

Poverty Alleviation: What can Nepal and India Do together?

Editors

Tikaram Poudel

Deepak Kumar Adhikari



Neeti Anusandhan Pratishtan, Nepal (NeNAP)
Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone No: 9847386571, 9847364187; Email: nenapinresearch@gmail.com



Poverty Alleviation: What can Nepal and India Do together?

A Report of a Seminar

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प्राक्कथन

नेपाल-भारतबीचको धार्मिक, सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक, राजनीतिक तथा आर्थिक सम्बन्धहरू दुबै देशमा अत्याधिक रूपमा चर्चा हुने गरेका विषय हन् । यी यावत् आयामहरूका बारेमा थप वर्णन गरिराख्नु पर्ने आवश्यकता देखिएन तर पनि अनुसन्धनात्मक कार्य गरेर ठोस रूपमा प्राज्ञिक एवं सार्वजनिक जीवनमा व्यापक विमर्श गरी शैक्षिक क्षेत्रमा संस्थागत कार्य गर्नुपर्ने प्रष्ट आवश्यकता देखिएको छ । शैक्षिक संस्थाहरूमा तथा विभिन्न अनुसन्धान केन्द्रहरूमा नेपाल-भारत सम्बन्धका सन्दर्भमा बेलाबेला चर्चा भइरहन्छ । यी दुबै देश प्राकृतिक, भौगोलिक एवं उपर्युक्त आयामहरूको बीचमा प्रगाढ हुँदाहुँदै पनि धेरै बुझिएको र कतिपय अर्थमा गलत बुझिएको पनि हो भन्नुमा अत्युक्ति नहोला ।

नेपाल र भारतबीचको जनस्तरको सम्बन्ध शैक्षिक क्षेत्रमा पाठ्यक्रमको रूपमा संस्थागत भएर प्राज्ञिक बहसमा नआउँदासम्म नेता तथा राजनीतिक दलहरूले जनतालाई भुक्त्याएर राजनीति गर्ने अवसर पाइराख्नेछन् । जबसम्म सम्बन्धका यी सबै आयामहरू संस्थागत हुँदैनन् तबसम्म नेपाल र भारतका सम्बन्धमा तिता-मिठा अनुभवहरू आइरहने नै छन् । यस्तो अवस्थामा समस्याहरू यथावत् नै रहने छन् र समय-समयमा यिनै अज्ञानताका कारण शासकीय सम्बन्धमा पनि अप्याराहरू आइरहनेछन् । परिणामस्वरूप दुबै देशका आम जनमानस यथार्थबाट टाढा भइरहने छन् । साथै समय-समयमा सम्बन्धका बारेमा अत्याधिक भ्रम उत्पन्न हुने गर्दछ र नकारात्मक तत्वहरूले पनि दिग्भ्रमित पार्ने कुचेष्टाका लागि अवसरहरू पाइराख्नेछन् ।

उपर्युक्त तथ्यहरूलाई आत्मसात गर्दै नीतिले लगातार अनुसन्धानमूलक कार्य एवं समसाप्तिक तथा सान्दर्भिक विषयहरूमा कार्यक्रमहरू सञ्चालन गर्दै आएको सबैमा विदितै छ । खोज अनुसन्धानमूलक कार्यले समाजमा सही सूचनाको जानकारी तथा नीतिगत रूपमा नीति निर्माण गर्नमा पनि टेवा पुन्याउँदछ । त्यसैले समाजको प्रवर्धन हेतु गहन मन्थन र विश्लेषणका लागि लामो समयावधिको र ठूलो संख्याका कार्यक्रमहरू हुनुपर्दछ । लामो अवधिका कार्यक्रमहरू सँगसँगै छोटो अवधिका कार्यक्रमहरूको समेत आवश्यकता अनुभव गरी हामीले ईस्वी संवत् २०१८ जुलाईदेखि छोटो अन्तरालका संवाद, संगोष्ठी तथा अनुसन्धनात्मक कार्य पनि विषयगत विज्ञ तथा प्राज्ञहरूका बीचमा थालनी गरेका हैं । सोही शृंखला अन्तर्गत १० अगष्ट २०१९ मा काठमाडौंमा सम्पन्न

भएको Poverty Alleviation: What can Nepal and India Do together ?
कार्यक्रम अन्तर्गत भएका विमर्श र सन्देश प्रकाशन गर्न पाउँदा हामी अत्यन्तै खुशी छौं ।

समाजमा यस्ता धेरै संगठनहरू छन् जसले सकारात्मक प्रयास गरिरहेका छन् र हुनुपर्दछ भन्ने हाम्रो दृढ मान्यता रहेको छ । राष्ट्र पुनर्निर्माणको महत्तम कार्यमा सबैको योगदान अपरिहार्य छ र यस महायज्ञमा हामी पनि केही समिधा र केही चरु योगदान गर्न अग्रसर भएको कुरा यहाँ निवेदन गर्दछौं । साथै यिनै बिन्दुहरूको सँगालोस्वरूप नेपाल र भारतमा विविध कार्यक्रममा भएका विमर्श र सन्देश पनि पुस्तकका रूपमा प्रकाशोनमुख छन् भन्ने म यहाँ जानकारी गराउँदछु ।

धन्यवाद ।

दीपक कुमार अधिकारी
निर्देशक
नीति अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान, नेपाल (नेनाप)

Preface

Religious, social, cultural, political, and economic relations between Nepal and India are highly discussed in both countries. Although there is no need for further description of these dimensions, there is a need to undertake institutional work in the educational sector through concrete research at every level and engage in widespread discussions in the scientific and public spheres. Discussions concerning Nepal-India relations are prevalent in educational institutions and various research centers. It is not an exaggeration to state that these two countries, despite their natural, geographical, and dimensions mentioned above, are also exceptionally distinguished and, in some ways, misperceived.

