

# MOFA BULLETIN

## *Current Affairs*

August-September 2016

Vol 1, Issue 2



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**Policy, Planning, Development Diplomacy  
and Nepali Diaspora Division**

Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel. 4200182-185, Fax: 4200061, 4200160  
Email: [ppdo@mofa.gov.np](mailto:ppdo@mofa.gov.np)  
Website: <https://www.mofa.gov.np>

### **Chief Patron:**

**Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat,**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

### **Patron:**

**Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi,**  
Foreign Secretary

### **Editorial Team**

**Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai,**  
Joint Secretary  
**Dr. Damaru Ballabha Paudel,**  
Under Secretary

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## **A. Bilateral Affairs**

### **1. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs visits India**

Hon'ble Mr. Bimalendra Nidhi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, visited India on 18-22 August 2016 as the special representative of Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. During the visit, he called on the President of India H. E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and the Prime Minister of India H. E. Shri Narendra Modi. He also met with Minister of External Affairs of India, H. E. Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Home Affairs of India, H.E. Shri Rajnath Singh. He held discussions on further strengthening and deepening relations between Nepal and India including through the exchange of high level visits.

### **2. Minister for Foreign Affairs visits India**

Hon'ble Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited India on 11-13 September 2016. During the visit, he met with Minister of External Affairs of India, H. E. Smt. Sushma Swaraj. The two leaders held extensive discussions on various matters of bilateral relations including the need for expeditious implementation of all agreed and ongoing projects under Nepal-India cooperation. They also discussed the agenda for the imminent State Visit of Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal to India. The Hon'ble Foreign Minister also met H. E. Sushri Uma Bharti, Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, as well as His Excellency Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines. During the meetings, various issues of bilateral cooperation on water and energy were discussed.

### **3. State Visit of the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister to India**

Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' paid a State Visit to India on 15-18 September 2016 at the invitation of H. E. Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. During the visit, he called on the President of India H. E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal and H. E. the Prime Minister of India held bilateral talks. During the meeting, the two Prime Ministers discussed various aspects of Nepal-India relations and cooperation in different areas including water resources, infrastructure, trade and transit, among others. Ministers of the Government of India – H. E. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs, H. E. Mr. Rajnath Singh, Minister of Home Affairs, H. E. Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance, and H. E. Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of New & Renewable Energy, Mines, Power, Coal, paid separate calls on the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister.

Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister also addressed a joint business event hosted by ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI and visited Nathpa Jhakri hydro-electric power project in Himanchal Pradesh and the Food and Herbal Park at the Patanjali Yogpeeth near Haridwar.

### **4. Delegation of Parliamentary Committee on Legislation visits India**

A delegation of Parliamentary Committee on Legislation visited India on 21-30 August 2016. The delegation had interactions at the Indian Law Institute, National Human Rights Council of India, National Law School and Ministry of Law and Justice. The delegation also visited the Supreme Court of India, and High Courts of New Delhi and Karnataka.

## 5. Nepal-India Home Secretary Level Meeting

Nepal-India Home Secretary Level Meeting was held in New Delhi on 8-9 September 2016. Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Lok Darshan Regmi, Secretary at Ministry of Home Affairs and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi, Secretary at Ministry of Home Affairs of India. The meeting held discussions on the comprehensive issues related to security, border management, strengthening border infrastructure, Hulaki road construction, inundation at border areas, and training and capacity building of law enforcement officials.

## 6. Nepal-India Joint Agriculture Working Group Meeting

The sixth Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Agriculture (JAWG) between Nepal and India was held in New Delhi on 8-9 September 2016. Nepali delegation was led by Dr. Suroj Pokhrel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Development, and the Indian delegation was led by Shri Amitabh Gautam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. The meeting deliberated on issues related to agricultural co-operation between Nepal and India including soil health management, organic farming, micro irrigation system, agricultural mechanization, seed technologies, strengthening laboratory facilities and germplasm exchange.

## 7. Survey Officials' Committee Meeting

The fifth meeting of the Survey Official's Committee was held in Dehradun, India on 28-30 September 2016. The Nepali Delegation was led by Mr. Suresh Man Shrestha, Deputy Director General, Department of Survey and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. R. K. Meena, Director, Survey of India. The meeting held discussions on the technicalities of the border pillar construction and mapping along with the composition and schedule of the border pillar construction during the field season of 2016/17.

## 8. Rescue of 18 Nepali women from Sri Lanka

In August 2016, Embassy of Nepal in Colombo coordinated the rescue and repatriation of 18 Nepali women, who were reportedly being trafficked to third countries, and were stranded in Sri Lanka.

