tribhuvan University and National Defense University of China.

A graduate of the Army Command and Staff College, he has headed the War Operations Department and the Directorate General of Order, Policy and Planning of Jangi Adda.

General Sigdel, who has also served as military secretary to the commander-in-chief, has also worked at the command level of the Covid-19 Crisis Management Center.

## NEWSNOTES

### Germany Provides 51 Million Euro To Nepal Under The Bilateral Cooperation

The Federal Republic of Germany and Nepal successfully concluded Negotiations on Development Cooperation, held in Berlin on 4-5 September 2024. The delegations were headed by Dr BärbelKofler, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Economic Development and Dhani Ram Sharma, Joint Secretary at the International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division of the Ministry of Finance.

Germany made a total of new commitments of 51 Million Euro which cover the three focal areas of the bilateral cooperation: Renewable Energy and Energy Transmission, Health and Social Protection, and Sustainable Economic Development.

At the core were new commitments in the energy sector to support a program focusing on power distribution; in the health sector to support the implementation of the National Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy; and in the sector of sustainable economic development to promote resilient agricultural private sector development.

With these new commitments Germany will continue to support the reform agenda of the Nepali government. This will include Germany's support to Nepal's graduation to a middle-income country.



Both sides agreed to continue the discussion how the graduation will affect the bilateral aid-modalities and how a smooth transition can be ensured. All new projects will further strengthen gender equality as another important joint priority

of both Governments.

The development cooperation between Germany and Nepal will continue to be an integral part of the international donor community. Part of this is the Team Europe Initiative "Green Recovery" where Germany, Finland, the Commission of the European Union and Nepal strengthen Resilient Agricultural Ecosystems.

According to a press release issued by Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany, Kathmandu, the Federal Republic of Germany and Nepal have a long-standing and fruitful cooperation with the aim of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and addressing challenges related to sustainable economic development, energy and climate change, as well as health and social development issues.

### Nepal Civil Society Conference Paves The Way For Nepal's Future Amid Global Challenges

Civil Society Organizations in Nepal have demanded that the Summit of the Future should result in actionable plans

with accountability, equitable resource distribution, and stronger international commitments for peace, inclusion, climate justice, digital transformation and youth empowerment.

The Nepal Civil Society Conference for the Summit of the Future organized by the United Nations Nepal (UN Nepal), NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) and Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN) on 3 September, brought together national and international civil society organizations and those representing women, youths and marginalized groups to discuss how Nepal can better contribute to shape the Summit of the Future and better utilize the Pact of the Future—the outcome document of the Summit of the Future—in the support of realizing Nepal's development priorities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aarju Deuba Rana, speaking at the Nepal Civil Society Conference for the Summit of the Future.



Speaking at the conference, the Chief Guest Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba emphasized on the critical role that civil society organizations (CSOs) can play in taking Nepal's peace process to the meaningful conclusion, contributing to the implementation of the recently adopted laws on transitional justice. She further emphasized their role in shaping the future, influencing policy reforms and making governance more transparent and inclusive. She further stressed on unified efforts and shared responsibility to address challenges, promote accountability towards multilateral system, strengthen global governance, and foster intergovernmental solidarity for sustainable development, including for LDC graduating countries' smooth transition and improved development cooperation through the Summit of the Future

At the conference, the members of the civil society also stressed prioritization and inclusion of youth and marginalized communities at all levels of decision-making centering on equity, justice, and diversity.

UN Resident Coordinator a.i. and UNESCO Representative to Nepal speaking at the Nepal Civil Society Conference for the Summit of the Future..jpg

On behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator Hanaa Singer Hamdy, Resident Coordinator a.i. and UNESCO Representative to Nepal, Michael Croft, said "The UN in Nepal is proud to co-host the critical Civil Society Conferences in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future. As a major player in the wheel of development, it is crucial to meaningfully feed civil society perspectives into the pact of the future. Therefore I hope the outcome document of the Nepal CSO conference which delved around consolidating Nepal's peace process, ensuring inclusive and sustainable development and meaningful youth participation at all levels, will be a place to start the critical multistakeholder

coalitions of Member States, civil society, and UN to achieve inclusive sustainable development and lasting peace.

Ram Prasad Subedi, President of the NGO Federation of Nepal, speaking at the Nepal Civil Society Conference for the Summit of the Future.(1).jpg

Ram Prasad Subedi, chairperson of NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) spoke about Nepal’s significant challenges in the economic, social, and cultural sectors and highlighted the importance of involving international NGOs in discussions on peace and justice, stressed the need to retain young talent in Nepal for the country’s progress. He said, “Countries should invest in peace and development rather than militarism and war.”

Dr. S. P. Kalaunee, Chairperson of the Association of International NGOs (AIN), speaking at the Nepal Civil Society Conference for the Summit of the Future.jpg

SP Kalaunee, chairperson of AIN, emphasized the importance of timely discussions on envisioning the future. He also cautioned that while LDC graduation will bring changes, transformations won’t happen overnight, and efforts must continue to address current challenges, always keeping people at the center of the SDG efforts.

**NDC Delegation From India Visited Nepal**

A delegation from the 64th course of the National Defense College (NDC), India comprising 21 senior officers from civil services and Defense Forces of India and friendly foreign



countries Australia, Bhutan, Japan, Kazakhstan, Oman and USA visited Nepal for five days.

The visiting delegation, led by Rear Admiral Sandeep S Sandhu, Senior Directing Staff (Indian Navy), paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister of Nepal K P Sharma Oli,

Minister for Home Affairs Ramesh Lekhak, Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba and Minister for Defense Member Ray.

The delegation also called on the Officiating Chief of Army Staff, Nepali Army, Lt Gen Ashok Raj Sigdel and discussed matters pertaining to bilateral military cooperation.

**Helvetas Nepal’s For TTDP And TAAN Signed Partnership Agreement**

Dr. Prabin Manandhar, Helvetas Nepal Country Director, and Nilhari Bastola, Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal (TAAN) has signed a new partnership agreement for the implementation of Trail-based Tourism Development Project (TTDP).

Trail-based Tourism Development Project is a bi-lateral initia-

tive between Governments of Nepal and the Government of Switzerland. Helvetas Nepal is providing technical assistance for this project.

The aim of the partnership is to develop trails that are environmentally sustainable and culturally diversified in the Koshi Province.

According to the Helvetas-Nepal, the core objectives include Trail Development and Rehabilitation, Improving the safety and viability of trails.

Similarly, the project also includes Destination Branding and Promotion, marketing the culture and nature of Nepal. Under the capacity building, the project work for uniform provisions of culture and history and extreme sports. The project also includes policy Advocacy. This will support promotion of inventive products and responsible tourism.



“We look forward to future mutual co-operation aimed at engaging local people and safeguarding the wonderful wealth of the culture and nature of Nepal,” said Dr. Manandhar in the signing ceremony.

In the function, Bastola, President of TAAN, said that they are happy to work in collaboration with Helvetas Nepal to implement the project successfully.

**New Korea Overseas Volunteer Arrived In Nepal**

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has dispatched a new Korea Overseas Volunteer (KOV) to work in Nepal. He arrived in Kathmandu on August 21, 2024 and will dispatch to his concerned organization on September 27, 2024 after completing the local adaptation training program.

KOV An Seok Kang will be dispatched to Mandan Deupur Municipality Office, Kavre in the Agriculture sector. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, KOICA re-launched its KOV program in December 2021, and since then a total of 17 KOVs have been dispatched to Nepal in various sectors.

The volunteer will take one month of local adaptation training program in Kathmandu where he will learn about Nepalese society, culture, tradition as well as language. Such kind of adaptation program will be helpful for him to adjust and work in his concerned community/organization enabling him to be familiar with the Nepalese environment.

The objective of the KOV program is to focus more on transferring Korean knowledge and experiences directly at the grass-roots level. However, these programs aimed to improve the quality of life of people in partner countries to strengthen the

## NEWSNOTES



friendship and mutual understanding between Korea and partner countries and to help in the efforts to achieve development goals set by the international community.

Since 1990, KOICA volunteers have been assigned to different government organizations both within and outside the Kathmandu valley, in response to the requests and demands of the Nepalese government. They contribute to diverse sectors such as education, health, agriculture, IT, tourism, and more. As of now, a total of 485 volunteers have been sent to Nepal, with 8 KOICA volunteers presently engaged in active roles within various government institutions located in the Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kavre and Kaski districts.

KOICA Nepal Office expressed commitment to take every possible measure in following the health protocol with regards to COVID-19 while implementing the KOV program.

### Japan Provide Assistance To The Construction Of Community Library And Resource Center in Dhankuta District

TAMURA Takahiro, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan inaugurated Sindhuwa Chhathar Jorpati Community Library and Resource Center took place in Chhathar Jorpati Rural Municipality, Dhankuta District, Koshi Province on August 31.



The new Community Library and Resource Center has been constructed as part of a three-year project supported by the Government of Japan under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, and it is the first library and resource center constructed under the project.

The project is being implemented by the Japanese NGO Shanti Volunteer Association. The project aims to improve the vocational opportunities and livelihoods of the people of Koshi Province by establishing a total of three library and resource centers where they can learn basic skills such as literacy, transferable skills such as communication and problem solving, as well as vocational and technical skills.

The Sindhuwa Chhathar Jorpati Community Library and Resource Center is equipped with facilities such as a library, a training room, a computer room, a meeting room, and rooms for children, youth, and women, and various trainings and programs are conducted at the center.

On this occasion, Mr. Tamura congratulated and appreciated the efforts of all those involved in the project, and encouraged the community people to actively participate in the various programs that will be offered at the new center, including literacy programs, technical skills training, and empowerment training for women and youth.

### EU And Nine Countries Welcome TRC Act In Nepal

Nine countries and the European Union (EU) have welcomed the endorsement of the Investigation of Disappeared Persons, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act 2071 (Amendment) Bill, commonly known as the TRC Act.

The joint statement undersigned by the USA, Switzerland, Australia, UK, Norway, Japan, Finland, EU, Germany and France was shared in its Face book page today by the US Embassy in Nepal.



“The undersigned welcome the Investigation of Disappeared Persons, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act 2071 (Amendment) Bill passed with consensus by both houses of the Federal Parliament of Nepal,” read the statement.

As the Government outlines a path forward, the undersigned will explore possible mechanisms for support to the Government of Nepal for the benefit of the victims. The continued participation of the victims in decision-making processes will aid the effective implementation of the TRC Act, according to the statement.

### Nepali Caregivers Selected For Israel Through Transparent Lottery Process

A live broadcast of the lottery to select Nepali auxiliary workers in the caregiver sector in Israel, has concluded successfully. The event was held on Thursday, 29 Aug 2024 at Population and Immigration Authority (PIBA) office in Jerusalem, Israel, with full transparency and the participation of key officials.



A total of 2200 candidates were selected through this lottery process to work in Israel as auxiliary workers. The selected group comprised 60% females and 40% males. The random selection (-lottery)

was conducted in the presence of Moshe Nakash, Director of Immigration in Israel.

The Embassy of Israel in Nepal, along with Ministry officials and media friends, joined the live broadcast, to ensure the transparency and fairness of the selection process. Following the selection, the candidates will undergo the final phase of medical check-ups. Those who are confirmed to be physically fit will travel to Israel in batches, starting in September 2024.

This event marks a significant step in the ongoing cooperation between Nepal and Israel. Both the parties are committed to maintaining equity throughout the process and anticipate that the near future agreements will be established through the existing dialogue mechanism between the two countries. These new agreements may include workers in the home care giving sector and agriculture sector.

**Japan Extends Scholarships To Government Officials**

The Government of Japan has decided to extend grant assistance of up to four hundred and fifty-four million Japanese Yen (¥454,000,000), equivalent to 417 million Nepali Rupees to the Government of Nepal for the implementation of the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS).



KIKUTA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, and Dr. Ram Prasad Ghimire, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, signed notes to this effect.

The JDS grant offers Nepal’s young government officials two-year Master’s Degree courses and three-year Doctoral level courses in reputed Japanese universities. The Govern-

ment of Japan has received a total of 187 Nepali government officials to Japan.

After completion of their studies, the JDS Fellows are expected to engage in formulating and implementing socio-economic development plans and evolve as leaders in Nepal, as well as contribute to the expansion and strengthening of friendly relations between Japan and Nepal.

