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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. Official Goodwill Visit of the President of Sri Lanka

At the invitation of Ms. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka paid an official goodwill visit to Nepal on 1-2 September.



President of Nepal with the President of Sri Lanka

The President of Sri Lanka had a bilateral meeting with Ms. Bidya Devi Bhandari on 1 September. A wide range of issues pertaining to Nepal-Sri Lanka relations were discussed on the occasion. The two Presidents also expressed happiness on the successful conclusion of the 4th BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018.

The two Presidents witnessed the exchange of two Memoranda of Understanding between the

Government of Nepal and the Government of Sri Lanka. The MoU between the Institute of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute of Sri Lanka was signed by the Foreign Secretary of Nepal Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and Ms. W. S. Parera, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Nepal. The MoU on Cooperation for the Youth Development was signed by Mr. Mohan Krishna Sapkota, Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Nepal and Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Nepal.

Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal called on the President of Sri Lanka, during which views were exchanged on further strengthening relations between the two countries in mutually beneficial areas.



Prime Minister of Nepal with the President of Sri Lanka

The President of Sri Lanka visited Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. Mr. Umakanta Jha, Chief of Province 5, Mr. Rabindra Adhikari, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, provincial ministers and officials of Lumbini Development Trust accorded a warm welcome to the Sri Lankan President and his delegation. President Sirisena offered prayers at the Mayadevi Temple and also visited the Sri Lankan monastery built on the Lumbini premises. He also paid homage to Pashupatinath temple in Kathmandu during his visit.

2. Vice President Visits China

Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice President of Nepal, paid an official visit to the People's Republic of China from 19-24 September leading a delegation to attend the 17th Western China International Fair (WCIF) in Chengdu, the Capital City of Sichuan Province. The Vice President was accompanied by his spouse Mrs. Hastmali Pun, Mr. Jivan Acharya, Advisor to the Vice President, Mr. Ram Kumar Acharya, Secretary at Office of the Vice President, Ambassador of Nepal to China and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

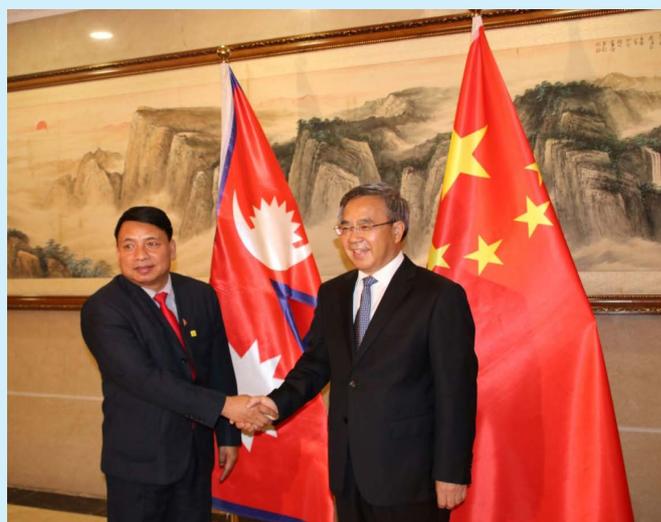


The Vice President addressing the Opening Ceremony of the 17th China Western International Fair (WCIF) in Chengdu

During the visit, the Vice President delivered separate keynote speeches at the Opening Ceremony of the 17th Western China International Fair (WCIF) and the Belt and Road Cooperation Development Conference on Business Community of Shared Future organized on the theme “Sharing,

Making Progress Together” held in Chengdu on 20 September. On these occasions, he called on Chinese and other foreign investors to invest in Nepal in the areas of energy, physical infrastructure, agriculture, and tourism industry, among others. He also requested the Chinese travel tour operators/entrepreneurs to publicize about Nepal among Chinese people and encourage them to visit Nepal for making the Visit Nepal Year 2020 successful.

Mr. Hu Chunhua, Vice Premier of China met with the Vice President. Mr. Peng Qinghua, Secretary of the China Communist Party Sichuan Province and other leaders of the Party also met with the Vice President.



The Vice President meeting with Hu Chunhua, Vice-Premier of China

In all these meetings, various aspects of Nepal-China relations were figured, including the exchange of high-level visits, promotion of investment and tourism, cross-border connectivity, cultural exchanges, people-to-people relations.

The Vice President also attended a welcome lunch hosted by business leaders of the Sichuan Investment Group Company Ltd in Chengdu and interacted with them. During the interaction, the Vice President thanked them for their initiative to invest in energy sector of Nepal, assured them of full cooperation for protection of their investment and requested them to increase their investment in Nepal.

The Vice President also visited Yibin City and Leshan City of Sichuan Province.

The visit of the Vice President was fruitful in further widening and deepening bilateral relations between the two countries.

3. Prime Ministers of Nepal and India hold bilateral meeting

A bilateral meeting was held between Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, the Prime Ministers of Nepal and Shri Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India on 31 August on the sidelines of the 4th BIMSTEC Summit.

While reviewing the progress made on the agreements/understandings reached during their recent exchange of visits in April and May 2018, the two Prime Ministers discussed various issues with a view to addressing those within the stipulated timeframe.

The two Prime Ministers witnessed the exchange of the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey of the Broad Gauge Line between Raxaul and Kathmandu. From the Nepali side Mr. Madhu Sudan Adhikari, Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport and from the Indian side Ambassador of India to Nepal Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri signed and exchanged the MoU.