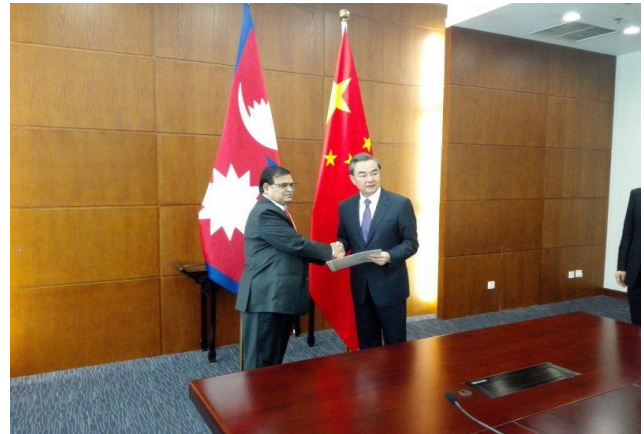
## 9. Rescue of 46 Nepali citizens from Dhaka

Embassy of Nepal in Dhaka rescued 46 Nepali citizens on 5 August 2016 and coordinated their safe return to Nepal. They had entered Bangladesh reportedly for business purpose. Their passports were seized by a Bangladeshi national.

## 10. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Visited Beijing

Hon. Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance visited the People's Republic of China from 15-20 August 2016 as the Special

Envoy of Rt. Hon. Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal. During the meeting with H.E. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of China, the Deputy Prime Minister on 16 August 2016 handed over the invitation letters from the Rt. Hon. President and Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Nepal to their Chinese counterparts to visit Nepal. The two leaders shared their views on various aspects of Nepal-China relations as well as in the matters of regional and global concerns. The Deputy Prime Minister also paid a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China in Beijing on 17 August 2016.



*Hon. Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Nepal and H.E. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China*

## 11. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Japan paid visit to Nepal

At the invitation of the Government of Nepal, H.E. Mr. Nobuo Kishi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Japan paid a visit to Nepal from 30 August to 1 September 2016 leading a Japanese delegation to attend the commemorative programme organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan.



*Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal and H.E. Mr. Nobuo Kishi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Japan*

During the stay in Nepal, the State Minister paid a courtesy call on the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal and also called on the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', the Prime Minister of Nepal on 31 August 2016. On the occasion, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister handed over his congratulatory message addressed to the Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe on the happy occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Diplomatic Relations, and the State Minister also handed over the message of the Prime Minister of Japan to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister.

The State Minister also called on the Hon. Mr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, all the matters of bilateral cooperation and mutual interests were reviewed. The two sides also shared views on how these relations could be taken forward by seizing the opportunities available in both countries. Hon. Dr. Mahat appreciated the unconditional support of the Government of Japan to the socio-economic development of Nepal. The State Minister handed over the congratulatory message of H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan addressed to Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat on his appointment as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal.

On the same day, the State Minister witnessed the signing ceremony of the Exchange of Notes of the Grant Aid under Japan Overseas Development Assistance for two new projects- Improvement of Aviation Safety Facilities in Major Airports of Nepal, and School Sector Development Program to the sum of approx. \$ 15 million and \$ 3 million respectively at the Ministry of Finance. The Notes were signed and exchanged by Mr. Lok Darshan Regmi, Secretary at the Ministry of Finance and H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal.

## **12. Ministry of Foreign Affairs celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Nepal-Japan**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal organized a commemorative program to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan in Kathmandu on 1 September 2016. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' inaugurated the program by lighting the oil-fed traditional Nepali lamp. Speaking at the program Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal highlighted the various aspects of Nepal-Japan relations and expressed happiness over the steady growth of these relations over the past six decades. He appreciated the substantial assistance provided by Japan in socio-economic development of Nepal which has been used in infrastructures and human resources development, among others.



*Commemorative Programme to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan*

H.E. Mr. Nobuo Kishi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Japan addressed the program by stating that Japan and Nepal have enjoyed excellent relations. The support in the socio-economic development of Nepal would be continued from Japan assured the State Minister of Foreign Affairs. Hon. Mr. Surendra Kumar Karki, Minister for Information and Communications of Nepal and H.E. Mr. Nobuo Kishi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Japan jointly affixed the cancellation marks on the special commemorative cover published by the Postal Services Department of the Government of Nepal on the occasion. A group of prominent Nepali artists from Cultural Corporation of Nepal and Japanese Drum Troops from Akafuji Daiko presented impressive shows featuring the typical culture of their respective countries during the program.