On the occasion of signing the notes, Ambassador Kikuta stated that JDS in Nepal is functioning well.

Ambassador mentioned that the JDS Alumni Association of Nepal has finally been established this year, and he was impressed by the attitude of the JDS fellows in Nepal, who are not only using their experience for their individual growth and promotion, but are also working together to further expand the impact of the JDS project.

Similarly, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of Nepal (GON) have signed the Grant Agreement for “The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)” for Fiscal Year 2024. The agreement, valued at 454 million Japanese Yen (JPY 454,000,000), was signed today, reaffirming the commitment of both governments to enhancing the capacity of Nepal’s civil service through advanced education. Government of Japan has been providing this scholarship continuously since 2016.

The Exchange of Notes regarding the assistance was signed by Dr. Ram Prasad Ghimire, Secretary, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of Nepal (GON) and KIKUTA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal on behalf of the Government of Japan (GOJ).

**Royal Thai Embassy In Kathmandu Organized Thai Film Festival In Chhaya Center From August 30**

The Royal Thai Embassy in Kathmandu organized the ‘Thai Film Festival Nepal 2024’. According to the embassy, the film festival held from August 30 to September 1.

This was the fourth Thai film festival in Nepal, said Supapong Sirisorn, Ambassador of Thailand in Kathmandu.

Ambassador said that the film festival helped to bring Thailand and Nepal closer. Previously, the Thai Film Festival was organized in 2013.

Ambassador Suwapong Sirisorn also said that there also offered Thai food while watching Thai movies.

This year, 65 years of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Thailand have been completed. “To celebrate our long-standing relationship and to connect the Thai and Nepalese people through the universal language of film, the Thai Embassy is organizing a Thai Film Festival in Nepal,” said the Embassy in a press release. Various award-winning Thai films will be screened at the film festival hall, the embassy said.



Films displayed included On August 30, How to Make Millions Before Dies and Pad Thai the Movie will be screened on August 31, Together the Movie and Undertake on August 31, and Dream a Little Dream and Broken Sword Hero on September 1.

**Nepal Requests China To Convert Loan For Pokhara International Airport To Grant**

The Government of Nepal has requested China to convert the loan taken to build the Pokhara Regional International Airport into a grant.

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The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has also written a letter to the Chinese side requesting to convert the loan into a grant. In an event held at the MoF on Thursday, Dhani Ram Sharma, Chief of the International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division at the MoF, handed over the letter to Yang Weiqun, Vice-Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Bishnu Prasad Paudel, urged the Chinese side to pay special attention to the economic situation in Nepal and to convert the loan taken during the construction of Pokhara Regional International Airport into a grant

For Pokhara Airport, Nepal has received a loan equivalent to Rs. 25.88 billion (as of today's exchange rate of Chinese Yuan) from China's Exim Bank. A loan agreement for the construction of Pokhara Airport was signed in 2016 and the construction work had started immediately.

### UNDP's New Resident Representative Presents Letter Of Credence To The Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Dr. Rana

The new Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program Kyoko Yokosuka presented her Letter of Credence today to Honorable Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Arzu Rana Deuba.



Receiving the letter, Minister Dr. Rana congratulated Ms Yokosuka and acknowledged the longstanding partnership and collaboration between

the Government of Nepal and UNDP in the journey to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. "Nepal has made significant strides in its development journey despite socio-economic, environmental, and political challenges. As the country graduates from the list of Least Developed Countries, UNDP's role is even more vital in building a Nepal that is economically robust, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable," she said.

"With our core expertise in the areas of building resilience, creating jobs, and promoting democratic governance, UNDP looks forward to collaborate with the government, the civil society and the private sector to address the national development priorities and deliver on our promise to leave no one behind," said Yokosuka reaffirming UNDP's strong commitment to supporting Nepal in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Yokosuka has over 25 years of experience in international development, having served in various leadership roles globally. Prior to her appointment in Nepal, she was the Deputy Executive Coordinator for the United Nations Volunteers, based in Bonn, Germany.

She previously served as the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Uzbekistan, Lao PDR and Bangladesh. Her extensive career with the UN also includes roles in UNDP Romania, in the Regional Bureau for Europe, and in UNDP Headquarters in New York.

Yokosuka is a Japanese national and holds a Master's degree in Development Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

### Korean Embassy And MoFE Jointly Organized A Seminar On Cooperation On Climate Change

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Forests and Environment jointly organized the "2024 Seminar for Cooperation on Climate Change," to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and Nepal.



The Chief Guest of the seminar, Aain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri, Minister for Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal commended South Korea's role in the global efforts to tackle on climate changes issues. Minister also emphasized the 50-year journey as a tale of shared values and mutual respect, contributing to personal and economic development.

Park Taeyoung, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, emphasized the importance of policy development and implementation in integrating climate change adaptation. He mentioned that the Republic of Korea is keen to support regional and international initiatives aimed at halting climate change by reducing emissions and increasing the efficiency of clean and renewable energy.

He also underscored the critical role of inclusive policies, sustainable development and community empowerment in addressing the challenges faced by vulnerable populations. He also stressed on the need for robust policies to effectively tackle the climate change impacts on the communities. He also mentioned that the jointly organized seminar on this day will further strengthen the bilateral cooperation between Korea and Nepal on environment and climate issues. Ambassador Park also noted that Korea is committed to supporting Nepal in its climate change endeavors as a good friend "Ramro Sathi".

The speakers in the seminar highlighted the national policies for climate change goal in Nepal and reducing climate and environmental risks. They also highlighted the importance of bilateral relations between two countries for coordinating to protect the environment and climate change issues.

**Secretary Marasini Has Been Transferred To The National Planning Commission**

Secretary Madhu Kumar Marasini has been transferred by the government to serve as the Secretary of the National Planning Commission. Previously, he was moved from the Ministry of Finance to the Vice President's office last month.



Secretary Marasini brings a wealth of experience from various ministries, including the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supply Ministry of Finance and other, and has a deep understanding of the development sectors within Nepal.

**Deepak Raj Joshi Appointed New CEO Of Nepal Tourism Board**

The newly elected CEO of Nepal Tourism Board, Deepak Raj Joshi, has pledged to focus on meeting the government's target of welcoming 1.6 million foreign tourists to the country.

The government has announced this in the budget for the current fiscal year.

Assuming office for the second time, Joshi said his priorities will be to promote the international market for Nepal's tourism with the identification of potential markets and areas.

Talking to RSS, he said he is committed to supporting the effective implementation of the Visit Decade (2023-2031) announced by the government.



He was the CEO of the Board in 2019 which marked the arrival of around 1.2 million foreign tourists. He got his term ended with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As he said, Nepal's tourism sector needs more research and studies and he will do his best to address this gap as the CEO. He added that he has come up with a clear draft of his plan of action for the next four years and will be focused on implementing it. According to him, he will be unveiling his working strategy for the next four years soon.

He expressed commitments to further expanding Nepal's tourism in the international market in partnership with the private sector. He assesses that the shortage of required human

resources is the major challenge for boosting up Nepal's tourism industry and will work for increasing the workforce in cooperation with the related agencies.

**Prabal Adhikari Appointed As Senior Energy Expert In Ministry Of Energy**

The Government of Nepal (Council of Ministers) has appointed Prabal Adhikari, the outgoing Deputy Executive Director of Nepal Electricity Authority, as a senior energy expert in the Ministry of Energy.

Meeting of the Council of Ministers has appointed the Energy Officer as a special category expert.

Energy Minister Deepak Khadka welcomed the officer to the ministry by giving him a letter of appointment today in the presence of Energy Secretary, Joint Secretary and other officials.

The officer told the water concern that he has taken charge.

The official, who worked in the country's electricity sector for three decades, retired as the 12th level deputy executive director of the authority last December.



An expert in energy, bilateral and multilateral energy strategies, cross-border electricity trade, the officer is considered as a resource person in the country's energy-related matters. He had successfully performed the responsibility of the departmental head of the Electricity Trade Department of the Authority for almost a decade.

The electrical engineering officer is also a writer, writer and poet. During the corona period, his poem 'Katroma Goji Noi' was famous.

Officials who are devoted to writing, reading, studying and researching, are especially good at formulating strategies about not only Nepal but also the global status of the energy sector, strategic values and steps Nepal should take.

**Five Benefits Of Opening An Account With Global IME Bank**

Global IME Bank Limited has announced a special plan where 5 additional facilities are available along with regular facilities when opening a new account in the bank.

Under this scheme, when opening an account in the bank, one can apply for opening a demat account, Mero Share,

## BUSINESS BRIEF

**एकसाथ पु**  
सजिलो सेवा, एकमुष्ट सुविधा

अब बैंक सातौं शेर कारोबारको लागि चाहिने सम्पूर्ण सुविधा एकसाथ सजिलो लिनुहुने



C-ASWA, and TMS account along with attractive interest rates and other regular facilities.

The customer will get the demat account required for trading (buy-

ing and selling) of securities in Global IME Capital and my shares for its operation, the C-ASWA registration number required for filling the IPO and the TMS account facility required for buying and selling shares in the stock market at JBNL Securities.

This facility is also available in Digital Universe, which was recently launched by the bank. This facility can be used as per the need at home through the digital universe.

These services will be available from 354 branch offices of the bank.

You can also join this scheme by opening a new account in the bank or modifying your existing account in this scheme and activating the inactive account.

Global IME Bank is the first private sector bank with branch network in 77 districts of the country. The bank has 354 branch offices, 379 ATMs, 255 branchless banking services, 68 extension and revenue collection counters and 3 foreign representative offices.

### NIMB Launched 'NIMB Smartloan' Powered By Fone-loan

Nepal Investment Mega Bank Ltd. (NIMB) launches 'NIMB Smartloan' Powered by Fone-loan – A new mobile loan feature on NIMB Smart

In an initiative towards financial inclusion and accessibility, Nepal Investment Mega Bank Limited (NIMB) has announced the upgraded version of 'NIMB Smartloan' a new mobile loan feature available within the NIMB Smart mobile banking app. With this feature, an eligible customer has



access to an instant loan up to Rs. 5,00,000 directly through NIMB Smart app without the need of any collateral, paperwork or bank visits.

Eligible account holders can enjoy a loan based on their individual loan limit set by the bank. NIMB

offers flexible repayment options allowing customers to choose from a repayment period of 1 month or in installments (EMI) spread up to 36 months. Additionally, this service also has an option of prepayment facility.

Customers can easily register for NIMB Smartloan through the NIMB Smart app by providing a verified email address. Eligibility for NIMB Smartloan is decided by various criteria set by the bank such as having a salary account, regular transactions, no pending loan with the bank, loan repayment behavior. Eligible customers will be able to apply NIMB Smartloan from the dashboard of NIMB Smart app and can avail the service.

Bishwa Singh, Head of Digital Payments at NIMB, shares his enthusiasm for the launch, "We are keen to introduce the upgraded version of NIMB Smartloan. With the highest loan amount offered through any mobile platform in the industry, we aim to empower our customers by providing a more convenient and accessible financial solution that meets their needs."

### MCA-Nepal Signs Contract For 18 km Cross Border Transmission Line

MCA-Nepal signed a contract for the critical 18 km cross-border electricity transmission line, a critical component of the broader Electricity Transmission Project under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Nepal Compact funded by the Government of Nepal and the U.S. Government. As MCA-Nepal marks the one-year anniversary of the Compact's Entry-Into-Force, this new milestone reflects the unwavering commitment from all stakeholders to enhancing regional energy trade between Nepal and India. The contract, valued at USD 12.36 million, has been



awarded to Transrail Lighting Ltd., which will construct the transmission line from the 400 kV New Butwal Substation in Nawalparasi Bardhaghat Susta West to the Nepal-India border within the contract duration of 21 months.

In the presence of officials from the Ministry of Finance, National Electricity Authority (NEA), MCC and MCA-Nepal, the contract was signed by Khadga Bahadur Bisht, Executive Director of MCA-Nepal, and Amol Wankhede, representative of Transrail Lighting Ltd.

Dr. Ram Prasad Ghimire, Secretary, Ministry of Finance and MCA-Nepal Board Chair said, "Along with the signings of the three substation contracts worth USD 126 million, this 18 km transmission line project is set to play an important role in helping Nepal make strides in achieving

its domestic power goals and reinforcing Nepal’s position in the regional energy market.”

Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director at NEA, stated, “This 18 km segment is not just a construction project; it’s a critical link that will enhance Nepal’s energy infrastructure and deepen our cross-border energy cooperation with India. This accomplishment is a testament to the strategic foresight and dedication of all involved.”

**NIMB Ace Capital Ltd. Appointed As Issue Manager For Star Micro Insurance Company’s IPO**

Star Micro Insurance Company Limited has signed an agreement with NIMB Ace Capital Limited to act as the issue and sales manager for the upcoming Initial Public Offering (IPO).



The IPO will consist of 2,250,000 ordinary shares, each priced at NPR 100, Amounting to a total of NPR 225,000,000, which represents 30% of the company’s issued capital.

Star Micro Insurance Company Limited, which was registered on 2079/09/14 and received its non-life micro-insurance license on 2080/05/01, has been providing non-life micro-insurance services across various regions of the country.

The agreement, signed on Bhadra 9, 2081, was officially endorsed by Bishwo Ram Timila, CEO of Star Micro Insurance Company Limited, and Sachindra Dhungana, General Manager of NIMB Ace Capital Limited.

**Global IME Signs Agreement With MAW Vriddhi Autocorp & Vriddhi Motors For EV Loan**

Global IME Bank and MAW Vriddhi Autocorp and Vriddhi Motors inked a loan agreement for electric vehicle.

According to a press release of Global IME Bank today, the agreement is signed by the Head of Small, Retail and Agriculture Credit Department, Narahari Silwal and Group Director of Vriddhi Autocorp Motors & Vriddhi Motors Gopal Kumar Agrawal.



The bank has been providing concessional loan for electric vehicle with the motive of promoting green financing.

**FNCCI President Dhakal Urged To Speed Up Economic Reforms**

Chandra Prasad Dhakal President of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) urged to speed up economic reforms as the market has started to improve.

Dhakal, President of the FNCCI, has requested to make good use of this opportunity as the economy is gradually improving and the overall market is starting to move.

Speaking at an interaction program organized by Federation of Nepal Industry and Businessmen today in Kathmandu, President Dhakal said that there are clear signs of improvement in the economy in the belief that the government will provide stability. President Dhakal has also requested for more cooperation between the government and the private sector to attract domestic and foreign investors by paying attention to the improvements seen in the market.

President Dhakal mentioned that while there is excitement in the stock market in the country, the real estate business is also slowly increasing and the demand for credit is also improving, so it is necessary to make it more sustainable. Chairman Dhakal also mentioned that tourist arrivals are increasing, remittances are the highest so far, foreign currency reserves are sufficient, and the balance of payments is in a comfortable state, so there is an easy environment for investors to trust and work.



Welcoming the initiative of bringing two international airports of Pokhar and Bhairahawa into operation to attract more tourists, President Dhakal also drew attention to the fact that the time has come to take initiatives to eliminate the difference in fees charged to domestic and foreign tourists and to make air travel easier and cheaper.

President Dhakal also said that the federation is working in every way to support the initiative of bringing in foreign investment by organizing the Nepal Thailand Business Forum during the Prime Minister’s visit to Thailand in the near future.

Previously, the federation has organized two investment promotion programs in India and four in China and Dubai. President Dhakal also mentioned that the foreign investment assistance cell established by the federation is providing assistance to the investors as per the demand of the investors.

# Harnessing The Future: Green Hydrogen As A Game-Changer In The Fight Against Climate Change



BY: MADHU KUMAR MARASINI

At the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28) on climate change, held in December 2023, the world witnessed a paradox: a global climate summit hosted by the United Arab Emirates, a nation with the seventh-largest fossil fuel reserves. To add the odd, the Conference was chaired by the CEO of an oil company, namely, the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC). Critics were quick to cry foul, accusing oil executives of trying to steer the conversation away from real climate action. Yet, against all odds, COP 28 shattered expectations. For the first time in history, the conference boldly recognized fossil fuels as a primary driver of climate change, marking a turning point in global climate policy. With a landmark agreement to phase out fossil fuels and transition to net-zero by 2050 in a fair and just manner, the United Nations' climate chief, Simon Stiell, declared this moment as the 'beginning of the end'. Adding to the triumph, COP28 also announced the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund, with an initial pledge of USD 700 million, to support vulnerable nations like Nepal, bringing a glimmer of hope to those on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

As the world rallies behind the Paris Agreement, nations have once again vowed to keep global temperature rise within 1.5 degrees Celsius and gradually phase out fossil fuels to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. This commitment was underscored by the first-ever Global Stocktaking of the Paris Agreement's progress, marking a critical milestone in our fight against climate change. To break free from the grip of fossil fuels, the search for sustainable energy alternatives has intensified, with one contender rising to the forefront: Green Hydrogen. Harnessed from renewable energy sources, Green Hydrogen is emerging as a powerful, climate-friendly fuel that could revolutionize industries, transportation, and even household energy use. With its potential to mimic the versatility of fossil fuels while leaving a minimal carbon footprint, Green Hydrogen represents a beacon of hope in the transition to a sustainable future.

However, the path forward is not without hurdles. High production costs, infrastructure needs, market development, and strict safety standards pose significant challenges to its widespread adoption. Yet, advancing Green Hydrogen production has become a key strategy in implementing the COP28 agreement, offering a promising solution to our global energy dilemma. This article delves into the vast opportunities Green Hydrogen presents in the fight against climate change and outlines the critical steps Nepal must take to harness its potential.

## The Potential of Green Hydrogen in Nepal

For a country like Nepal, blessed with abundant hydropower potential, converting this energy into Green Hydrogen could be a game-changer, driving the nation's long-awaited economic transformation. Beyond the environmental benefits of achieving zero carbon emissions, this transition could significantly reduce Nepal's dependence on imported petroleum products, conserving valuable foreign currency and helping to address the

growing trade deficit—a major hurdle for Nepal's economy.

Nepal's hydropower production, predominantly based on run-of-river systems, often leads to surplus electricity during the monsoon season, much of which goes to waste due to underutilization. Despite this abundance,

per capita electricity consumption in Nepal remains the lowest in South Asia, with 2022 figures showing just 325 kilowatt-hours per

person, compared to 1,225 kilowatt-hours in India and 500 kilowatt-hours in Bangladesh. According to data from the Nepal Electricity Authority, a staggering 93% of this electricity is used for residential purposes, with only 1.36% going to industry. During the monsoon season, nearly 800 megawatts of excess electricity were wasted, even after exporting some to India.

This unutilized electricity presents a unique opportunity: by converting it into Green Hydrogen, Nepal could store this energy for use during the dry winter months, fuel its industries, or even export it to earn foreign currency. Such a strategy would not only mitigate the trade deficit but also contribute to the stability of the balance of payments. With the Nepalese government's ambitious target of increasing electricity production to 28,000 megawatts by 2035, exploring the diverse applications of available hydropower, including the production of Green Hydrogen, becomes not just an option, but a necessity.

However, realizing this vision is not without its challenges. Green Hydrogen production relies on cutting-edge technology and entails significant costs. Nepal must invest in infrastructure, research, and development to make this energy source viable. Addressing these challenges head-on will be crucial for Nepal to capitalize on the immense opportunities that Green Hydrogen offers.

## Production Process and Utilization of Green Hydrogen

Green Hydrogen is produced from renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower, with some countries, like India, even exploring its production from biomass. The process, known as electrolysis, involves splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using electricity, resulting in zero carbon emissions. This versatile energy source can then be converted into synthetic fuels and Green Ammonia, which has wide-ranging applications—from powering transportation systems like ships, trains, buses, and trucks, to producing chemical fertilizers essential for Nepal.

Green Hydrogen's potential doesn't stop there. It can be stored for future use, transported via pipelines or tankers, and utilized across various industries, including steel mills and chemical plants. It can also provide heating, cooling, and even be converted back into electricity. However, a significant challenge lies in minimizing leakage during the conversion process—a hurdle that must be overcome to fully unlock Green Hydrogen's potential.

## Global Preparations and Lessons for Nepal

Nepal can draw valuable lessons from its neighbors and other nations that are making significant strides in Green Hydro-

gen development. India, for example, has launched an ambitious Green Hydrogen Mission, committing ₹19,744 crores by 2029-30 to develop electrolyzer technology and provide subsidies to producers. With 34 companies already vying for these subsidies, India is positioning itself as a leader in the global Green Hydrogen market, aiming to create 600,000 green jobs by 2030.

Bhutan, too, is making strides, having unveiled its Green Hydrogen Roadmap at COP28, with support from the U.S. Department of Energy. Meanwhile, China, with its Green Hydrogen Strategy (2021-2035), is setting ambitious targets to reduce the cost of Green Hydrogen production and increase its use in transportation and heavy industries. The United States, under the Biden-Harris administration, has prioritized Green Hydrogen as part of its “Energy Earthshot” initiative, aiming to reduce costs by 80% and make hydrogen energy more competitive by 2031.

These global efforts underscore the growing momentum towards a hydrogen economy. For Nepal, this represents not just a challenge, but a tremendous opportunity. By leveraging its abundant hydropower resources and drawing on international expertise and technology, Nepal can position itself as a key player in the emerging green energy landscape.

### Geopolitical Shifts and the Rise of Green Energy

The global shift towards green energy has the potential to dramatically reshape geopolitical dynamics. Just as the discovery of oil transformed the Gulf countries into economic powerhouses, the promotion of renewable energy could elevate regions rich in natural resources—such as sunshine, wind, and water—to new strategic importance. Countries like Namibia, which is launching a \$10 billion Green Hydrogen project in the Namib Desert, are already capitalizing on this trend, turning once-overlooked resources into valuable assets.

Nepal, with its vast hydropower potential, is well-positioned to join this green energy revolution. By harnessing its natural resources and developing a robust Green Hydrogen industry, Nepal can not only contribute to global decarbonization efforts but also drive its own economic growth, creating green jobs, boosting exports, and reducing its trade deficit.

### Cost Competitiveness: The Road Ahead

One of the biggest challenges facing Green Hydrogen today is its cost. Currently, producing Green Hydrogen is three times more expensive than producing gray hydrogen, largely due to the high costs of renewable energy and electrolysis technology. However, there is hope on the horizon. Over the past decade, the cost of solar and wind energy has plummeted, and technological advancements are driving down the cost of electrolyzers. By 2030, the price of Green Hydrogen is expected to be on par with blue hydrogen, making it a more viable option for commercial use.

This shift is already underway, with global production of electrolyzers quadrupling between 2022 and 2023. To achieve the global commitment to zero carbon emissions by 2050, 5,700 gigawatts of electrolyzer capacity will be needed—meeting 14% of the world’s energy demand. As costs continue to decrease and

production scales up, Green Hydrogen will become increasingly competitive, opening up new markets and opportunities for countries like Nepal.

### Green Hydrogen Potential in Nepal: A Strategic Imperative

Nepal is blessed with abundant renewable energy resources, particularly in hydropower, but also in solar, wind, and biomass energy. Despite this potential, renewable energy currently accounts for just 7% of Nepal’s energy consumption. To meet its commitment to zero carbon emissions by 2045, Nepal must prioritize the development and use of renewable energy.

As one of the country most vulnerable to climate change, Nepal has a vested interest in harnessing its natural resources to mitigate the impacts of global warming. Green Hydrogen production and trade offer a unique opportunity for Nepal to boost exports, reduce its trade deficit, enhance energy security, and achieve its sustainable development goals.

Recognizing this potential, the Asian Development Bank conducted a feasibility study in 2020 on “hydropower-to-hydrogen” in Nepal. The study highlighted the benefits of converting surplus hydropower into Green Hydrogen, which could be used during dry seasons, stored for later use, or exported. However, despite

these promising prospects, investment in this sector has been limited.

For Nepal to realize the full potential of Green Hydrogen, significant preparations are needed. This includes infrastructure development, investment in research and development, and the creation of a supportive legal and institutional framework. By leveraging international cooperation and securing support from neighboring countries like India and China, Nepal can position itself as a leader in the global Green Hydrogen market.

India and China, Nepal can position itself as a leader in the global Green Hydrogen market.