The two Prime Ministers also jointly inaugurated the Nepal Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala at Tilganga.

4. Prime Ministers of Nepal and Bangladesh held bilateral meeting

Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal met with Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 30 August on the sidelines of the 4th BIMSTEC Summit. The two leaders exchanged views of further strengthening relations between the two countries in the areas of trade, transit, connectivity and energy among others.

5. Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of Bhutan meets the Prime Minister of Nepal

A meeting between Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, and Mr. Lynpo Tshering Wangchuk, Chief Justice and Chief Advisor of

the Interim Government of Bhutan was held in Kathmandu on 29 August on the sidelines of 4th BIMSTEC Summit. During the meeting, matters relating to bilateral and regional cooperation were discussed.

6. Speaker visits China

At the invitation of the Chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) Government Mr. Qi Zhala, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara visited TAR of the People's Republic of China (PRC) from 7-12 September leading a delegation. During the visit, he addressed the opening ceremony of Fourth China-Tibet International Tourism and Culture Expo 2018 held on 7 September in Lhasa. He also delivered a keynote speech at the Trans-Himalayan Belt and Road International Cooperation Forum held in Lulang Town of Lizhi City on 10 September.

During the visit, the Speaker also had a meeting with Mr. Wu Yingie, Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Party Committee of Tibet Autonomous Region of PRC on 7 September. During his addresses and meetings, he highlighted the importance of Nepal-China relations and emphasized on further strengthening the bilateral relations. He appreciated Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China for his Vision of Belt and Road Initiative for building a community of shared future for humanity and greater cooperation.

The speaker and Mr. Luosang Jiangcun, Chairman of the People's Congress of the TAR also jointly laid foundation stone for reconstruction project of Consulate General of Nepal building in Lhasa and also the reconstruction projects of friendship bridge at Tatopani-Zhangmu (Khasa) and Rasuwa bridge at Rasuwagadhi-Jilong (Kerung) on 9 September.

7. Minister for Foreign Affairs visits India to pay homage to late Atal Behari Vajpayee

Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs visited India on 17-18 August to attend the funeral of the late Atal Behari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India, and to pay last respects to him on behalf of the Government and people of Nepal.



Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal Paying Tribute to Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Smriti Sthal

He had a courtesy meeting with the Minister of External Affairs of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj. Mr. Gyawali expressed, on behalf of the Government and people of Nepal, heartfelt condolences on the demise of Vajpayee. He also handed over to the Minister of External Affairs of India the message of condolences from the Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli addressed to Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.



Courtesy Meeting of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal with the Minister of External Affairs of India

8. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Energy Cooperation signed between Nepal and Bangladesh

Nepal and Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the Field of Power Sector on 10 August in Kathmandu following a bilateral meeting between Mr. Barsha Man Pun, Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation and Mr. Nasrul Hamid, MP, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh. The MoU aims to increase collaboration in electricity generation, grid connectivity, energy efficiency, renewable energy and development of hydropower for mutual and regional benefit.



Energy Ministers of Nepal and Bangladesh Sign the MoU on Cooperation in the Power Sector

During the bilateral meeting, Nepal and Bangladesh agreed to promote partnership between public and private sectors of the two countries in the areas of power development, transmission and distribution. The two sides also discussed the possibilities of joint venture development of hydropower projects in Nepal and agreed that matters relating to such joint venture would be taken up at the bilateral mechanisms as envisioned by the MoU. During his visit, State Minister of Bangladesh also called on the Prime Minister of Nepal.

9. Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of India visits Nepal

At the invitation of Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav, Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of India visited Nepal on 28-29 September. The two Ministers reviewed the progress of Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil pipeline and also visited the site. The Prime Ministers of Nepal and India had witnessed the remote ground breaking ceremony of the pipeline at Motihari, India during the state visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in April 2018.

Representatives of National Skills Development Cooperation (NSDC) of India and Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) of Nepal also held fruitful discussions for collaboration between Nepal and India for skill development and vocational training. The Indian Minister also visited the proposed site at

Janakpur for establishment of a Skill Development Centre.

During the visit, Shri Pradhan paid a courtesy call on Ms. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President and Mr. Ishwor Pokharel, acting Prime Minister of Nepal. He also had a meeting with Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa, Minister for Home Affairs and Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokharel, Minister for Education, Science and Technology.

10. Minister for Water Supply attended an International Sanitation Convention in India

Ms. Bina Magar, the Minister for Water Supply took part in the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) held in New Delhi from 29 September to 2 October.

She also made a presentation on progress in the area of sanitation in Nepal. The four-day conference organized by the Government of India on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was attended by the Ministers of Water Supply and Sanitation from 80 countries.

11. Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Visits Bangladesh to attend the Power and Energy Week

Mr. Barsha Man Pun, Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation visited Bangladesh to attend the Power and Energy Week held in Dhaka on 6-8 September. He was the Keynote Speaker at the Seminar on “Future Prospects of Regional Connectivity” organized on 6 September.



Energy Minister as a Keynote Speaker at a Seminar during Power and Energy Week

12. Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog of India visits Nepal

Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog of India visited Nepal on 19-20 September. During the visit, he paid a call on Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal. He also held a meeting with Prof. Dr. Pushpa Raj Kandel, Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission of Nepal.

13. Foreign Secretaries of Nepal and India hold meetings through video Conference

Foreign Secretary of Nepal Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and the Foreign Secretary of India Mr. Vijay Gokhale held video conferences on 13 August and 21 September. The two Foreign Secretaries have started their meeting in this format to take stock of the status of implementation of the matters agreed in the past and to mobilize line agencies in addressing outstanding issues between the two sides.