## **13. Government of Nepal condemned the DPRK Nuke Test**

The Government of Nepal condemned the nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 9 September 2016. On 12 September 2016, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release stating that the test carried out by the DPRK defies the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the calls of the international community. In line with its consistent policy of general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, Nepal stands against such tests and calls upon the Government of the DPRK to refrain from such acts, stated the release.

## **14. 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Nepal-China's Tibet Trade Facilitation Committee concluded in Lhasa**

The seventh meeting of Nepal-China's Tibet Trade Facilitation Committee organized in Lhasa on 22-24 September 2016. Mr. Ravi Shanker Sainju, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Commerce of Nepal and Ms. Lou Mei, Vice Chairman of the TAR Government led their respective delegations to the meeting. During the meeting, both sides shared views on various aspects of Nepal-China's Tibet Trade and Economic cooperation. The Nepali side shared views on how to include the

exportable Nepali products (in 6 digit HS Code) on the list of Duty Free and Quota Free (DFQF) facilities provided by China to Nepal and other LDCs. Issues relating to the facilitation of bilateral trade and expansion economic cooperation were also discussed. Both sides also shared ideas of further promoting participation of their concerned agencies and businessmen in trade, tourism and cultural expos/fairs to be organized in both sides.

### 15. Canada-Nepal Parliamentary Friendship Group Formed

Canada-Nepal Parliamentary Friendship Group has been formed consisting of the representatives from House of Commons and Senate members of Canada. Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Jeevan Bahadur Shahi, who was in Canada to attend the 39<sup>th</sup> General Convention of International Civil Aviation (ICAO), was also present during the function. He hoped that the Friendship Group would usher in the increased interaction between the lawmakers of the two countries, further mutual relations, exchange of parliament experiences and visits, apart from adding to the promotion of trade, investment and tourism between the two countries. H.E. Kali Prasad Pokharel, Ambassador of Nepal to Canada, thanked all the members of House of Commons and Senate for showing up at the program and for their overwhelming support in his bid to form the parliamentary friendship group.



### 16. Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, Apostolic Nuncio of Holy Sea called on Rt. Hon. President

Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, Apostolic Nuncio of Holy See called on Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal Bidhya Devi Bhandari on 30 September 2016 during his farewell visit to Nepal. H.E. Pennacchio extended warm greetings on behalf of Pope. Rt. Hon. President remarked that the relationship which has witnessed further consolidation during his tenure, and the unmatched love, support and solidarity on the part of people of Holy See during the trying times including cataclysmic earthquake last year would always be cherished. Rt. Hon. President

wished for good health, long life and happiness of His Highness Pope Francis. Rt. Hon. President congratulated His Excellency on the successful completion of 6 years long tenure, and wished for the success of his next assignment to Poland.



### 17. Nisha Desai Biswal, The US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, visited Nepal, called on the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'

The US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Ms Nisha Desai Biswal paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at his official residence in Baluwatar on 4 September while on a visit to Nepal from 4 – 5 September 2016.



During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on aspects of bilateral relations which are of common concerns such as completion of the remaining part of the peace process, implementation of the new constitution, reconstruction and foreign employment permit for the Nepalese Guards in Afghanistan. They also shared the views that transitional justice issues and holding local elections would be of colossal significance in creating confidence and consensus and to realize the goals articulated in constitution.

Rt Hon. Prime Minister acknowledged the need to work on enduring set of economic reforms, policy stability and prepare propitious environment for economic growth as Nepal cannot afford to lag behind in the

globalized world. The Prime Minister stressed that reforms in land and labor laws and institutions, and infrastructures such as in energy are vital.

Nisha Desai appreciated the generous hospitality extended to Bhutanese refugees all these years, and urged the Nepal Government for the resettlement of the remaining ones. The Prime Minister reiterated the position of the Government that the Bhutanese refugees who wish to go back to Bhutan should be allowed to do so. They both anticipated working together to come up with pragmatic and amicable solution. Nisha Desai expressed her eagerness to welcome Rt. Hon. Prime Minister in the upcoming Summit on Migration and Refugees.

#### 18. The U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Regional Deputy Vice President, Ms Fatema Sumar in Nepal

The U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Regional Deputy Vice President, Fatema Sumar visited Nepal to advance development of an MCC compact with the Government of Nepal.