### Conclusion and Recommendations: Seizing the Opportunity

COP28 has solidified a global commitment to reducing fossil fuel use and increasing renewable energy adoption. For Nepal, this presents a golden opportunity to achieve zero carbon emissions and drive economic transformation through the strategic use of its abundant hydropower resources.

To capitalize on this opportunity, Nepal must take decisive action. This includes fully operationalizing the Green Hydrogen Policy (2080), establishing a dedicated focal point for Green Hydrogen, and launching pilot projects to build local expertise and lay the groundwork for commercial development. Mobilizing international support through climate diplomacy and encouraging private sector investment will also be crucial.

In conclusion, the time is ripe for Nepal to explore the vast opportunities offered by Green Hydrogen. By embracing this emerging technology, Nepal can drive sustainable development, create green jobs, and play a leading role in the global transition to a net-zero carbon future. The journey ahead is challenging, but the rewards are immense—transforming Nepal’s vast hydropower potential into a true boon for the nation and its people.

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*(The writer is a Secretary of the Government of Nepal. The views expressed here are his personal)*



## POLITICS Do Or Die

*The political landscape in Nepal is currently marked by intense rivalry, particularly between the CPN-UML leader KP Sharma Oli and Maoist Center leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, who was ousted from power in a sudden manner. Prachanda is now pursuing a strategy aimed at political retribution. In response, Prime Minister Oli and the CPN-UML have adopted a more aggressive stance, accusing Prachanda of engaging in corrupt practices. This visible conflict between the two dominant communist factions is likely to lead Nepal's political environment into a state of uncertainty. Prachanda has issued warnings regarding the potential for political unrest reminiscent of the turmoil seen in Bangladesh.*

By KESHAB POUDEL

In a recent statement, opposition leader Prachanda characterized Prime Minister Oli as attempting to portray himself as both a witch and a shaman, indicating the precarious direction of Nepal's politics. He cautioned that if Prime Minister Oli and

his coalition allies persist in their current behavior, a political uprising akin to that in Bangladesh could ensue. Prachanda noted that the situation is rapidly deteriorating, leaving the possibility of unforeseen developments. He further claimed that his government

was removed from power after he revealed the identities of those involved in the Bhutanese refugee scandal, the cooperative scandal, and other corruption-related issues.

Displeased with Prime Minister Oli's political maneuver to remove him

## COVERSTORY

is impossible in Nepal because of the inclusive and democratic constitutional work,” Prime Minister Oli said.

He accused Prachanda of making irresponsible remarks and conspiring to topple the government by creating political upheaval and uncertainty.

“One can dream as he wishes. New political turmoil is not possible in Nepal. Such turmoil will only benefit the regressive forces. We have overthrown the monarchy and

promulgated a new inclusive, secular, federal and republican constitution,” said Oli, who is also at loggerheads with Kathmandu Metropolitan City Mayor Balen Shah.

Shyam Ghimire, the chief whip of the Nepali Congress, stated following the meeting that it has been determined that the parties will remain united in support of the government. He indicated that the groundwork for developing a minimum common program to ensure solidarity among the power partner parties has commenced.

Ghimire noted that there were already seven points established between the UML and the Nepali Congress, and a minimum common program will be formulated based on these points to foster unity among all parties involved. He expressed confidence that this program would be ready within a few days. A working group tasked with drafting the minimum common program was established during the meeting of Congress and UML leaders on Sunday evening.

This committee includes Congress General Minister Gagan Thapa, Spokesperson Prakasharan Mahat, UML Deputy General Secretary



from authority, Maoist leader Prachanda is still grappling with the aftermath of this unexpected development. In a bid for political retribution, Prachanda is aligning himself with all factions that have opposed PM Oli.

As the adage in politics suggests, “your adversary’s energy can be your ally,” Prachanda is discreetly engaging with those who oppose CPN-UML leader Oli. During his statements in the House of Representatives, Maoist leader Prachanda alluded to the potential for a widespread uprising against the Oli administration, reminiscent of the situations in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Conversely, Prime Minister Oli and the CPN-UML are focusing their efforts on targeting Maoist chairman Prachanda and his party. Prime Minister Oli asserted that a political upheaval akin to that in Bangladesh is improbable until he and his party regain power.

### The Ruling Alliance Criticizes Prachanda

As the principal opposition figure, Prachanda has embarked on a nationwide campaign to rally party members in preparation for various

political scenarios. In response, the ruling coalition has determined to present a united front to enhance the effectiveness of both the government and the parliament.

During a recent meeting, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli expressed his discontent with the actions of Maoist Chairman Prachanda. A participant noted that following the passage of the Truth and Reconciliation bill, there was a need to reach a consensus on establishing the commission; however, Prachanda appears to be engaging in provocative political maneuvers instead. The Chief Whip of CPN-UML remarked that misleading narratives are being propagated, particularly stemming from statements made by Pushpa Kamal Dahal, the leader of the opposition Maoist Center.

“We initiated discussions after hearing unfounded claims that Nepal would become like Bangladesh, along with false assertions regarding constitutional amendments,” he stated. The ruling parties convened on Monday evening at Baluwatar, the Prime Minister’s official residence, and resolved to maintain solidarity in support of the government.

“Politicians can wish for upheavals to get benefits and reach in power. But it

## COVERSTORY

Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, and Vishnu Rimal. Chief Whip Ghimire also mentioned that the perspectives of other power partner parties will be incorporated into the draft prepared by the working group. However, he emphasized that since the Congress and UML are the principal parties, the drafting committee comprises leaders from these two organizations.

Following the establishment of the working group, a meeting was convened today with the leaders of the ruling parties, including JSP, LOSPA, Janmat Party, and NAUPA. The discussion, which lasted nearly three hours in Baluwatar, concluded with UML's chief whip Mahesh Bertaula echoing sentiments similar to those expressed by Congress's Ghimire. Chief Whip Bertaula remarked, "We have initiated discussions regarding the collaboration of ruling parties to enhance the effectiveness of both the government and parliament." The leaders reached a consensus to present a united front in support of the government, and the topic of constitutional amendment was also addressed during the meeting. There exists some uncertainty surrounding the amendment process. Chief Whip

Bertaula stated, "We have deliberated on strategies to dispel such misconceptions." Additionally, Prime Minister Oli voiced his discontent regarding the actions of Maoist Chairman Prachanda. According to a participant, following the passage of the truth-telling bill, there was a need to secure agreement for the establishment of the commission; however, Prachanda is perceived to be engaging in politics of provocation instead.

### Hostile Situation

The increasing discontent and anger among the youth suggest that the potential for new unrest remains a possibility if the government implements any unpopular policies. The recent decision by the government, led by KP Sharma Oli, to dismiss Kul Man Ghising from his position as Managing Director of the Nepal Electricity

Authority (NEA) and to subject him to scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Representatives has proven to be counterproductive. During a recent public gathering held in celebration of Gaura Parba, young people voiced their dissent by chanting slogans against Prime Minister Oli and his administration, urging their peers to rise against the corrupt practices of the government and its leaders. Despite the presence of Prime Minister Oli and former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, the youth expressed their disapproval vocally. In contrast, they received anti-Oli leader Bhim Rawal with enthusiasm as he spoke at the event. Although the Public Accounts Committee, chaired by a leader from the CPN-UML, passed a resolution calling for action against MD Ghising, the ruling coalition, led by Nepali Congress and Arjun Narshing KC, opposed this initiative.

The current support emanating from social media indicates that any action taken against the well-known figure Ghising at this time could incite a violent protest. Various groups, including the Maoist center and other fringe organizations, are poised to exploit this situation.

### Prachanda's Challenges

Chairman of the CPN (Maoist Center), Prachanda, has called upon the government to make a decision via

the Council of Ministers regarding the recovery of approximately Rs 22 billion in arrears owed by businessmen.

Following criticism from CPN-UML leaders allied with Oli during a session of the Public Accounts Committee, Prachanda attributed issues of corruption and poor governance to CPN-UML leader Oli. In his address to the House of Representatives, he emphasized that such decisions should be made by the Cabinet rather than relying on suggestions disseminated through social media platforms like Facebook.

The Prime Minister also asked on Facebook why twenty one billion eighty eight million tax was not collected for nine years. The Prime Minister who has the right intentions should ask this question from the Cabinet. This question is not specifically asked, the person who should answer is Prime Minister Oli himself," Dahal said. "Who created this controversy by not allowing the authority to do its work on its own?"

On the 31st of Baisakh, 2075, the investigation committee established by the authorities regarding trunk lines and dedicated lines presented a report indicating that 61 industrial entities were utilizing electricity from the dedicated trunk line without remitting the appropriate tariffs.

Subsequently, measures were taken to cut the electricity supply. It was



noted that while some industries had their lines disconnected to recover outstanding payments, the directive to reconnect these lines originated from Prime Minister Oli. Furthermore, a committee comprising three ministers and secretaries was formed, with the mandate to authorize the immediate reconnection of lines and to halt any further disconnections until further notice, a decision also made by Prime Minister KP Oli.

Additionally, the Council of Ministers, under the guidance of Prime Minister KP Oli, will determine the implementation of the committee's recommendation to raise fees solely for the interim period. Lastly, inquiries regarding the reduced payments from Facebook will also be addressed by KP Oli.

The leader of the primary opposition party, CPN Maoist Center, Prachanda, has called upon the ruling parties to not only maintain the chairmanship of the Public Accounts Committee but also to ensure that the leader of the main opposition party retains this position if necessary. In parliamentary practice worldwide, the chair of the Public Accounts Committee is traditionally held by the opposition, serving as a mechanism for democratic balance and oversight.

Prachanda asserted that the government, under Prime Minister Oli, is undermining itself by disseminating false allegations via social media. He emphasized that the opposition should rightfully receive the chairmanship of the Public Accounts Committee in the current parliament; however, there are widespread concerns that this will not occur. This apprehension arises from the belief that the ruling coalition is so entrenched in its own interests that even a two-thirds majority is insufficient without the inclusion of this committee. The current dynamics

observed within the Public Accounts Committee further support this assertion.

However, esteemed members of Congress-UML, it is imperative to understand that you cannot silence our advocacy for the people's voice by diminishing our role. My challenge is not limited to the Public Accounts Committee; if necessary, the position of the leader of the principal opposition party should also remain with you. Yesterday, we stood against your misgovernance as responsible citizens, and today we continue to embody that courage and resolve.



As the rivalry intensifies among the ruling coalitions led by KP Sharma Oli, the principal opposition leader, Prachanda, is seeking to broaden his alliances with both parliamentary and non-parliamentary parties. Should the relationships among the major political entities continue to deteriorate, Nepal may encounter significant political repercussions in the near future.

Oli's unpredictable disposition remains a concern. While the Nepali Congress supports Prime Minister Oli with the expectation that he will honor his commitments, his unpredictable nature leads NC leaders to maintain open lines of communication with Maoist leader Prachanda.

Oli is widely regarded as a person

prone to vindictiveness. Despite Kul Man Ghising holding only a joint secretary position within the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), Prime Minister Oli, as the executive leader of Nepal, has been orchestrating various forms of retribution against him.

Recently, PM Oli also dismissed Shaker Das Bairagi, a seasoned diplomat and former Chief Secretary, from his role as National Security Advisor.

Furthermore, he abolished the posi-

tion altogether, along with the cabinet guidelines that had been established to create it. Although Bairagi is a highly skilled and capable individual with decades of experience in diplomatic service, PM Oli harbors a dislike for him due to Bairagi's previous service under Prachanda's administration. This unpredictable behavior has led to a lack of trust from political leaders in neighboring countries. In light of the current situation, any minor misstep by the political leadership could potentially trigger significant political unrest, with Maoist leader Prachanda poised to seize the opportunity.



OLI'S INDIA POLICY

## Nationalist Rhetoric, Anti-Nepal Outcomes

*Amidst the economic downturn, rising unemployment, and the migration of youth to other countries, Nepal is in dire need of support and goodwill from India. Nevertheless, the coalition government under Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli is focusing on emotionally charged matters such as the issuance of new currency featuring a disputed map and the EPG report, both of which are contentious topics, as a supposed solution to the nation's challenges. Nepal must engage in comprehensive negotiations to identify amicable resolutions for all unresolved matters. To achieve this, a conducive environment is essential. While Prime Minister Oli's recent actions may appear to be nationalist, they are likely to yield counterproductive outcomes by hindering negotiations with India*

By KESHAB POUDEL

Nepal and India share a deep connection through geography, culture, religion, and civilization, presenting numer-

ous opportunities for collaboration and mutual benefit. However, it has become customary for Nepalese leaders, particularly those from the

communist faction, to adopt a confrontational stance, emphasizing sentimental issues related to borders, treaties, and agreements. Given the multitude of challenges

facing Nepal across various sectors, the support and cooperation of India are essential for effective resolution. To achieve this, Nepalese political leaders must engage in credible, responsible, and measured diplomacy to address the existing outstanding issues.