14. Afghan team visits Nepal to learn from Nepal's peace process

A delegation of Afghanistan led by Dr. Habiba Sarabi, Senior Political Deputy to Afghanistan High Peace Council's Chairman, visited Nepal to learn from the experience of Nepal's home-grown peace process in order to draw lessons for the peace process in Afghanistan. The delegation had interactions with Mr. Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice President, Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa, Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Barsha Man Pun, Minister for Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation.



An Interaction of Afghanistan High Peace Council Delegation with Minister for Foreign Affairs

During his interaction with the Afghan delegation, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs highlighted the nature and background of the decade-long armed conflict in Nepal, the mechanisms that were created for the political transformation of the country, major achievements that were made through the peace process and the lessons learnt. Mentioning about the peace process which was uniquely successful on the ground as it was nationally owned and home-grown, he underscored that the lesson learnt by Nepal would be the best reference to those countries that are suffering from internal conflicts and violence and trying to restore peace and stability.

15. Former Prime Minister of India visits Nepal

Shri H. D. Deve Gowda, former Prime Minister of India visited Nepal on 6-7 September. During the visit, he called on Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal. He also had *darshan* and *puja* at Pashupatinath temple.

16. First Meeting of Comprehensive Review of Nepal-India Treaty of Trade held

The First Meeting for the Comprehensive Review of Nepal-India Treaty of Trade was held in New Delhi, India on 9 August. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Rabi Shanker Sainju, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, and the Indian delegation was led by Shri Bhupinder S Bhalla, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce. The meeting identified broad issues, requiring amendments in the Treaty. These issues would be examined internally by both sides and then discussed in detail in the next meeting.

17. Third Nepal-India Coordination meeting held

The Third Nepal-India Coordination Meeting between the Inspector General (IG), Armed Police Force (APF) of Nepal, and the Director General (DG), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) of India was held on 7-10 August in New Delhi. Both sides reviewed the progress made on understandings reached in the past and agreed to further strengthen mutual coordination and cooperation on matters relating to border issues. Both sides also agreed to hold regular coordination meetings at different levels.

18. Fifth Meeting of Nepal-India Boundary Working Group (BWG) holds in Kathmandu

The Fifth Meeting of Nepal-India Boundary Working Group (BWG) was held on 19-21 September in Kathmandu. During the meeting, discussions were held on various matters relating to ongoing Nepal-India boundary work. The meeting reviewed the outcome of the 4th meeting of BWG held in Dehradun, India in 2017 and observed that the guidelines issued by it have been properly followed. It agreed to finalize the work schedule for the remaining field seasons and explore the possibility of using high resolution satellite images in boundary survey work besides the technologies currently being used. While agreeing on continuing the task of mapping No Man's land encroachment and cross-border occupation as done in previous field seasons, it decided to make necessary correspondence to respective authorities to maintain and comply the earlier decisions made between the two sides regarding maintaining the status quo in the cultivation of land until a solution is reached between the two Governments.

19. Technical Scoping Mission of Nepal visits India

A Technical Scoping Mission (TSM) of Nepal visited Varanasi multimodal terminal and Kolkota terminal from 17-21 September to have a better understanding of the technical aspects involved in the development of Inland Waterways. The Mission was led by Mr. Madhav Belbase, Joint Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat. A technical team from India will also visit sites on Narayani and Koshi Rivers in Nepal for on-site assessments soon.



Members of Technical Scoping Mission of Nepal at Kolkata Terminal

During the State Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India in April 2018, the two Prime Ministers had taken the landmark decision to develop the inland waterways for movement of cargo, within the framework of trade and transit arrangements, providing riverine access to sea for Nepal.

20. Joint Agriculture Working Group Meeting between Nepal and India

The 7th meeting of the Joint Agriculture Working Group (JAWG) between Nepal and India was held on 16-17 August in Kathmandu. The meeting was Co-chaired by Dr. Yogendra Kumar Karki, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development from the Nepali side and Ms. Neeraja Adidam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare from the Indian side. The meeting reviewed the progress made so far and acknowledged the need for concerted action to address the outstanding issues. The two sides felt the need to develop concrete steps for furthering bilateral cooperation in agriculture in line with Nepal-India Statement on New Partnership in Agriculture.

21. Joint Implementation Mechanism (JIM) Meeting on Nepal China Cooperation on Energy Sector

First Joint Implementation Mechanism (JIM) Meeting on Nepal China Cooperation on Energy Sector Concluded in Kathmandu on 28 September. Mr. Anup Kumar Upadhyay, Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation of the Government of Nepal and Mr. He Yand, DDG, International Cooperation Department, National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China led the Nepali and Chinese delegations respectively. During the meeting, Nepali and Chinese side presented their power system, power market and future plans. Both sides also deliberated on the future cooperation plan in energy sector between Nepal and China. Mr. Ganesh Prasad Dhakal, Joint-Secretary and the Head of the North East Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal represented the Ministry in the Meeting.

22. Joint Observation of Tatopani-Khasa Port

Nepali delegation led by Mr. Gobinda Bahadur Karkee, the Consul General of Nepal in Lhasa and the Chinese delegation led by Ms. Liu Xuan, Deputy Secretary General of the Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region made the joint observation of Tatopani-Zhangmu (Khasa) Port on 1-3 September. After the field observation of both sides, a joint meeting was held in Khasa. There was an extensive discussion on reopening of the port while analyzing the status of physical infrastructures, required infrastructure development for smooth operation and on carrying repair and maintenance works in future. Nepali delegation comprised of representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Finance, Physical Infrastructure and Transport, among others.