In meetings with key government officials – including Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Minister for Energy Janardan Sharma, and Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport Ramesh Lekhak, Sumar shed light on Millennium Challenge Corporation: the countries covered and the modalities of assistance, and its support to Nepal basically in energy and roads, mainly on transmission and improvement and upgradation respectively, though no projects have been finalized yet. The projects would have to be completed within the stipulated five-years period as there will not be any extension to the deadline.

Nepal was selected under MCC Compact Programme in December 2014 and MCC board re-elected Nepal for continuation of the program in January 2015. The large five-year program is given to a country that is committed to good governance, economic freedom and investment in the citizens.

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister expressed thanks for including Nepal in one of those 30 countries covered by this program and hoped that it would be instrumental in economic development which remains the key priority of the Government of Nepal at the moment.

#### 19. UK Minister of State for DFID, H.E. Rory Stewart visited Nepal

The UK Minister of State at the Department for International Development (DFID) was on a visit to Nepal to take stock of the progress made on reconstruction, assess the impact of last year's earthquake, and reaffirm the UK's support for Nepal's development.

During the visit, Minister Stewart called on the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Krishna Bahadur Mahara to discuss the next phase of UK support to Nepal. They discussed how access to bank accounts could be increased to expedite the payment of housing grants to earthquake-affected households.



The Prime Minister expressed his earnestness about amending the relevant laws to accommodate the concerns raised by human rights organizations and international community, and also taking into account the basic principles of transitional justice and unique situation of Nepal. The objective of reconciliation and durable peace remains paramount.

The Prime Minister thanked UK Government for its continued support and goodwill in Nepal's political and economic transformation, including its support in the aftermath of the earthquake last year.

"I am delighted to return to Nepal in the year that our two countries are celebrating our strong 200 years relationship", said Minister Stewart upon his arrival. "The UK stood by the Nepali people in their time of need following the tragic earthquakes last year, and we continue to support the country to build back better and get on track towards a more prosperous and stable future."

This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between the UK and Nepal and over 55 years of the development partnership.

#### 20. Czech Parliamentary Delegation in Nepal

Czech Parliamentary Delegation led by Vice-chairperson of Chamber of Deputies, Mr Vojtech Filip, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies paid a visit to Nepal from 18-21 September, 2016.



During the visit, the delegation called on Rt. Hon. President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari. They discussed on matters of common interests to bring home new avenues for mutual cooperation and lend an impetus to the bilateral relationship on various fronts.

In a similar vein, the delegation carried out comprehensive dialogue with Rt. Hon. Speaker of House, Mrs. Onsari Gharti Magar, Hon. Minister Mr. Ajay Shankar Nayak, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliament Affairs, President of the Nepal Bar Association and Chairperson of Nepal Law Commission.

H.E. Vojtech Filip lauded the commitment of Nepal to democracy and human rights as evinced in the constitution-making, the untiring efforts to bring on board various competing groups and diverse interests and efforts to institutionalize inclusive democracy.

The delegation also attended the Constitutional Day Celebration held in Tundikhel on September 19.

## **B. Multilateral Affairs**

### **1. 17<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**

The Rt. Hon'ble Nanda Bahadur Pun, Vice President of Nepal, led the Nepali delegation to the 17<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 17-18 September, 2016. During the visit, The Rt. Hon'ble Vice President addressed the 17<sup>th</sup> NAM Summit and also attended a dinner hosted by His Excellency Mr. Nicolas Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in honour of the Heads of State and Government, and Heads of Delegation attending the Summit.

Addressing the Summit, The Rt. Hon. Vice President underscored the values Nepal attaches to the principles and ideals of Non-Aligned Movement for fostering global understanding and strengthening multilateralism.

Preceding the NAM Summit, His Excellency Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Ambassador/Permanent

Representative of Nepal to the United Nations in New York, and Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, Joint Secretary and Head of the United Nations, International Organization and International Law Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led the Nepali delegation to the Ministerial Meeting and Senior Officials Meeting respectively on 15-16 September and 13-14 September 2016.

### **2. The 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly opened at New York**

The 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) was opened in UN Headquarters at New York on 13 September 2016. The General Debate of the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the UNGA began on 20 September. His Excellency Peter Thomson of Fiji is the President of the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly. The theme of the 71<sup>st</sup> Session is "The Sustainable Development Goals: A Universal Push to Transform our World".