It is inherent for nations to exhibit differences. In the case of neighboring countries such as Nepal and India, which are intertwined through geography, culture, religion, and civilization, there exist numerous shared interests that can foster unity.

When disputes arise between these two nations, they are typically resolved through discreet diplomatic efforts that consider the significance and backing of the involved parties. Following a successful visit by Nepalese Foreign Minister Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, an agreement was reached with Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's Foreign Secretary, to address the contentious bilateral matters through quiet negotiations.

After a month of cautious discourse regarding Nepal-India relations, Prime Minister Oli has now brought the agenda of the EPG report to the forefront during a book release event at his official residence in Baluwatar. While unveiling a book authored by Suryanath Upadhyay, Prime Minister Oli remarked that the EPG was developed with the guidance of both himself and Indian Prime Minister Modi, expressing hope that Prime Minister Modi would soon endorse

the report.

Prime Minister Oli expressed his optimism regarding the timely acceptance of the Nepal-India Eminent Persons Group (EPG) report by the Indian Prime Minister.

He emphasized that both he and Prime Minister Modi are representatives elected by their respective citizens, which enables them to comprehend each other's concerns effectively. Prime Minister Oli further stated that the challenges faced by Nepal and India could be resolved through ongoing dialogue characterized by open-mindedness and tolerance.



He remarked, "The likelihood of delivering the EPG report is significant." He added, "The Nepalese side is prepared to share the report, and I believe the Indian side is also now inclined to accept it." He noted, "We have not yet had the chance to receive and present the EPG report. The Nepalese side does not face any time constraints regarding the receipt of the report. It is possible that the Indian side will coordinate a suitable time for its reception. Once the report is received, it will facilitate discussions on the outstanding issues between our two nations."

He indicated that there are existing

issues between Nepal and India, and in his proposal to address these concerns, an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) has been established with the consent of both Prime Ministers. Prime Minister Oli contended that the term geopolitics should not be employed to justify self-serving actions, emphasizing that it is not part of Nepali culture to oppose the nation's leader while residing abroad. He remarked that previously, foreign relations were maintained and influenced by the nation's strength.

Following the Second World War, it became essential for a country to advocate for its national interests in a fair and just manner, in alignment with various international treaties and agreements. He stressed that a unilateral approach should not be adopted when managing shared resources; rather, it should be based on consensus and bilateral discussions.

He further noted that the government is focused on promoting good governance with the nation and its citizens at the forefront. From the 1950s to the 1990s, communist parties campaigned against the 1950 Nepal-India treaty, Gurkha recruitment, and territorial encroachments in Susta and other regions.

1. Following the political transformation of 1990, the issues surrounding Tanakpur, Mahakali, and the long-standing dispute over Kalapani, which has persisted since the 1814 Nepal-British India Treaty, gained prominence. In the wake

## NATIONAL

of the monarchy's dissolution, the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) report, prepared by a committee appointed by the UML, has emerged as a significant topic of discussion.

Concerning the current situation, the decision to introduce new banknotes depicting the contested territory has ignited renewed tensions with India, and Prime Minister Oli's comments regarding the EPG report are expected to exacerbate relations further.

As the new administration unveils ambitious initiatives aimed at revitalizing the economy, creating jobs, and enhancing agricultural exports, it is crucial for Nepal to foster support from India, necessitating amicable relations. Following her recent trip to India, Foreign Minister Dr. Rana expressed optimism about the evolving friendship between Nepal and India. Nevertheless, these recent decisions may lead to increased mistrust and skepticism.

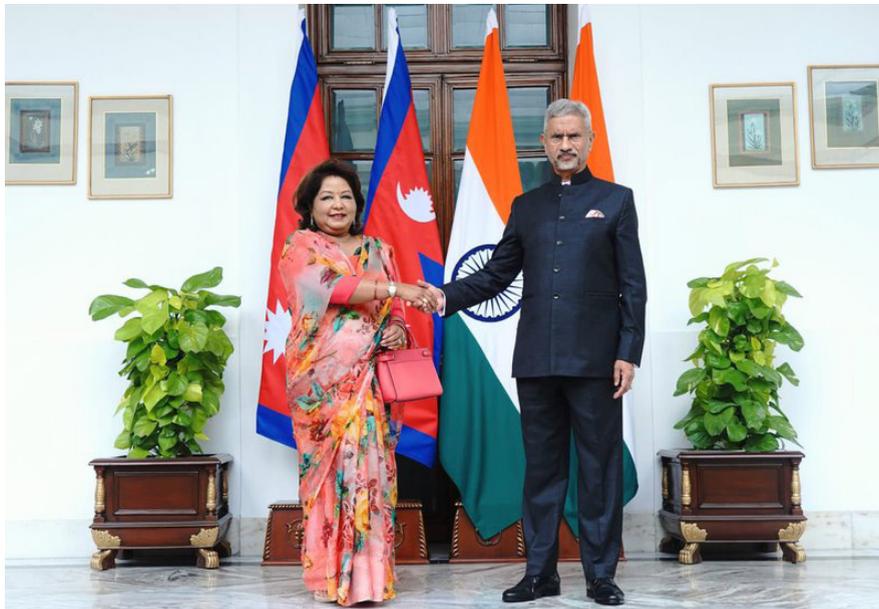
Mint, a prominent online news outlet in India, reports that Nepal's recent actions may provoke tensions with India. In a surprising development, Nepal's central bank has authorized the issuance of 100 rupee notes featuring a revised map that incorporates regions claimed by both nations. India has unequivocally asserted its claim over these territories.

In May 2020, the government of Nepal, under the leadership of K P

Sharma Oli, introduced a new political map that included the areas of Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura as part of its territory.

This map received formal approval from the Nepalese parliament, leading to the replacement of the previous map in all official documents, despite India's objections. India continues to assert that Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura are rightfully its own, and the ongoing territorial dispute remains a significant source of friction between the two countries.

"Harping a nine-year-old EPG re-



port serves merely as a hollow expression of nationalism; however, failing to capitalize on investments in Nepal for initiatives such as IITs, AIIMS, enhancing supply chains for agricultural products, and expanding tourism and connectivity infrastructure beyond Kathmandu is a shortcoming of leadership. Additionally, creating opportunities for Nepali startups with Indian investors and facilitating Indian tech companies in Nepal to generate numerous jobs should be prioritized. While nationalistic rhetoric may attract attention, it does not ad-

dress the fundamental needs of the populace. It is imperative for both nations to undertake substantial efforts towards a meaningful, impactful, and time-sensitive strategy to improve Nepal-India relations, stated Navita Srikant, an analyst based in New Delhi specializing in India-Nepal relations.

The relationship between Nepal and India is fundamentally rooted in shared civilization, culture, and mutual dependence on common resources. This interconnection fosters direct interactions among people and has significant environmental implications. Consequently, both nations share aspirations for growth, necessitating cooperation to effectively utilize these shared resources and address natural disasters. Political leaders should prioritize strategies that promote growth in Nepal while capitalizing on the opportunities presented by a rising India. Key areas

such as education, skill development, employment, health infrastructure, sectoral expansion, favorable tariffs and quotas, market access, and technological progress will be discussed in joint bilateral meetings. For instance, in 2018, Prime Minister Modi announced a Rs 100 crore package for the development of Janakpur; however, Nepal has struggled to formulate a plan to effectively utilize these funds for several years. Statements related to the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) can no longer serve as a means to secure electoral sup-

port, as they often mask the shortcomings of the government.

Nevertheless, Nepali specialists hold a contrasting perspective. Suryanath Upadhyaya, a member of the EPG appointed by CPN-UML, stated that Nepal must submit the report unilaterally if the Indian Prime Minister declines to acknowledge it officially. “Since the report has been developed by experts from both nations, it is the responsibility of the Indian government to accept it.”

Although India has not issued any formal statement, Indian media outlets, citing various governmental sources, have characterized the recent actions of CPN-UML leader Oli as a betrayal of India in favor of China. “In May 2020, the government of Nepal, under the leadership of K P Sharma Oli, introduced a new political map that incorporated the territories of Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura. This new map received formal approval from the Nepalese parliament, and the previous map was replaced in all official documents, despite India’s objections,” reports The First Post online.

India asserts that the territories of Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura are rightfully its own. This ongoing territorial dispute continues to be a significant issue between the two neighboring countries, as reported by Mint.

The Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), which serves as the central bank of Nepal, is in the process of producing new currency notes that will feature the updated map, incorporating the contested regions with

India. NRB spokesperson Dilli Ram Pokharel announced that the production of the new 100-rupee notes has commenced, with an anticipated completion and issuance timeline of six months to one year. These banknotes will illustrate Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura as integral parts of Nepal’s territory.

The decision to create and circulate these updated banknotes was made by the cabinet of Nepal, under the leadership of then Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’,



on May 3, which included the new map reflecting the aforementioned areas as part of Nepal.

Nepal shares a border exceeding 1,850 kilometers with five Indian states: Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. In recent discussions, Indian Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar expressed that Nepal’s unilateral actions are unacceptable to India, emphasizing that such actions cannot alter the existing realities on the Indian side. If the political leadership in Nepal endeavors to

promote diplomacy and address bilateral matters, it could lead to significant repercussions. Positioned between two major powers, Nepalese political leaders must exercise diplomacy with caution and precision to safeguard the nation’s interests.

The CPN-UML and its leaders, including KP Sharma Oli, engage in political maneuvering, often employing anti-India rhetoric to assert their nationalist credentials.

Oli’s recent remarks and new initiatives reflect this trend.

In light of the economic downturn, rising unemployment, and various social issues confronting Nepal, the political leadership often resorts to leveraging emotionally charged topics such as border disputes. By promoting a nationalistic and anti-India narrative, Nepal has missed out on crucial opportunities for economic progress that could have been fostered through cooperation with India.

Establishing a friendly relationship with India is vital for Nepal’s prosperity and development.

To facilitate this, it is necessary for Nepal to maintain ongoing discussions at various levels. Nevertheless, by bringing contentious issues to the forefront, Prime Minister Oli is obstructing the pathway to negotiations with India. Although Oli’s message may seem to resonate with nationalistic sentiments, it ultimately yields adverse effects that undermine Nepal’s interests.

EK NARYAN ARYAL

# Chief of Civil Service

*With his long experience in the civil service, newly appointed Chief Secretary Ek Narayan Aryal has already shown his priority in the civil service, urging civil servants to improve service delivery*

By A CORRESPONDENT

Everyone who joins the civil service always aspires to become a chief secretary. Few have had the opportunity to lead Nepal's more than 90,000 civil servants. Ek Naryan Aryal is one of them. Joining the civil service as a non-gazetted first class, the rise of Aryal as a chief secretary has been full of commitment and dedication in the civil service.

Having spent his entire career in the civil service, Aryal knows all the issues facing civil servants today. A humble and gentle person, Aryal is known for his strong dedication and hard work.

After assuming office, Chief Secretary Aryal has promised to bring efficiency in the public service. He signed the first file as Chief Secretary to bring efficiency in public service and development management.

Chief Secretary Aryal has said that he will create conditions for working with high morale in the public service. He says that the challenge now is to make the bureaucracy trustworthy to the service users.

After the then Chief Secretary Leeladevi Gadtaula retired due to age limit, the Cabinet meeting last Thursday decided to appoint Aryal as the Chief Secretary. Earlier, he was the home secretary.

He became the chief secretary by overtaking four secretaries who were senior to him. He joined the government service in January 2046 from Naiva Subba. Aryal became a civil servant in July 2051 through open competition and became Deputy Secretary in 2058



and Joint Secretary in 2067 through internal competition. He was promoted to Secretary in February 076.