23. Nepal and the Republic of Korea Renewed MoU on Employment Permit System (EPS)

Nepal and the Republic of Korea renewed Memorandum of Understanding on recruitment of Nepali workers under Employment Permit System (EPS) to Korea on September 21 making it effective for two years. More than 50,000 Nepali workers have so far been recruited under the EPS since both countries signed the MoU in 2007.

24. Prime Minister Holds Bilateral Meetings on the Sidelines of the 73rd UNGA

Prime Minister Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the 73rd UN General Assembly in New York on 24 September.

The leaders reviewed the 53-years old friendship between Nepal and Canada and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation especially through more economic engagements. Reinforcing the importance of the bilateral relationship, the Prime Ministers agreed to continue maintaining regular contacts and consultations at different levels in the days to come.

On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) establishing Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) between Nepal and Canada was signed by the two Prime Ministers. Signing of the MoU has now paved way to hold consultations on various facets of bilateral relations between the two countries.



Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli with Canadian Prime Minister in New York

Similarly, 26 September, Prime Minister Mr. K. P Sharma Oli held a bilateral meeting with British Prime Minister Ms. Theresa May at the UN Headquarters in New York.



Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli with British Prime Minister during the Meeting

During the meeting, the two Prime Ministers reviewed important aspects of the centuries-old Nepal-UK friendship. They deliberated on ways

to enhance bilateral relations in the areas of trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people relations.

The two Prime Ministers agreed to work closely to promote cooperation in the areas of mutual interests. Prime Minister Oli shared with his British counterpart the major priorities of the Government of Nepal. The British Prime Minister stated that the UK would continue to support Nepal in its development efforts.

Also, on 26 September, the Prime Minister had a meeting with the Swiss President Mr. Alain Berset at the UN Headquarters in New York. They discussed the matters of mutual interests and agreed to further enhance bilateral cooperation including through collaboration and partnership in key areas such as trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people contacts. They also stressed the need to continue working together at multilateral forums in order to promote the issues of mutual benefit.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, the Prime Minister's Chief Advisor Mr. Bishnu Rimal, Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Nepal's Ambassador to the United States of America Mr. Arjun Kumar Karki, Charge d' Affaires at the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations Mr. Nirmal Raj Kafle were among those present in these sideline meetings.



Prime Minister Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli and Swiss President Mr. Alain Berset leading their Delegations in the Meeting

25. Minister for Foreign Affairs Meets his Austrian Counterpart in Vienna

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali had a breakfast meeting with Ms. Karin Kneissl, Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, at the latter's office in Vienna on 17 September.



Minister for Foreign Affairs with his Austrian Counterpart

Diverse issues of Nepal-Austria relations were discussed in the meeting. The two Foreign Ministers reviewed the status of bilateral cooperation and deliberated on the ways of enhancing such cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, tourism, heritage conservation, water management as well as people-to-people contacts. They agreed on the need to intensify bilateral contacts as the two countries would observe the next year as the 60th year of the establishment of bilateral relations.

Mr. Gyawali shared with his Austrian counterpart the major development priorities of the Government of Nepal and expressed hope that the economic linkages between Nepal and Austria would further expand in the days ahead. Ms. Kneissl highlighted the Austrian Government's foreign policy priorities with regard to Asia and stated that Austria would continue to support Nepal's development efforts.

Also present in the meeting were Mr. Prakash Kumar Suvedi, Ambassador of Nepal to Austria, Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari, Joint Secretary and Head of Europe-America Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Baliram Prasad Dhimi, Second Secretary at Embassy of Nepal in Vienna. From the

Austrian side Ms. Gabriele Meon Tschurtz, Head of Asia, Australia and Oceania Division and Mr. Stephan Heisler, Head of the Strategy Unit of the Cabinet of the Minister participated in the meeting.

26. Minister for Foreign Affairs Inaugurates Embassy/Permanent Mission of Nepal in Vienna

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali inaugurated the Permanent Mission/Embassy of Nepal in Vienna amidst a special function organized at the Embassy premises on 16 September.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Gyawali highlighted the major foreign policy priorities of the Government of Nepal. He expressed hope that the Mission/Embassy would be instrumental in enhancing Nepal's engagements with the United Nations Office and International Organizations based in Vienna as well as in strengthening Nepal's bilateral cooperation with Austria and other countries the Embassy is accredited to.

Mr. Gyawali visited Austria on 16-17 September leading the Nepali delegation to the 62nd regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The General Conference was held at the Vienna International Center from 17-21 September.



Minister for Foreign Affairs inaugurates the Mission/Embassy of Nepal in Vienna

27. Foreign Minister Meets EU Commissioners in Brussels

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali had a meeting with Ms. Federica Mogherini, Vice President of the European Commission and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy at the latter's office in Brussels on 18 September.



Foreign Minister with High Representative of European Union for Foreign Affairs in Brussels

During the meeting, the two dignitaries reviewed the existing cooperation between Nepal and the European Union and discussed ways to enhance such cooperation in the days ahead. They deliberated on further promoting Nepal-EU ties in terms of trade, investment, tourism, and people-to-people contacts, among others.