### **3. Nepal at the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

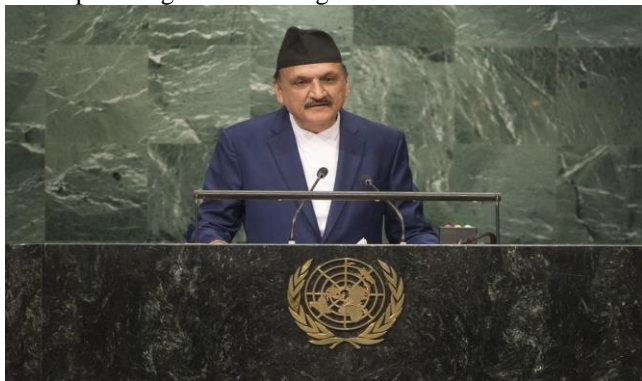
The Hon'ble Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Nepal led the Nepali delegation to the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who was earlier scheduled to lead the Nepali delegation to the UNGA decided to send a Nepali delegation led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in view of the Prime Minister's pressing engagements at home. The members of delegation of Nepal to the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly included Hon'ble Mr. Mohan Bahadur Basnet, Member of Parliament, Chief Secretary Dr. Somlal Subedi, Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, and His Excellency Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations in New York Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai among others.

On 24 September 2016, the leader of the Nepali delegation Foreign Minister Dr. Mahat addressed the General Assembly. The Foreign Minister apprised the world body of the current political and constitutional development of Nepal highlighting the inclusive development agenda carried out by the Government.

Dr. Mahat stressed on the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and shared Nepal's experience and success in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and while urging the world leaders to muster the necessary political will to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he underlined the importance of national ownership and international partnership to ensure the success of the SDGs.

He also expressed the view that concerted efforts are needed at the national, regional and global levels to fight against the scourge of terrorism and also emphasised on the need for creating a win-win solution while dealing with concerns of migrants and refugees.

On 23 September 2016, the Hon'ble Foreign Minister participated in the High-Level Event on Regionalism and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development organized by the Regional Commissions, New York Office. In his keynote address delivered on the occasion, the Hon. Minister Dr. Mahat said that this was the time to focus on all possible ways and means to collaborate for achieving the SDGs. He said that regionalism can be an important vehicle to generate useful information, enable sharing of experiences, and create a bridge between national development agenda and the global SDGs framework.



*Foreign Minister Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat addressing the UNGA on 24 September 2016*

#### **4. Foreign Minister Dr. Mahat meets with the US President Obama**

On 20 September 2016, the Hon. Dr. Mahat attended a reception hosted in honour of visiting heads of delegations by His Excellency Barack Obama, the President of the United States of America. During the occasion, he had a brief exchange of views with President Obama and also talked with US Secretary of State His Excellency Mr. John Kerry on matters of mutual interests.



*Foreign Minister and Mrs. Mahat with US President and Mrs. Obama*

#### **5. Meeting with the UN Secretary-General**

On 23 September, the Hon. Minister held a meeting with H.E. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General at the latter's office. The two sides touched upon a number of issues ranging from implementation of Constitution to Nepal's role in UN peacekeeping operations, and from Nepal-UN cooperation to the pressing issues of climate change, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development. Also present in the meeting were Hon. Mr. Mohan Bahadur Basnet, Member of Legislature Parliament; Dr. Somlal Subedi, Chief Secretary; Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary; and H.E. Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Permanent Representative. From the UN side, Under Secretary General (OHRLLS) Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under Secretary General (DFS) Atul Khare and senior officials from DPA and DPKO were present in the meeting. On the occasion, the UN Secretary General also presented a book outlining his 10 year experience at the UN to the Hon. Minister.

#### **6. Foreign Minister observed Nepal's National Day celebration in New York**

During the visit to New York, the Foreign Minister also observed the National Day reception hosted by the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations Ambassador Durga Prasad Bhattarai to mark the first anniversary of the promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal. Addressing the programme, the Foreign Minister highlighted that the Constitution of Nepal "adheres to universally accepted norms of democratic polity; and ensures pluralism, the rule of law, representative and accountable government, and social and economic justice."



*Hon. Minister addressing the National Day Reception gathering, with H.E. the Permanent Representative and Under Secretary-General Mr. Geoffrey Feltman on the background*

#### **7. Foreign Minister holds bilateral meetings at New York**

The Hon. Minister Mahat held several bilateral meetings with his counterparts H.E. Mr. Vivian Balakrishnan of Singapore, H.E. Mr. Tsend Munkh-Orgil, Foreign Minister of Mongolia, H.E. Mr. Ivica Decic, the first Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia.