Aryal will serve as Chief Secretary for approximately 15 months. He was the Secretary of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Labor and Employment, Home Affairs, etc. Aryal, who has experience from the local level to the Prime Minister's Office, is the 28th Chief Secretary.

Newly appointed Chief Secretary Eknarayan Aryal has received the letter of appointment. Aryal received the appointment letter after reaching the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers Office on Friday afternoon.

Chief Secretary Leeladevi Gadtaula, who is retiring today, handed over the appointment letter to Aryal. The Cabinet meeting held on Thursday decid-

ed to make Secretary Aryal the Chief Secretary.

Aryal will be the Chief Secretary for about 15 months. Aryal, who entered government service from the position of Naibsubba in 2046, was promoted to Officer in 2051, Deputy Secretary in 2058, Joint Secretary in 2067, and Secretary in 2076.

Aryal, who joined the civil service with the goal of becoming a CDDO, has started his government service in Nasu and has been promoted to the rank of Chief Secretary.

The government has appointed Home Secretary Ek Narayan Aryal as Chief Secretary.

The cabinet meeting held on Thursday decided to make Aryal the Chief Secretary with effect from August 15.

The present Chief Secretary Leeladevi Gadtaula will retire on Friday due to the age limit of 58 years.

Aryal joined the government service in the year 2046 from the post of Naib Subba towards the administrative service.

Born and raised in Putlibazar, Syangja, Eknaroyal Aryal accompanied his father to the district administration office when he was studying in 10th standard. At that time, his father showed kindness and respect to the then CDO (Chief District Officer) and said, "You should study well and become a CDO, son.

From that time, Aryal started dreaming of becoming a CDO. In the 35 years since he started working in the government following this dream, he has not only become a CDO, but has also been given the opportunity to become the Chief Secretary through Secretary.

He first joined the government service as Naib Subba on January 4, 2046. From branch officer to joint secretary, he did not wait for file promotion.

It took him 5 years to be promoted from Subba to Branch Officer of General Administration Group of Nepal Administration Service. He became a branch officer on February 4, 2051. He worked as an officer in the then Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Election Commission, Ministry of Forests and other agencies.

Seven years later, he was appointed as deputy secretary. Aryal, who became Deputy Secretary on January 6, 2058, became Joint Secretary on February 19, 2067. After making a name for himself as Joint Secretary, he remained in attractive positions for the most part, achieving the goal he had set for himself at a young age.

He became CDO of Tanahun, Makwanpur and Kathmandu. He did not want to go when he was transferred to Morang when he was the CDO of Kathmandu. He also worked as the head of the Personnel Administration



Division in the Ministry of Home Affairs and as the Consul General in the Nepalese Consulate General in Kolkata.

He was promoted to Secretary on 18 Falgun 2076 and appointed as the Chief Administrative Officer of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. He then served as Secretary in the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, and Ministry of Home Affairs.

In his civil career, he had a close relationship with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli as he got attractive opportunities when CPN-UML was in power.

On Asar 9, the then Chief Secretary Dr. After the corruption case was filed against Vaikunth Aryal by the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority, on June 10, the government transferred him to the National Planning Commission by creating the post of Chief Secretary.

With that, the race for the new chief secretary began. Due to the Maoist-led government at that time, Secretary Ramakrishna Subedi had more chances than Aryal to become the Chief Secretary.

The government led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, without appointing a new chief secretary, gave Gadtaula the responsibility of the Kamu chief secretary. In late June, UML Chairman KP Sharma Oli became prime minister.

After the coalition changed, Aryal was seen as the main contender. But after the new government appointed Gadtaula, who had a short tenure, as chief secretary on July 10, Aryal's chances became stronger.

Tomorrow, Friday, after handing over the post to the newly appointed Chief Secretary Aryal, Gadtaula will retire from Singha Darbar due to her age limit of 58 years.

Aryal, who was the Home Minister, was fourth in the list of secretaries. National Planning Commission Secretary Toyanarayan Gyawali was ranked first, Public Procurement Monitoring Authority Secretary Ramakrishna Subedi was ranked second and Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens Secretary Dinesh Bhattarai was ranked third. However, Aryal, who was ranked fourth, was made chief secretary.

## NEPAL-INDIA ELECTRICITY TRADE

# A Flourishing Enterprise

*Nepal's electricity exports during Shrawan (from July 16 to August 16) reached a value of Rs. 4.19 billion, providing a substantial boost to the development of hydropower resources in the country*

By A CORRESPONDENT

**W**ith the backing of political leadership from India and the expertise of skilled technicians from both Nepal and India, the electricity trade between the two nations has achieved unprecedented success, transforming Nepal from a net importer to a net exporter.

Previously, the electricity trade with India was often regarded as a mere illusion due to a lack of engagement from the Indian side.

However, with the support of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the adept management of Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of the Nepal Electricity Authority, the prevailing belief that India would not purchase electricity from Nepal has been fundamentally altered.

Initiated three years ago, Nepal's electricity exports to India have seen remarkable growth. The surplus electricity generated after meeting domestic demands is now being supplied to the Indian market, contributing to a reduction in the trade deficit.

Thanks to the political support from India and the proficient technicians from both nations, the electricity trade between Nepal and India has soared to



new heights, enabling Nepal to transition from being a net importer to a net exporter.

Since its inception three years ago, Nepal's electricity exports to India have surged dramatically. The surplus electricity available after fulfilling domestic needs is now being directed to the Indian market, thereby assisting in alleviating the trade deficit.

In the first month of the current fiscal year 2081-82, electricity worth 4.19 billion rupees has been exported to India.

In the month of Shrawan, the Nepal Electricity Authority has exported the surplus electricity consumed in the country to India during the rainy season and earned an income of over Rs.4.19 billion (Rs.4193924000) thousand rupees. Electricity worth Rs

131.1 million was exported daily in July.

Electricity trade with India is done in Indian rupees (Bharu). Therefore, in the month of July, two billion 62 million 12 lakh 3 thousand baht has been earned from the sale of electricity. The average rate of electricity exported in July is 8 rupees 51 paise per unit.

Kulman Ghising, managing director of the NEA, said that until eight years ago, the situation of load shedding for 8-9 hours a day during the rainy season and 18 hours during the dry season has ended, and currently, during the rainy season months, the excess electricity consumed within the country is exported more than 700 megawatts daily.

He mentioned that although there are occasional power outages due to natural and technical reasons, now there is no need for load shedding due to not being able to supply electricity according to demand.

Managing Director Ghising said, "Our first priority is to increase the electricity consumption within the country, to increase the consumption, transmission and distribution system improvement and expansion works have been implemented as a campaign, and the excess electricity consumed internally will be exported to the neighboring countries of India and Bangladesh."

'MD Ghising mentioned that the export of electricity to India during the rainy season and significant foreign exchange earnings are contributing positively to the country's foreign exchange reserves and reducing the trade deficit between Nepal and India.

'Even though we have to import electricity for a few more months during the winter, the amount of import will gradually decrease. We have become net exporters from net importers by selling the excess electricity consumed in the country from last year in the Indian market, he said.

The authority is selling the excess



electricity consumed within the country on the day-ahead and real-time market of Indian Energy Exchange (IX) at a competitive rate and in accordance with the bilateral medium-term electricity sales agreement to the Indian company NTPC Vidyut Vyar Nigam Ltd. Electricity is being sold in the state of Haryana.

The NEA has so far received approval to sell 941 MW of electricity produced by 28 projects in the Indian market in accordance with the competitive market and mid-term electricity sales agreement. A few days ago, in accordance with the bilateral agreement, an additional 251 megawatts of electricity was approved to the Indian states of Bihar and Haryana. Out of this, 125.89 MW generated from two more hydropower projects will be sold to Haryana state through NVVN. At present, 109.61 megawatts of electricity produced by the two projects is being sold in the state of Haryana.

125 MW of electricity generated from 10 hydropower projects will be exported to the state of Bihar through PTC, India as per the mid-term agreement. For the first time to export electricity to Bihar and more to Haryana, after completing the technical process, the export will be started soon.

Currently, 580.89 megawatts of electricity produced by 14 projects are being sold at IX at a competitive rate. As the electricity export of the quantity approved a few days ago has not started, currently 690.50 MW of electricity is being exported to IX and Haryana on a daily basis. 10 percent more electricity than the approved quantity can be exported. Therefore, more than 700 MW of electricity is currently being exported daily.

Electricity worth 16.93 billion rupees was imported from India last year. During this period, electricity worth 17.6 billion rupees was exported. In the last year, Nepal has become a net exporter of electricity from being a net importer of electricity by exporting more than 130 million rupees more than imports.

Similar to the electricity trade, there are numerous other sectors in which Nepal can derive significant advantages from the larger Indian market, contributing to the prosperity of the nation.

# Two Decades Of Journey On Carbon Trade



BY: BATU UPRETY

Adopted in May 1992, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) aims primarily to stabilise the anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. The Kyoto Protocol (KP), adopted in December 1997, provisions, inter alia, for the first quantified emission limitation and reduction (QELR) commitment period (2008 – 2012), and emission trading through International Emission Trading (IET), Joint-Implementation (JI) and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

IET and JI promotes carbon trading between countries responsible for GHGs emissions, and CDM between developed and developing countries. Article 12 of the KP defined the CDM to assist both developing and developed country Parties in achieving sustainable development, and compliance with QELR commitments. Although voluntary on participation, CDM provides benefits to developed countries to comply with the GHGs emissions reduction commitments and developing countries additional funds from sale of carbon credits for sustainable development initiatives. Nepal participated in CDM-based carbon trading, being the developing country.

Nepal entered the carbon market by approving two biogas projects after being a Party to the KP in December 2005. The Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC) has registered 7 CDM projects (4 biogas and a micro-hydro, and two PoAs (Programme of Action) of biogas and improved cooking stoves) between December 2005 to March 2015 (<https://www.aepc.gov.np/pages/carbon-and-climate-change>) that are approved by the then Ministry of Environment (MoE), Designated National Authority (DNA) for the CDM projects before the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Recalling other CDM projects, DNA-CDM issued approval letters for PDD (Project Design Document) and/or its development to organisations such as Centre for Rural Technology, WWF, Pioneer Wires and Hulas Steel Industries to projects related to cooking stoves, biogas, and biomass gasification for thermal energy and electricity generation in 2009. The ADB Report (2021) informs 6 small-scale CDM projects and 4 PoAs of Nepal registered with the CDM Executive Board (EB).

A Programme of Activities (PoA) of the clean bricks production in Nepal has been registered with the CDM EB in August 2022. MoFE-DNA issued an approval letter of this brick production programme to the Climate Advocacy International as Programme Participant and/or Coordinating and Managing Entity in July 2021.

Two additional projects are implemented to reduce GHGs emissions. Nepal has signed an agreement with the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in February 2021 to reduce 9 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions in the Terai Arc Landscape area. The World Bank will provide US\$ 45 million as results-based payments for carbon emission reduction from deforestation and forest degradation through 2025.

This financing is expected to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and help to incentivise community actions in forest management in Nepal. However, high intensity forest fires each year may be a big challenge to comply with the provisions of this agreement.

The Green Climate Fund has approved a US\$ 49.2 million project on mitigating GHG emission through modern, efficient and climate friendly clean cooking solutions (CCS) in October 2021 with its grant of US\$ 21.1 million to AEPCC. Planned for completion by December 2027, this project targets to avoid 6.5 million tonnes of emissions, promote adoption of clean cooking solutions in the Terai region and build institutional capacity of 150 local governments in renewable energy sector, install 5 lakhs electric stoves, 4 lakhs and 90 thousand improved cooking stoves and 10 thousand biogas plants. GCF has already disbursed US\$ 2.9 million to implement the project activities. Increase in clean energy supply – the hydroelectricity – might encourage local people towards electric stoves than improved cooking stoves.

To promote Nepal's participation in carbon trading, sustainable development criteria was developed in 2007 to approve CDM projects and PoAs. A CDM Section in the Climate Change Management Division (CCMD), established in 2010 under MoE was responsible to facilitate, promote, coordinate and regulate carbon trade activities. MoE-CDM Section made all possible efforts to invite public and private sectors to engage in carbon trade. It established a transparent process to evaluate the CDM projects and PoA through administrative decisions. It worked well till 2017.