Mr. Gyawali acknowledged the EU's support and cooperation extended to Nepal in its development endeavours. He shared with Ms. Mogherini the major priorities of the Government of Nepal and stressed the need to have an enhanced level of economic engagements between Nepal and the EU.

Ms. Mogherini commended Nepal for all the political achievements made thus far and assured Mr. Gyawali of the EU's continued cooperation to Nepal. She stated that the EU would like to partner and collaborate with Nepal at all levels- bilateral, regional and global. Discussion was also focused on working in a collaborative partnership at the forums such as the United Nations.

Similarly, on 19 September, Mr. Gyawali had a meeting with Mr. Neven Mimica, European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development at the latter's office in Brussels.



Minister for Foreign Affairs with EU DEVCO Commissioner

Diverse issues of Nepal-EU relations with a particular focus on development cooperation were discussed in the meeting. The two dignitaries reviewed the status of on-going cooperation between Nepal and the EU, and discussed ways and means of making development assistance more effective in the days to come.

In both meetings, Mr. Gyawali was accompanied by Head of Mission of Nepal to the EU Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari, and Counselor/Deputy Chief of Mission at the Mission of Nepal to the EU in Brussels Mr. Sudhir Bhattarai. From the EU side, Ms. Paola Pampaloni, Deputy Managing Director for Asia Pacific at the European External Action Service and EU Ambassador to Nepal Ms. Veronica Cody were among the officials present in the meeting.

28. Minister for Foreign Affairs Meets Belgian Minister in Brussels

The Minister for Foreign Affairs had a meeting with Mr. Kris Peeters, Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Work, Economic Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Belgium in Brussels on 19 September.



Mr. Gyawali and Mr. Kris Peeters during the meeting

The two Ministers deliberated on all aspects of Nepal-Belgium relations. They agreed to work closely in order to strengthen economic linkages between the two countries. Discussion was also focused on promoting bilateral ties in areas such as tourism and people-to-people contacts.

29. Nepal-Germany Negotiations on Development Cooperation Held in Berlin

Nepal-Germany negotiations on development cooperation were held in Berlin on 19-20 September. During the negotiations, the German side agreed to contribute 55.6 million Euros as German cooperation to Nepal to be utilized in the sectors of energy, water resources and health for the attainment of SDGs.

The German side commended the Government of Nepal on the progress made with regard to implementation of federalism and expressed commitment to support Nepal in the days ahead. The Nepali side stated that the priority of the Government of Nepal was on building back better and on striving for economic development and prosperity.

The Nepali delegation was headed by Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, while Dr. Wolfram Klein, Head of Division, BMZ, led the German delegation.

30. Presentation of Credentials

During the period under review, the ambassadors of France, Finland, Austria and Spain Mr. Francois-Xavier LEGER, Mr. Pertti Anttinen, Ms. Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer and Mr. José Ramón Barañano Fernandez respectively presented their credentials to the President Ms. Bidya Devi Bhandari on 13 September.

31. Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and Myanmar

Nepal and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and an Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirements for the holders of Diplomatic and Official (Special) Passports.

Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary of Nepal and U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed the MoU on the establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on behalf of their respective ministries.

Similarly, Mr. Tapas Adhikari, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign affairs of Nepal and Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Lin, Ambassador of Myanmar to Nepal signed the Agreement on the Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official (Special) Passports on behalf of their respective governments.

Following the signing of the MoU and Agreement, the first meeting of Bilateral Consultation between Nepal and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held on the very day. Foreign Secretary of Nepal Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar led their respective delegation.

32. First Meeting of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and Australia.

Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary opened the first meeting of Bilateral Consultation

Mechanism between Nepal and Australia on 16 August highlighting the policies of the Government of Nepal on Foreign Affairs and priorities in development endeavors. He further elaborated Nepal's relationship with Australia, priorities and future course of action for bilateral engagement.

Following the remarks, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia discussed the matters of bilateral importance. The delegation exchanged their views on further strengthening the overall relations and cooperation existing between the two countries. Exchange of high level visits, strengthening collaboration and cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, tourism, human resource development, energy, connectivity, education etc. were among the matters discussed during the meeting.

Mr. Tapas Adhikari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Mr. Andrew Collins, Assistant Secretary from DFAT led the discussions from their respective side. Mr. Adhikari was supported by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other line agencies of Government of Nepal. Similarly, Ms. Ainsley Hemming, Head of Development Cooperation at the Australian Embassy, Nepal, Mr. Graham Murphy, Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Emily D'ATH, Officer, DFAT and Ms. Lyndall Corbett and Ms. Elizabeth Renneberg from Australian High Commission, New Delhi also contributed the discussion from Australian side.

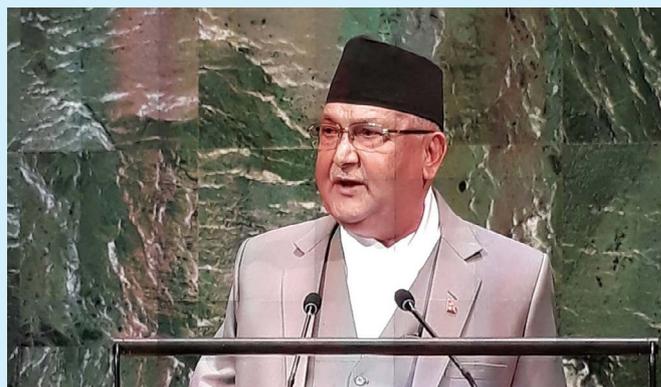
Ms. Lucky Sherpa, Ambassador of Nepal to Australia and Mr. Peter Budd, Ambassador of Australia to Nepal also spoke in the opening session and contributed to the discussions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia had established Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on 14 July 2017.

B. MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. Nepal's Participation in the 73rd Session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Prime Minister, Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli led Nepali delegation to the 73rd Session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The Nepali delegation comprised of Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bishnu Rimal, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister, Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary and other senior officials of the Government of Nepal.

Prime Minister Oli addressed the United Nations General Assembly on 27 September. The Prime Minister highlighted the historic political transformation of Nepal, the promulgation of the democratic and progressive constitution, the successful holding of three-tier elections and the formation of a stable government thereafter. The Prime Minister said the vision ahead is of a "comprehensive democracy that empowers individuals not only politically but also socially, economically and culturally". The pursuit of making the UN relevant to all people is well captured in the philosophy of 'leaving no one behind', and that reaching furthest behind first is not a luxury, the Prime Minister said.



Prime Minister Addressing the 73rd UNGA

The Prime Minister also participated in the High-Level Meeting on Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) organized by the United Nations Secretary-General on 26 September. Speaking in the event, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the brave peacekeepers including seventy-three Nepalis who made sacrifice in the line of duty. Reaffirming Nepal's commitment

to international peace and security through UN peacekeeping, the Prime Minister said that Nepal continued to provide troops and police personnel for UN peacekeeping even at the height of the national difficulty.

While in New York, Prime Minister Oli delivered a public lecture on the theme “Peace, Democracy and Development” at an event hosted by the Asia Society. In the session moderated by former Prime Minister of Australia Mr. Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister Oli expounded the Government’s vision of ‘Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali’. Responding to questions from the audience, the Prime Minister underlined the importance of foreign investments, connectivity and sustainable environment among other things.

On the sidelines, Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Alain Berset, President of Swiss Confederation. The Two Prime Ministers discussed the matters of mutual interests, including Swiss cooperation in Nepal, the current trends of global political economy as well as other important bilateral and multilateral issues of common concern.

The Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with Ms. Theresa May, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The two Prime Ministers reviewed the long and friendly bilateral relations between the two countries and discussed the ways to make it more fruitful in the areas of economic development, investment, tourism and trade.

The Prime Minister also had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada on 23rd September. The two Prime Ministers reviewed various aspects of bilateral relations between the two countries and signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a bilateral consultation mechanism with a view to further strengthening the bilateral relations.

Prime Minister Oli also held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia. The two Prime Ministers exchanged views on further strengthening the cordial relations subsisting between the two countries.

In New York, the Prime Minister also held a bilateral

meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres on 27 September and discussed about the important political gains Nepal achieved recently and the way forward for institutionalizing them. The Secretary-General commended Nepal’s democratic transitions as an important example.



Prime Minister with Secretary-General of United Nations Organization

During the high-level week of the 73rd UNGA, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed the Ministerial Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on 26 September. Speaking on the Theme- “Upholding the UN Charter and the Purposes and Principles of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM): Towards a Culture of Peace”, he said “as the torch bearer of rule-based, inclusive and multilateral world order, the onus lies on the movement to uphold the UN Charter as well as the principles of Non-Aligned Movement, both of which are the embodiment of culture of peace.”

Minister for Foreign Affairs also attended the annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China and intervened in an interactive dialogue entitled “Impact of Frontier Issues on Youth Employment and Productive Capacities”. Foreign Minister Gyawali also delivered a statement at the High-

Level Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Mediation, in which he underlined Nepal's distinct experience of managing conflict, while expressing Nepal's readiness to share its national experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the larger interest of humanity.

The Foreign Minister also addressed the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the LDCs on 26 September and of LLDCs on 28 September. The Foreign Minister outlined Nepal's efforts towards the implementation of SDGs and called for robust international partnership to achieve the goals in the LDCs.

Foreign Minister addressed the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit which was organized to commemorate and also spread the message of global peace on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela.

Foreign Minister also participated in a high-level meeting on Global Call to Action on the World Drug Problem organized by the United States.

Foreign Minister hosted an informal luncheon of the SAARC Council of Ministers on the sidelines of the UNGA. Foreign/External Affairs Ministers of the SAARC member states attended the session. Opening the meeting, Minister stated that SAARC process should be effective and result-oriented for the benefit of the people of the region. The Ministers participating in the session highlighted the need to effectively implement the decisions made by the Summits and other meetings of SAARC.

Foreign Minister also held a bilateral meeting with Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Ireland, Azerbaijan, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice of Bulgaria, International Cooperation Minister of Norway and State Minister at Foreign and Commonwealth office of the United Kingdom.

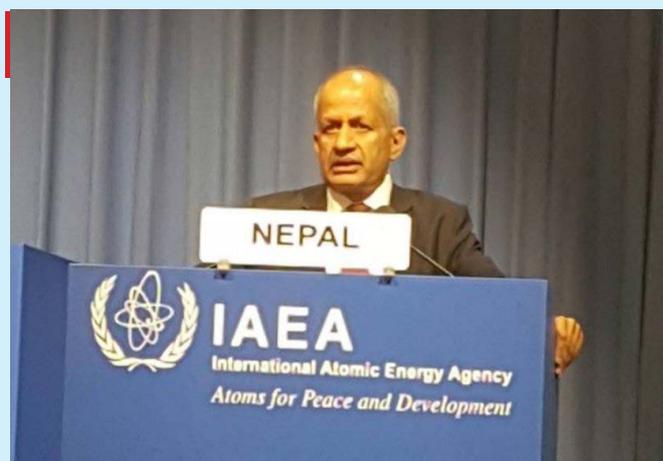
Foreign Minister also held a bilateral meeting with Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations and Mr. Jean-Pierre

Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. During the meeting, Mr. Lacroix appreciated Nepal's contribution in peacekeeping operations. He encouraged Nepal to increase the number of female peacekeepers as well as to train troops in French language.