The Hon'ble Foreign Minister also paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

#### **8. Nepal and El Salvador establish diplomatic relations**

Nepal and El Salvador, a Central American republic, established diplomatic relations on 21 September 2016. The Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Prakash Sharan



Mahat and His Excellency Mr. Hugo Roger Martinez Bonilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador signed a Joint communiqué to this effect at a special ceremony held at the United Nation Headquarters. The number of countries with which Nepal has established diplomatic relations has now reached 144.

### **9. Visit of the Chief of UN Department of Field Support Under-Secretary-General Mr. Atul Khare**

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Chief of Department of Field Support Mr. Atul Khare visited Nepal on 28-30 August 2016. During the visit, discussions were held on issues related to peacekeeping and field support services.

## **C. Regional Affairs**

### **1. Seventh Meeting of the SAARC Interior/Home Ministers and other preceding meetings**

The Seventh Meeting of SAARC Interior/Home Ministers preceded by the Seventh Meeting of SAARC Secretaries of Interior/Home and the Seventh Meeting of SAARC Immigration Authorities was held in Islamabad from 2-4 August 2016. Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Narayan Gopal Malego, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs at Ministerial and Interior/Home Secretary level meetings. During the Ministerial segment, the leaders highlighted the necessity of identifying the practical solutions to address the challenges on controlling cybercrimes, transnational organized crimes, to ensure safety and security for the social and economic growth, especially, to ensure a secure future for the youth, women and children. While condemning terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, the leaders called for collective actions in fighting this menace and stressed that terrorists should not escape prosecution.

### **2. SAARC Finance Ministers and Finance Secretaries Meeting**

The Eighth Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers and Eighth Meeting of SAARC Finance Secretaries were held in Islamabad on 26 August and 25 August 2016 respectively. Nepali delegation at the Ministerial Meeting was led by Hon. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance. Finance Secretaries level meeting was led by Mr. Baikuntha Aryal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

While delivering country statements the leader highlighted, among others, on accelerating the process towards South Asian Economic Union (SAEU) in a phased and planned manner as mentioned in the Declaration of 18<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit; ensuring implementation of decisions recommended by the Member States at various

SAARC mechanisms in order to realize the goals of SAARC Charter to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region; strengthening regional trade through full and expeditious implementation of South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) in order to achieve deeper integration and move towards SAEU and also to bring down tariffs, eliminate NTBs/PTBs, reduce sensitive lists for enhanced intra-regional trade under SAFTA; and operationalizing the SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services without further delay by finalizing the schedules of specific Commitments.

### **3. Inception Meeting of the BIMSTEC Transport Connectivity Working Group (BTCWG)**

The inception Meeting of the BIMSTEC Transport Connectivity Working Group (BTCWG) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 30-31 August 2016. The Working Group was formed as recommended by the BIMSTEC Transport Infrastructure and Logistics Study (BTILS) Updating Enhancement: Finalization Workshop held in New Delhi on 14 July 2014.

BTILS which was conducted in 2007 with the financial and technical support of Asian Development Bank (ADB) submitted its report in 2009. The report was later endorsed by the Ministerial Meeting. The ADB was further requested to review and update its report on the status of connectivity with a timeframe up to 2020.

The purpose of the BTILS was to make a profile of the transports and logistics of the region, to identify hard and soft infrastructure projects related to connectivity and trade, to recommend on future BIMSTEC policies and strategies to enhance connectivity and trade, and to recommend an effective institutional mechanism to monitor and facilitate implementing the priority projects.

BTILS has identified a long list of 166 projects as being 'important' in a national context. Out of this, 65 projects have been selected as priority projects including 6 projects from Nepal which are national projects of the country concerned with either 'governmental' or donor infrastructure development programs. It has singled out 35 projects in the Road Sector and 12 projects in the Railway Sector. It also pinpointed common constraints in the development of transport connectivity in the region and proposed breaking bottle-necks such as lengthy administrative procedures, unnecessary documentation requirements, lack of automation for smooth and efficient transport and transit arrangements.

The first Meeting of the Working Group adopted the proposed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the BTCWG, agreed on the Work Plan for BTCWG for the period of 2016-2018 and also agreed to provide the list of priority projects by 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2016.

The Meeting was led by Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai, Joint Secretary (Regional Organizations Division) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and attended by the Senior Officials of the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and

Transport and Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of the Government of Nepal.

#### 4. Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Senior Officials Meeting

The Senior Officials Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), held in Bangkok on 14 September 2016 discussed on the Draft ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030, Draft Bangkok Declaration and Draft ACD Statement on Reigniting Growth through Partnership for Connectivity which would be adopted by the leaders at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ACD Summit being held in Bangkok on 8-10 October 2016. The Meeting after detailed deliberations, agreed in principle to send them for consideration of the ACD Foreign Ministers Meeting to be held on the sidelines of the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on 22 September 2016.