After merging of environment component with forests in 2018, MoFE was restructured with 5 sections under CCMD. MoFE's CCMD should, inter alia, 'facilitate mitigation measures and carbon trade' and act as the CDM's DNA. Five

Sections are on Climate Change, Adaptation, Mitigation, Climate Technology, and GHG Measurement Sections. The 2010 CDM Section dedicated to carbon trading is no more now. Based on public information, MoFE-CCMD has issued an approval letter for a brick programme between 2018 and August 2024.

The Environment Protection Act (EPA, 1996) and its Rules (1997) did not provision for carbon trade. Section 28 of the EPA (2019) has empowered the Government of Nepal (GoN) to participate in carbon trade for the mitigation and conservation of carbon emissions and allocation of benefits resulted therefrom as prescribed.

The Environment Protection Rules (EPR, 2020) elaborates provisions to promote and regulate carbon trade. As per Rules 28, GoN may sale carbon stock, received from sustainable management of forests, in national or international markets, and reduced carbon emission from other activities may also be

sold through GoN, any association or private sector. Rules 29 provide a Technical Committee to evaluate the concept paper and PDD, and Rules 30 establishes the Steering Committee to provide suggestion on PDD. At present, REDD Implementation Centre (IC) through WB's supported programme and AEPC through CDM, PoA and GCF projects are engaged in implementing GHGs emissions reduction projects and programmes. Rules 29 and 30 provision for representations from REDD IC and AEPC in both permanent Technical and Steering Committees. Under Rules 31 provisions, MoFE is to function as DNA along with its functions, rights and duties.

After four years of enforcement of the EPR (2020), MoFE called for inputs on the proposed first amendment of this EPR on 16 August 2024. The proposed amendments are basically focussed on impact assessment (IA) process, and carbon trade. The proposed amendments on IA are simply related to few procedural aspects with the need for inclusion of wildlife friendly structure in linear projects that use forests, community safeguards and disaster management plan and addition of a format for supplementary EIA. MoFE did not consider need for amendments on technical aspects related to priority issues in a public notice for scoping, terms of reference, alternative analysis, environment management plan, timing for public hearing and collection of recommendation letters from the local government(s) and prescribed organisations. Similar situation exists for clarifying Strategic Environmental Analysis (SEA) which is required for a project as well.

The proposed amendment empowers the province government to take part in carbon trade, replaces CDM projects by 'any project or social and economic activities that reduce GHGs emissions', introduces carbon trade in voluntary markets, calls for compliance with the UNFCCC and its mechanisms, and linkages with the nationally determined contribution (NDC). New provisions added are related to the listing of a project or an activity that plans to participate in carbon trading, submission of project idea note (PIN) and PDD along with a recommendation letter of the local level for approval by MoFE and implementing organisation to provide at least 80 percent of the benefits from carbon trading to the project beneficiaries. This provision will likely distract the private sector's participation in carbon trading.

Under Rules 29 provisions for technical evaluation of PIN and PDD by a Technical Committee, MoFE may issue a concurrence letter to prepare a PDD after payment of a fee ranging from NRs. 20 to 50 thousand for small, medium and large-scale projects. The Steering Committee (Rules 30) shall be established under the chair of the Secretary of MoFE to provide suggestions, and MoFE may issue the approval letter to the PDD after payment of the prescribed fee ranging from NRs.



50 to 120 thousand. As mentioned above, REDD IC and AEPC are represented in both permanent committees. To avoid conflict of interest, participation of REDD IC and AEPC in both committees should only be limited to projects of other organisations. The Technical Committee alone can perform the review and suggestions. The proposed amendments also provision for inclusion of the project and carbon credits into the Registry before project implementation. It also provisions to allocate ten percent of the total carbon credits of any project to attain the national targets in minimising carbon emissions as mentioned in the GoN approved NDC.

The Rules proposed for amendments also provisions to pay royalty @ of NRs 25 per carbon credit before selling the product. MoFE is empowered to submit a report to UNFCCC Secretariat and its established mechanism for corresponding adjustment on carbon trade and carbon credit. DNA is made responsible for, inter alia, increasing participation of private sector and approving to transfer the CDM units into the mechanism of the Paris Agreement. CoP29/CMP19/CMA6 at Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024 will likely make substantial decisions to promote carbon trading under the Paris Agreement by establishing a clear link with KP provisions.

The proposed amendment provides a format for self-monitoring and provisions to submit the report every six month to the concerned agency and the Department of Environment. The additional provision on environmental auditing sounds good but may complicate on timing. The fundamental is to conduct evidence-based auditing within the specified time as financial audit.

Budget statement of the Minister for Finance to the Parliament in mid-May 2024 also provisions for carbon trading and utilise the received money from carbon trade to develop community capacity of those highly vulnerable to climate change.

The Policy Research Institute (PRI) organised a discussion programme on 25 August 2024 to collect experts' opinions. GoN is encouraged to facilitate and regulate environmental assessment process to make the development projects sustainable, and facilitate, coordinate and regulate carbon trade by ensuring effective participation of the private sector to generate more investment in addressing climate change impacts, and benefiting the climate vulnerable poor people.

In a nutshell, the proposed amendment neither addresses the existing issues on environmental assessment nor ensures effective participation of the private sector on carbon trade. It might rather distract private sector participation in carbon trading due to provision of at least 80 percent to project beneficiaries, 10 percent allocation to NDCs, and may be the proposed royalty fee.

# New Road Map

*ADB sharpens strategic focus, increases support for key priorities*

By A CORRESPONDENT

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved an ambitious new road map to guide its evolution and scale up its support on key challenges facing Asia and the Pacific, including accelerated efforts to combat climate change and expand private sector development.

ADB's Strategy 2030 Midterm Review—an update of its corporate strategy—outlines how the bank will transform in a rapidly changing development landscape and respond to challenges that threaten its vision for a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable region.

“Cascading shocks have derailed years of development progress in Asia and the Pacific. ADB is updating its vision, expanding its financial capacity, and modernizing its operational approach to help its members respond to these unprecedented challenges, including the accelerating climate crisis, public health crises, and economic and fiscal vulnerability,” said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa. “Our support is needed now more than ever. This new road map sets an unprecedented level of ambition and focuses for ADB’s work and will ensure we meet the moment through bold action and transformative impact.”

The review sharpens ADB’s strategic focus and sets new corporate targets in key areas. In line with its mandate

to fight poverty and improve lives and livelihoods, ADB will deepen its focus on five of the region’s most pressing development issues: climate action, private sector development, regional cooperation and public goods, digital transformation, and resilience and empowerment. This enhanced focus will guide the allocation of staff and resources for greatest impact.

To boost the region’s response to climate change, ADB will target for cli-



mate finance to reach 50% of its total annual committed financing volume by 2030. ADB is committed to reaching more than \$100 billion in cumulative climate finance from 2019 to 2030.

To expand private sector development, ADB will target reaching total private sector financing of \$13 billion for the year 2030, a tripling of current volumes. This will comprise both its own account financing and all direct mobilization, including a minimum of \$4.5

billion in direct private capital mobilization. In addition, ADB is targeting 40% of sovereign operations contributing meaningfully to private sector development by 2030.

These new actions build on ADB’s ongoing efforts to increase its funding capacity and improve its efficiency in response to calls for reforms to how multilateral development banks are organized and provide support to their members.

In September 2023, ADB approved capital management reforms that unlock \$100 billion in new funding capacity over the next decade. The reforms expand the bank’s annual new commitments capacity to more than \$36 billion—an increase of approximately \$10 billion, or about 40%.

In June 2023, ADB began implementing the most significant reforms since 2002 to the way it operates. The implementation of a new operating model is increasing ADB’s capacity as the region’s climate bank; strengthening its work to develop the private sector and mobilize private investments; providing a larger range of high-quality development solutions for its developing member countries; and modernizing ways of working to make it more responsive, agile and closer to clients.

## UPPER TAMAKOSHI

# People's Choice

*The 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi, the largest hydropower facility in Nepal, has significantly aided the nation in becoming a net exporter of electricity through its commercial power generation. For its stakeholders, including the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) and four other public sector financial institutions, Upper Tamakoshi is akin to a source of continuous wealth. However, the public shareholders and local residents, who invested in the hope of receiving financial returns, have yet to experience any benefits*

By KESHAB POUDEL

Since the commencement of power generation three years ago, the Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Limited (UTKHPL) has profoundly transformed the energy landscape of Nepal. The facility produces substantial electricity during the harvest season, thereby reducing the necessity to purchase costly power from India.

Despite generating an average annual revenue of approximately Rs.10 billion, UTKHPL is unable to distribute any profits to its general shareholders or the local community. The company allocates eighty percent of its annual revenue to cover interest and debt obligations.

Since his appointment as the Chief Executive Officer of Upper Tama-

koshi Hydropower Limited (UTKHPL) on Chaitra 14, 2079, Mohan Prasad Gautam has been making efforts to provide incentives to the public shareholders and local people of Dolkha district.

During a period of transition from a development initiative to a commercial organization, CEO Gautam encounters numerous challenges in



managing the company. The Prime Minister stated, “We have not yet had the chance to receive and submit the EPG report. There has been no delay on the part of Nepal in receiving the report. It is possible that the Indian side will coordinate a suitable time for its receipt. Once we have the report, it will facilitate discussions regarding the outstanding issues between our two nations.” He further noted that there are existing challenges between Nepal and India, and in his proposal to address these, an EPG has been established with the consensus of both Prime Ministers. Prime Minister Oli emphasized that the term geopolitics should not be employed to justify self-serving actions, asserting that it is not in Nepali culture to oppose the nation’s leader while abroad.

Previously, the management of foreign relations was heavily influ-

enced by the nation’s power. In the aftermath of the Second World War, it became essential for countries to articulate their national interests in a fair and reasonable manner, adhering to various international treaties and agreements. A unilateral approach to shared resources is not acceptable; rather, collaboration should be based on consensus and bilateral negotiations, he emphasized, noting that the government is focused on promoting good governance with the nation and its citizens at the forefront.

In addition to various challenges, the project is currently experiencing significant revenue losses attributed to decreasing water levels. Over the last two years, the 456-MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Plant has seen a reduction in its generation capacity. This decline is particularly notable when compared to its output three years prior. The primary factor

contributing to this decrease is the diminished water flow in the Tamakoshi River, which has been affected by an extended winter drought along with lower levels of rainfall and snowfall.

The Upper Tamakoshi hydropower generation has already been impacted by the depletion of river water, extended periods of drought, increasing temperatures, accelerated snowmelt, and the retreat of glaciers. This 456 MW facility, recognized as the largest hydropower plant in Nepal, exemplifies the looming crisis induced by climate change and the potential losses and damages that the nation may encounter. Variations in rainfall patterns are expected to differ not only among countries but also within the borders of individual nations.

Kul Man Ghising, the Managing Director of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), underscored the significant threat that climate change poses to Nepal’s hydropower industry. Ghising emphasized that despite Nepal’s minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, which stands at only 0.0027 percent, the repercussions are profound. He pointed to alterations in rainfall patterns, glacier retreat, changes in river flow dynamics, and an increase in extreme weather events such as flash floods and droughts as contributing factors to the decline in hydropower generation. Furthermore, Ghising addressed concerns related to sedimentation, rising temperatures, and the challenges associated with water availability and demand.

Climate change presents a significant challenge for the Upper Tamakoshi region. Should river flows continue to diminish in the forthcoming years, the company’s profit margins are expected to be adversely impacted. With UTKHPL facing penalties from the NEA for the third consecutive year due to its failure to fulfill the power supply obligations outlined in the Power Purchase

Agreement (PPA), it is anticipated that the upcoming year will follow a similar pattern. Variations in water flow, which are beyond UTKHPL's control, have introduced unexpected difficulties stemming from changes in rainfall patterns. The decreased water discharge in the river has negatively influenced the power generation capacity of Nepal's largest hydropower facility during the dry season, which spans from February to May. If this situation persists, UTKHPL may incur an annual liability of around Rs. 500 million. Research indicates that water resources will be profoundly impacted by climate change, particularly through altered rainfall patterns that affect river flows and hydropower production.