During the 73rd UNGA, Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi addressed the High Level Event to commemorate the international day for the total elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September.

2. Nepal's participation in the 62nd Annual Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali led the Nepali delegation to participate in the the 62nd Annual Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held in Vienna on 17-21 September. Addressing the Plenary Session of the Conference on 17 September, Foreign Minister said "Nepal's abiding faith in multilateralism emanates from our deep commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, the values of Panchasheela, and the norms of world peace. Nepal considers that all three pillars of the United Nations' peace and security, human rights and development should receive equal emphasis".



Minister for Foreign Affairs Addressing the 62nd Annual Session of the IAEA

C. REGIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Fourth BIMSTEC Summit

The Fourth BIMSTEC Summit was held in Kathmandu on 30-31 August. The Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K. P. Sharma Oli and was attended by the Heads of State (Myanmar and Sri Lanka) and the Heads of Government (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Thailand) of the BIMSTEC member states. The Summit deliberated on the existing status of cooperation under BIMSTEC and took a number of decisions to move the regional process forward. The Summit was held under the theme of “Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region”. With the conclusion of the Summit the chairmanship of BIMSTEC was handed over to Sri Lanka.



Heads of State and Government in the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit

The Summit approved the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit Declaration. The Summit realized that eradication of poverty as the greatest regional challenge to development and expressed commitment to work together for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, emphasized on multi-dimensional connectivity, trade, and investment as a key enabler to economic integration and a major contributing factor for economic and social development, recognized special needs and circumstances of the least developed and landlocked developing countries in the region and underlined the necessity to provide meaningful support to their development process.

The Summit expressed commitment to making BIMSTEC a dynamic, more effective and result-oriented organization; decided to establish a BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) to deal with administrative and financial matters of the Secretariat and the BIMSTEC centres and entities and other issues related to the organization; to prepare a draft of the charter for the organization, defining a long-term vision and priorities for cooperation; to develop the Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the BIMSTEC mechanisms; to explore the possibility of establishing a BIMSTEC Development Fund (BDF); to enhance the institutional capacity of the BIMSTEC Secretariat by raising the numbers of directors to seven, one from each member state, in a staggered manner.

The Summit decided to establish a Working Group on information and communications technology to provide more affordable and high-speed internet and mobile access to the peoples of the region; to establish an inter-governmental expert group to develop plan of action to improve preparedness and coordination for responding to natural disasters; to establish an inter-governmental expert group to develop an action plan on mountain economy; to establish an inter-governmental expert group to develop an action plan on blue economy, keeping in mind the special needs and circumstances of the landlocked member states; to constitute an inter-governmental group of experts to enhance energy cooperation, including in hydro-power and other sources of renewable energy; agreed to assign the expert group on BIMSTEC Visa matters to continue negotiation for finalization of the modalities for the BIMSTEC Visa facilitation; to explore how the landlocked member states can benefit from inland fisheries; to explore possibility of establishing appropriate BIMSTEC forums for parliamentarians, universities, academia, research institutes, cultural organizations and media community to expand the scope of people-to-people contacts.

The Summit also welcomed the signing of the memorandum of understanding on BIMSTEC grid interconnection and called for an early establishment of BIMSTEC grid and operationalization of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre to strengthen energy

cooperation in the region.

The Summit agreed to take concrete steps to promote intra-BIMSTEC tourism; to assign relevant authorities to devise tourism strategies, and agreed to take concrete measures to facilitate tourism by ensuring safety and security of tourists, and smooth transport connectivity; to developing and promoting Buddhist Tourist Circuit, Temple Tourist Circuit, ancient cities trail, eco-tourism and medical tourism and welcomed the offer of Nepal to host a BIMSTEC tourism conclave in Nepal in 2020 coinciding with the Visit Nepal Year 2020.

The Summit reviewed the progress under each areas of cooperation and emphasized the need to review, restructure and rationalize the existing areas of cooperation and streamline the activities by the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee.

2. Sixteenth BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and Nineteenth Senior Official Meeting



Ministers for Foreign/External Affairs and Head of Delegations along with the Secretary General of BIMSTEC in the 16th Ministerial Meeting

16th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting was held in Kathmandu on 29 August followed by the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal.

In his opening remarks, Minister for Foreign Affairs said that this meeting precedes the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit which would commence tomorrow and hence their deliberations and decisions would be of vital importance for the success of the Summit and

also for further strengthening of cooperation under the BIMSTEC process.

The meeting considered and approved the reports of the special and 19th session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM) held in Kathmandu on 11 August 2018 and 28 August 2018 respectively, endorsed the draft Fourth BIMSTEC Summit Declaration and recommended it to the Summit for approval, expressed their readiness to sign the memorandum of understanding on the establishment of BIMSTEC grid interconnection and reviewed BIMSTEC's progress in the priority areas of cooperation and expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in the past years and resolved to take necessary steps to bring focus in the activities of the organization by restructuring and streamlining the areas of cooperation.