Thailand is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> ACD Summit in Bangkok on 8-10 October 2016 under the theme "One Asia, Diverse Strengths". The Leaders (Heads of State and Government) of 34 ACD Member States from all regions of Asia are attending the Summit to discuss Asia's strengths and resources as well as its future endeavours for harnessing synergies and move towards inclusive Asia.

Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai, Joint Secretary/Chief of Regional Organizations Division attended the said Meeting and put forward views and priorities of the country.

#### 5. SAARC Technical Meeting of Senior Officials on Education

The SAARC Technical Meeting of Senior Officials on Education was held in New Delhi, India on 15-16 September 2016 with a view to formulating concrete action plans for implementing the "New Delhi Declaration on Education" adopted by the Meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Education/Higher Education on 31 October 2014, and for advancing SDGs goals and its associated targets. The Meeting was also tasked with the responsibility of acquiring appropriate policy inputs from the representatives of the SAARC Members for the finalization of the *SAARC Framework for Action (SFFA) for Education 2030* and its subsequent consideration and adoption by the Third Meeting of the SAARC Education Ministers to be held towards the end of 2016.

The delegations from all SAARC Member States and representatives from New Delhi based UNESCO, UNICEF and the South Asian University (SAU) participated in the meeting. The Meeting concluded along with the adoption of *SAARC Framework for Action 2030* and *Draft Action Plan for Implementation of the "New Delhi Declaration on Education"* with the common agreement to forward these documents for further consideration and approval by the Third SAARC Education Ministers' Meeting to be held in late 2016 in Maldives.

The Meeting held wide-ranging discussion on several issues of regional cooperation on education sector. In the particular area of documentation and sharing of

information/knowledge and best practices among SAARC Members through the launching of a common web portal, Nepal has been proposed to take initiatives for the implementation of action plan in this area in cooperation with the SAARC Secretariat. As regards to the monitoring of progress towards SDGs and corresponding targets, the Meeting took up the issue of SDGs seriously and emphasized on developing regional indicators for raising quality education in SAARC while implementing the SDGs by the Member States. Nepal, together with SAARC Secretariat, is proposed to take the lead in carrying out the action plans in this area of cooperation.

#### 6. Informal Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers

On the sidelines of the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Informal Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers was held in New York on 21 September 2016 with participation of all eight member states of SAARC. Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, as the current Chair of the SAARC Council of Ministers, presided over the Meeting. The Meeting reviewed progress achieved on the implementation of the decisions of the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers and its preceding meetings held in Pokhara in March 2016. During the occasion, the head of delegation of Pakistan briefed about the ongoing preparations for hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit scheduled to be held in Pakistan on 9 to 10 November 2016.



*Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat, Foreign Minister of Nepal, addressing the Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers on the sidelines of the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the UNGA in New York.*

#### 7. The Ninth SAARC Food Bank Board Meeting

The Ninth SAARC Food Bank Board Meeting was held in Kathmandu from 21-22 September 2016. Delegates from all SAARC Member countries attended the meeting. The meeting was inaugurated by Hon. Deepak Bohara, Minister for Supplies. In his remarks, Mr. Bohara mentioned that though the Board has made some good progress by bringing out the *Publication Guide* to the SAARC Food Bank and undertaking the Food Bank Information System, in terms of operationalizing the Bank,

the uncertainty was not over. He expressed hope that the Board through a candid exchange of ideas would arrive at a mechanism tailored to overarching food security goals and objectives of the SAARC region. The meeting also agreed on the *draft text of the Agreement on establishing the SAARC Food Bank* incorporating the amendment proposals made by member countries.



Hon. Mr. Deepak Bohara (Right in the Centre), Minister for Supplies of Nepal, addressing the inaugural session of the Ninth SAARC Food Bank Board Meeting in Kathmandu.

#### 8. ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Sidelines of the UNGA

The United Arab Emirates, as the incoming Chair of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) hosted the ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the sidelines of 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the UNGA in New York on 22 September 2016.



Hon. Foreign Minister of Nepal Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat (Left) addressing the ACD Ministerial Meeting in New York.