The generation capacity of the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi has been significantly influenced by recent alterations in precipitation patterns observed over the last three years. The reduction in winter precipitation from 2020 to 2023 has led to a notable decline in water flows within major river systems, particularly the Tamakosi River. At present, the plant is operating at its maximum energy capacity. During the dry season, power generation can achieve levels between 300 and 456 MW for a period of 3 to 4 hours as water accumulates throughout the day.

However, the changing climate has resulted in lower water levels in the Tamakosi River, which has adversely affected power generation, as stated by Gautam, CEO of UTKHPL. Should the current trend of altered winter rainfall patterns persist in the forthcoming years, projects such as the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi may encounter substantial financial setbacks regarding annual revenue. This situation could also lead to a reduction in clean energy output, thereby increasing dependence on fossil fuels. The 456 megawatt national pride project has been under development for the past decade in Lamabagar, located in the Bigu Ru-



ral Municipality of Dolakha District. It stands as the largest hydropower initiative financed through domestic investment.

#### Right Share 1:1

The rights issue conducted on a 1:1 basis occurred from the 18th of Bhadra to the 22nd of Ashwin in the year 2080, during which a total of 105,900,000 shares were allocated to eligible shareholders at a nominal value of Rs. 100 per share. In its most recent financial report for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2080/81, the Company disclosed a net profit of Rs. 1 billion, translating to an annualized earnings per share of Rs. 25.20.

The company currently holds long-term loans amounting to 73.01 billion rupees and short-term loans totaling 3.04 billion rupees. This project is undeniably crucial for the energy security of Nepal, representing not only the largest hydropower initiative in the country but also involving shareholders that include the government, public enterprises, the general public, and local residents. UTKHPL is presently generating electricity from the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Plant and supplying it to the Nepal Electricity

Authority.

#### Multi-stake Holder Company

The diverse ownership structure of the company clearly indicates its status as a multi-stakeholder initiative. For instance, the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) holds a significant 41 percent of the shares in UTKHPL, which boasts a paid-up capital of Rs. 10.59 billion. Additionally, the Nepal Telecommunication Company possesses 6 percent of the shares, while the founding shares are distributed equally between the Citizen Investment Fund and the National Insurance Corporation, each holding 2 percent.

Furthermore, depositors of the Employment Provident Fund control 17.28 percent of the shares, employees of the lending company own 2.88 percent, NEA employees hold 8.84 percent, the general public has 15 percent, and Dolakhabasi owns 10 percent. Despite this multi-stakeholder framework, it appears that the primary beneficiaries are the financial institutions such as the Employment Provident Fund and Telecom, along with the Citizen Investment Fund, National Insurance Company, and the principal promoter, NEA, while the general public seems to



Citizenship Investment Fund, Nepal Telecom, National Insurance Corporation, and the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). Previously, the interest rate was as high as 12 percent; however, the current rate has been adjusted to 10.5 percent for the Employee Provident Fund and an average of 10 percent for the other institutions. Despite a significant decline in bank interest rates over the past year, the company continues to offer the highest borrowing interest rates, as stated by CEO Gautam.

He further noted, “The NEA has already implemented a reduction in its interest rate. While it was previously set at 10.5 percent, the NEA board has made a collective decision to lower this rate. I have made numerous attempts to persuade the lending organizations to reconsider their interest rates in light of the current circumstances, but we have yet to receive a favorable reply.”

The company is currently servicing its interest and debt obligations under a 15-year loan repayment plan, which consists of 30 installments for the long-term debt owed to the Government of Nepal, and a separate 15-year loan repayment plan with 60 installments for long-term loans from other institutional lenders. As of the conclusion of the fiscal year 2080/81, the company has made ten payments of both principal and

bear the costs. What is your perspective on this situation?

It is a fact that UTKHPL has struggled to provide an appealing dividend to the general public and local residents. Currently, my primary focus is on generating some form of profit for the general shareholders and local community. I have put forth several proposals aimed at lowering interest rates, increasing surcharges, and extending the license duration. The company is presently offering double-digit interest rates to the Employment Provident Fund, Citizen Investment Fund, Nepal Telecom, and National Insurance Corporation. In contrast, the interest rate paid to NEA stands at 6 percent.

We are appealing to the relevant organizations to consider reducing this

rate to a single digit, as the company is now operating without risk and generating profits. Additionally, we have approached major lenders, including the Employment Provident Fund, which currently charges 10.5 percent, requesting a reduction to single-digit interest rates. To attract investors, it is essential to revise the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), increase tariffs, lower interest rates, and extend the license period to 50 years. If a revision of the PPA is not feasible at this time, we urge NEA to contemplate a revision following the completion of the Rowling project, which is expected to contribute an additional 212 GWh.

The company has been remitting interest to various entities, including the Employee Provident Fund,

interest to the Government of Nepal and other lending institutions.

Public shareholders have yet to receive any returns from the project; however, public confidence and optimism remain intact. The company's share price has stabilized around Rs.270 over the past few months. I have taken all necessary measures to appeal to the lenders for a reduction in the interest rate, which would enable the company to achieve profitability and subsequently distribute earnings to public shareholders.

To enhance the management of the company's financial and administrative operations, the Board of Directors has ratified and put into effect Financial Management Rules and Human Resource Management Rules.

The project timeline has been extended for various reasons, lead-



ing to an increase in overall project costs. Consequently, depreciation and interest expenses have risen significantly, while revenue from electricity sales has not experienced a corresponding increase.

. Furthermore, it has been observed that the company's profits are likely to be influenced over the coming years. Nevertheless, with the project's completion and the commencement

of operations on 25th Bhadra 2078, the 456 MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project has significantly transformed the energy landscape of Nepal, enabling the country to achieve net exporter status.

At this stage of project completion and operational readi-

ness, the company faces increased interest expenses, depreciation, and other costs attributed to extended construction timelines. However, by ensuring the effective operation and financial stability of the company, it is possible to provide suitable dividends to investors.

Under the guidance of Kul Man Ghising, the managing director of NEA, the company is now poised for profitability. The realization of Upper Tamakoshi would not have been possible without Ghising's leadership following the earthquake. His decisive actions and regular site inspections were instrumental in rescuing the project from potential failure.

Currently, MD Ghising is collaborating with CEO Gautam to explore avenues for enhancing dividend distribution to the general public and local shareholders in the Dolkha district.



## 220 kV Chilime-Trishuli transmission line

# Final stage for completion

*With his third visit to the site in just two months, Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), is able to bring the construction of the 220 kV Chilime-Trishuli transmission line to the final stage*

By A CORRESPONDENT

For Kul Man Ghising, Managing Director of NEA, there is no holiday in his daily calendar. Ghising has to come to the office on regular days to attend meetings and manage day-to-day affairs.

Apart from the managerial and administrative work, he also has another important task of accelerating the pace of construction of hydropower projects and transmission lines.

As the MD spends most of his regular work in office hours, he has been allocating his weekly official leave to visit the construction sites to inspect the progress of the projects.

After his appointment as Managing Director for the second term, MD Ghising frequently visits the project sites and resolves the problems faced by contractors and disputes with local communities.

With his efforts, number of transmission line projects like 220 kV Chilime-Trishuli, 400 kV Inaruwa-Dhalkbar-Hetauda transmission line project are nearing completion.

220 kV Kaligandaki corridor, 220 kV Koshi corridor, 220 kV Marsyangdi corridor, 220 kV Hetauda-Bharatpur, 220 kV Bharatpur Bardaghat and Marsyangdi corridor have been completed. There are dozens of 132 kV transmission line projects have been completed in recent times. MD Ghising has used his leave to visit the sites.

The 220 kV Chilime-Trishuli

transmission line, constructed through the difficult geographical terrain of Rasuwa and Nuwakot, is a strategically important project to evacuate electricity from the region.

Constructed with the support of the European Investment Bank, the 220 kV Chilime-Trishuli transmission project has been delayed for years. However, the project is now in the final stages of completion.

grid, has reached its final stage.

The final phase of construction of the 28 km transmission line from Chilime Hub Substation located in Thambuchet, Amachhodingmo Rural Municipality of Rasuwa to Trishuli 3B Hub Substation located in Pahrebensi of Kispang Rural Municipality of Nuwakot is underway.

The remaining works of the



About the project

The construction of the 220 kV Chilime-Trishuli transmission line, which was started to transmit the electricity generated by the hydropower projects under construction on the Trishuli River and its tributaries to the national

transmission line are being completed and the construction will be in full swing before Dashain. As part of the Chilime-Trishuli 220 kV transmission line project, the construction of 220 ÷ 132 ÷ 33 kV Chilime Hub and Trishuli 3B Hub substations have been completed.

Of the 76 towers on the transmission line, 75 have been completed. One tower connection work is in the final stage. Of the 28 km transmission line, only five km remains to be laid. Approximately 200 workers are employed to connect the tower and pull the remaining lines.

The Managing Director of Nepal Electricity Authority Ghising, Deputy Managing Director of Broadcasting Directorate Dilghayukumar Shrestha and other high level team inspected the transmission line construction work on Saturday and set a deadline to complete the work before Dashain.

After discussion between the project management, consultants and the contractor company, the team decided not to delay the construction work, added more workers to speed up the work and instructed the team to complete the remaining work schedule and execute accordingly.

The team also monitored the site where the last tower was being connected and where the wire was still to be pulled.

Power from the 111 MW Rasuwagadhi and 42.5 MW Sanjen hydropower projects, which are being constructed under the management of Chilime Hydropower, a subsidiary of the authority, will be connected to this transmission line.

Both projects have been completed and are in the power generation stage. Therefore, the authority is under pressure to complete the construction of the transmission line as soon as possible.

The Managing Director of the Authority, Mr. Ghising, said that the transmission line under construction in the geographically very dangerous and difficult Himalayan region has now reached the stage of completion after continuous efforts.

“Due to the failure of this line, the two hydropower projects cannot start generating electricity. Despite the difficult geographical conditions, the construction of the line has reached its final stage. Let us all make last efforts to complete the remaining work and complete the construction



before Dashain,” said MD Ghising.

Uttargaya Rural Municipality-1 from Tiru to Siruchet in the same district is 1,235 meters. The wire will be pulled with the help of drones in the section above Mailungkholah. All preparations for the crossing of Mailung have been completed.

It is necessary to build a tower in a geographically very dangerous and difficult mountainous area because it is dense and there is no road, so stones and sand, tower materials, water should be carried by people or khachad.

The construction of the project has been affected by floods, landslides, poor performance of contractors,

problems of land use in forest areas, obstruction of local people and covid-19.

As the construction site is located in the Himalayan and hilly areas, the weather also has a negative impact on the construction of the line.

The transmission line was constructed in an area ranging from 680 to 2600 meters above sea level.

33 towers had to be built in places where there was no access road. A separate access road was constructed to reach the site. The project has constructed more than 20 kilometers of access roads for the construction of the line.

9 towers were built by transporting construction materials and equipment from Khachhad and people. 2 towers were built by transporting construction materials by helicopter.

Under the transmission line, 20 km double circuit Chilime-Mailung section and 8 km four (multi) circuit line up to Mailung-Trishuli 3B hub have been constructed.

Under the leadership of Korean companies, a multi-circuit line will be constructed to connect the power of the 216 MW Upper Trishuli-1 hydropower projects. Upper Trishuli-1 will bear 60 percent of the cost of construction of the multi-circuit line.

A contract for the construction of transmission lines and substations was signed with the Chinese company Pinggao Group of Companies in October 2074. The contract was implemented in December 2074.

# बाढीपहिरोबाट जोगिऔं

जथाभावी सडक निर्माण, खोला उत्खनन् र वन विनाशले बाढीपहिरो निम्त्याउने हुँदा:

- वृक्षारोपण गरौं, वनजंगल जोगाऔं, बाढीपहिरो नियन्त्रण गरौं,
- पहिरोको जोखिम भएका क्षेत्र तथा नदी किनारमा रुख, बाँस, निगालोजस्ता भू-क्षय रोक्ने खालका विरुवा रोपौं र संरक्षण गरौं,
- बस्ती तथा समुदायको रक्षा गरौं,
- बाढी आएको सूचना तल्लो तटीय क्षेत्रमा दिऔं,
- घर बनाउने स्थान बाढी तथा पहिरोको जोखिममा भए नभएको एकीन गरौं ।

बाढीपहिरोबाट आफू पनि बचौं, अरुलाई पनि बचाऔं ।



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\*शर्मा राना हुलेका



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