Foreign Secretaries and Head of Delegations along with the Secretary General of BIMSTEC in the 19th Senior Officials' Meeting

The 16th Ministerial Meeting was preceded by the 19th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting on 28 August which considered various reports and deliberated on various issues related to the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit.

3. Special Session of the Senior Officials' Meeting (S-SOM)

A special session of the Senior Officials' Meeting was organized in Kathmandu on 11 August. Senior officers from all member states and the Secretary General of BIMSTEC attended the meeting. The meeting discussed the preparatory issues relating

to the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 30-31 August 2018. The meeting discussed on the agendas of 19th SOM and developed consensus on the issues to be incorporated in the declaration of the fourth BIMSTEC Summit.



Glimpse of a Special Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting

4. Workshop on BIMSTEC Master Plan on Transport Connectivity

Workshop on BIMSTEC Master Plan on Transport Connectivity was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 17-18 September. During the workshop, member states suggested their observations on second draft of master plan as forwarded by consultant of ADB. Nepali delegation comprising representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport and Department of Customs participated in the workshop. The master plan is supposed to be finalized by December.

5. Post-Summit meeting with Focal Points

A post summit meeting was organized by Regional Organization Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs with focal points from all Ministries/Departments/Commissions on 14 September. Mr. Krishna Prasad Dhakal, Joint Secretary and Head of Regional Organization Division expressed special thanks to all Ministries for their consistent support and generous contributions for the successful organization of the fourth BIMSTEC Summit. The meeting also took initiatives towards the implementation of the declarations made through the Summit.

6. Informal Meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers

To take the advantage of the opportunity provided by the presence of the Foreign Ministers at UN General Assembly Sessions the informal meeting was organized in informal set up for consultations and exchange of views on the vital issues related to SAARC member states. The Ministers of member states met on 27 September in Westin Grand Central Hotel, New York.

The Council of Ministers Meeting was chaired by Mr. Pradeep Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs and leader of delegation of Nepal. In his opening remarks, Minister expressed his desire for SAARC process to be effective and result-oriented, and to serve for the benefit of the people of this region.

The meeting was followed by presentation of the Secretary General on the progress report of the status of regional cooperation since the last informal meeting. He particularly focused on matrix on the status of implementation of the decision of the 18th SAARC Summit and progress since the last informal meeting. He also stated about other meetings related to economic cooperation, transport and connectivity cooperation, highlighted potential of energy cooperation on the region, and significance of regularly meeting of the member states to give priority to SAARC activities.

Minister of all the member states addressed commending the informal meeting appreciated efforts of the Secretary General and upheld the necessity to reinvigorate SAARC processes. This followed with discussions on the comments made by the ministers of the member states.

The informal meeting was significant for noting the readiness of the Government of Pakistan to host the 19th SAARC Summit.

After completion of the discussions and no further matters raised the Council's meeting was closed with closing remarks of the Chairperson.

7. Chief Election Commissioner attends the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia

A delegation led by Mr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav, Chief Election Commissioner, attended the Ninth Meeting of the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) held in Dhaka on 5-7 September.

D. NON RESIDENT NEPALIS, PASSPORT AND CONSULAR MATTERS

1. Non Resident Nepalis (NRN) Related Services

The status of services delivery to Non Resident Nepali (NRN) during June-July is presented below.

S. N.	Services	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	11
2	Processing of Land Purchase Approval to NRN	2

2. Passport Services

The status of service delivery of the department of Passport during the period is presented below:

S. N.	Activities	Number	Remarks
1	Applications received	85914	Excluding Live Enrollment Counters
2	Passports Issued	55322	From districts
		1777	From Missions
		24735	From the Department
		81864	Total
3	Total Number of passports issued (According to Document Type)	142	Diplomatic
		269	Official
		2047	Ordinary (Gratis)
		28	Travel Document (TD)
		84350	Total
4	Passports+TD dispatched	84350	
5	Emails responded including Social Networks	4003	
6	Grievance handled	3145	

7	Lost PP registered in the Interpol	3525	
8	Official Error	374	
9	Null and Void Passports	3	
10	Feedback Forms Collected	2853	
11	Revenue Collected	27,11,60,500/-	

3. Consular Services

The numerical details of the service delivery of the Department of Consular Services during the period are as follows:

S. N.	Details of Services	Number
A	Consular and Legal Counseling Section	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, Religious tour, World cycling tour and other	4
2	Recommendation for Indian education certificate, nationality verification and those who are visiting India for study purpose	246
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	2
4	Recommendation for issuing Nepalese driving license on the basis of foreign driving license held by the Nepalese citizen.	439
5	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for character verification report to Nepalese citizens during their period of stay in India.	43
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	19
7	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit for vehicles to enter India.	6

8	Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding the citizenship renouncement of Nepalese citizens as per their application submitted to the Nepalese missions abroad	26
9	Correspondence letter regarding authenticity of Power of Attorney issued by Nepalese missions abroad	99
10	Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	48
11	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepalese citizens died abroad.	80
12	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepalese nationals to the Nepalese Missions abroad	161
13	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepalese nationals abroad	65

14	Correspondence to the government agencies in Nepal	225
15	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malaysia	4
16	Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family	31
B	Visa and Exemption Section	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/ official/gratis visa	756
2	Issuance of diplomatic/ official ID Card	102
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	12
4	Number of recommendation for exemption	714
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	363
C	Attestation section	
1	Number of attested documents	26,690
Total		30,135