The Nepalese Delegation led by Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat attended the Meeting. While participating in the discussions, Hon. Dr. Mahat emphasized on placing poverty eradication on the forefront of ACD agenda. He also stressed on the potentials of regional cooperation in the areas of energy, connectivity, tourism and culture. While highlighting the special needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), the Minister underlined the importance of promoting inclusive, equitable and sustainable development at the regional level through the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Hon. Minister expressed his confidence that the region would be able to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the set timeframe as the 2030 Agenda provides a framework for promoting inclusive, equitable and sustainable development at the regional level through our constructive and collaborative efforts.

The said Meeting deliberated and endorsed the following three documents to be placed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ACD Summit scheduled to be held in Bangkok on 8-10 October 2016:

- *Bangkok Declaration*
- *ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030 (ACD Vision 2030)*
- *ACD Statement on Reigniting Growth through Partnership for Connectivity*

#### 9. Republic of Korea (ROK) –SAARC Partnership Seminar

An Official from the Regional Organizations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Nepal represented at the Seventh Republic of Korea-SAARC Partnership Seminar held in Seoul, South Korea on 26 September 2016. The theme for this year's Seminar was "*Enhancing Economic Connectivity in SAARC: Focusing on Promotion of Intra-regional Trade*" and it was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

The main objectives of the Seminar were to create a platform for the exchange of experiences and ideas, and to identify concrete measures for further enhancing ROK-SAARC Cooperation. During the wide-ranging discussion, the participants from the SAARC Member States, SAARC Secretariat and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, among others, emphasized on the need for deeper engagement with the ROK as an observer of SAARC, and forwarded policy recommendations in this regard.

The Seminar was chaired by the Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea where all the representatives from the SAARC Member States and SAARC Secretariat made brief presentations focusing on enhancing economic connectivity and intra-regional trade in SAARC and role of observers.

The Republic of Korea joined SAARC as an observer in 2006, and since then has been organizing various training programmes/seminars to support capacity building of the government officials of the SAARC Member States in various fields. The Republic of Korea-SAARC Partnership Seminar was started in 2010 with an aim of harnessing the potential of Korea-SAARC cooperation.

#### 10. Regional Conference on SAARC Effectiveness

A *Regional Conference on SAARC Effectiveness* was organized by the International Relations and Labour Committee of the Legislature-Parliament of Nepal on 29-30 September 2016 at Soaltee Crown Plaza, Kathmandu. Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees of all SAARC

Member Countries and resource persons (paper presenters and commentators) were also invited to attend the Conference. The Conference was inaugurated by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.



Rt. Hon. Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal, addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Regional Conference on SAARC Effectiveness in Kathmandu.

Papers were presented by foreign and Nepali experts on five topics i.e. overview of three decades of SAARC, economic cooperation, fostering trust and understanding, deepening integration through enhanced connectivity, and strengthening institutional mechanisms. The Regional Organization Division, MoFA, Nepal had extended active cooperation to organize the Conference.

## D. Passport & Consular Activities

### I. Passport Activities

Department of Passport has distributed 104,878 passports and travel documents in this period. The detail is as follows:

S.N.	Passport/Travel Document	Number
1	Diplomatic	109
2	Official	351
3	Ordinary	104,386
4	Travel Document	32
<b>Total</b>		<b>104,878</b>

### II. Consular Activities

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

S.N.	Details of Services	No. of Work Performed
<b>A</b>	<b>Consular and Legal Counseling Section</b>	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, Religious tour, World cycling tour, and other	51
2	Recommendation for Indian education	285

	certificate, nationality verification and those who are visiting India for study purpose	
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.	268
5	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for character verification report to Nepalese citizens during their period of stay in India.	50
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	4
7	Recommendation letter to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit for vehicles to enter India.	4
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	9
9	Correspondence letter regarding authenticity of Power of Attorney issued by Nepalese missions abroad	176
10	Correspondence to the concerned authorities of Nepal regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	31
11	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepalese citizens died abroad.	42
12	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepalese nationals to the Nepalese Missions abroad	56
13	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepalese nationals abroad	123
14	Correspondence to the government agencies in Nepal	14
15	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malaysia.	4
16	Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family	20
17	Correspondence to the Nepalese Missions on various subjects including insurance and compensation enquiry	33
18	Correspondence to the foreign missions based in Nepal	30
19	Telephone and e-mail enquiries about insurance and compensation with the Nepalese Missions abroad.	36
<b>B</b>	<b>Visa and Exemption Section</b>	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/official/gratis visa	538
2	Issuance of diplomatic/official ID Card	95
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	23
4	Number of recommendation for exemption	547
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	506
<b>C</b>	<b>Attestation section</b>	
1	Number of attested documents	21,748
<b>Total</b>		<b>24,695</b>