Until Nepal-India relations with the masses become institutionalized through educational curriculum and enter the realm of scientific debate, leaders and political parties will continue to exploit opportunities for manipulation. As long as all these relationship dimensions are not institutionalized, the Nepal-India relationship will continue to be a bitter sweet experience. Problems are not static; issues periodically arise due to this lack of awareness, even in government relations. Consequently, common people in both countries remain detached from reality, and confusion about the relationship prevails, allowing negative elements to find opportunities to mislead.

Recognizing the facts above, Neeti Anusandhan Pratishthan, Nepal (NeNAP), has consistently researched and conducted programmes on contemporary and contextual issues. Research-based work provides accurate information to society and contributes to policy formulation. Therefore, to promote society, it is essential to organize programmes that involve deep brainstorming and analysis over an extended period and with a large number of participants. Acknowledging the need for both short-duration and long-duration programmes, we have organized short-duration dialogues, seminars, and research initiatives among experts and scholars on the subject since July 2018. Under the same series, we are delighted to publish the discussions and messages held during the "Poverty Alleviation: What can Nepal and India Do together?" programmeme held in Kathmandu on August 10, 2019.

We firmly believe that numerous organizations in society are making positive efforts. Everyone's contribution to the monumental task of national reconstruction is indispensable, and we are committed to contribute some Samida and some Charu in this great endeavour. Furthermore, we are publishing a collection of discussions and messages held at various programmes in Nepal and India as a book.

Thank you.

Deepak Kumar Adhikari
Director
Neeti Anusandhan Pratishthan Nepal (NeNAP)

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Introduction of the Editors

Deepak Kumar Adhikari

Shri Deepak Kumar Adhikari, Director of Neeti Anusandhan Pratishtan, Nepal (NeNAP), Rashtriya Prachar Pramukh of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) Nepal and a member of the Advisory Board of the World Organisation of Students and Youth (WOSY), is a social worker, who has for the past several decades engaged himself in pure social work at various capacities. In the past twenty years of his full-time social service, he spent much of his time giving visionary leadership to PragyikVidyaarthi Parishad (PVP), Nepal and developing a strong organizational foundation for it, working as its National Organizing Secretary. Since 2012, Deepak Kumar Adhikari has been committed, as a founder-director, to the activities of Neeti Anusandhan Pratishtan, Nepal, and a leading research institution for long-term development of the society.

Tikaram Poudel PhD

Tikaram Poudel coordinates Research and Innovation Center at School of Education Kathmandu University and teaches courses on research methodology, applied linguistics, critical discourse analysis, contemporary theories of east and west and world Englishes for master and M. Phil. programmes at the Department of Language Education, School of Education, Kathmandu University. Prior to joining Kathmandu University, Dr. Poudel worked as an expert of South Asian languages at the Department of Linguistics, University of Konstanz, Germany. Dr. Poudel currently concentrates his research on indigenous knowledge system, national varieties of English, language and society, etc. He served as a member of editorial board for 2018-2019 volumes of Nepalese Linguistics, a journal of Linguistic Society of Nepal. At present, he is the member of editorial board of Journal of Education and Research, a journal of School of Education, Kathmandu University. He did his PhD in Linguistics.

Introduction of the Speakers

Professor Dr. Rajesh Kharat

Professor Dr. Kharat is Professor and Chairperson of Centre for South Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Chief Advisor to the Equal Opportunity Office of JNU, New Delhi. Before joining JNU, he was also Professor at the Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai, Mumbai. He has more than 25 years of teaching experiences and the universities initially at University of Mumbai and presently at JNU. He has authored three books, *Role of Bhutan in SMRC*, *Tibetan Refugees in India* and *Foreign Policy of Bhutan* and one edited book on *Bhutan: Contemporary issues and Perspectives*. He has also published more than 25 research articles/papers in various national and international journals and several edited volumes published in India and abroad.

Professor Dr. V.K. Malhotra

Professor Dr. V.K. Malhotra is presently Member Secretary, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi. Professor Malhotra is a Professor of Economics and has served C.C.S. University, Meerut as Head, Department of Economics; Coordinator Admissions, Examinations and Evaluation; Member of a number of important committees; and part of the team of Dean Students' Welfare. He has supervised theses/dissertations of eight PhD scholars and more than forty M. Phil. scholars. His research interests include Governance and Economic Development, Corporate Governance and Performance of various industries, Intellectual Property Rights and India's concerns, Foreign Trade and Investments etc. He has done a University Grant Commission (UGC) sponsored major research project on 'Governance and Development: A Study of Major States of India' and his own PhD work has been on 'Economics of Fertiliser Subsidies'. He has a number of papers in reputed journals in areas of his interest. He has to his credit a book entitled *Economics of Education* published by Vikas Publishing which has been prescribed by a number of universities. He is also a Visitor's nominee to the

Court of Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Delhi; and Governor's nominee to the Executive Council of Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University, Jaunpur. He has also supervised/graded assignments/dissertations of M.B.A. students of international business schools.



Professor Dr. Rajesh Kharat

Thank you, sir and good afternoon, everybody and all the delegates and Neeti Anusandhan Pratisthan, Nepal, Kathmandu and the secretary of ICSSR, Professor Malhotraji, Deputy chief of mission (DCM) Dr. Ajay Kumarji, Dr. Tikaram Poudelji, Dr. Deepak Kumar Adhikariji and all the people.

Thank you very much for inviting me here. I want to draw your attention not precisely to poverty alleviation. After all, I have something to say something differently because I'm teaching a course on Nepal at Center for South Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. While preparing this course, I found many inadequacies and why those inadequacies exist. What is missing from it? I want to share it with you. After that, I will highlight political, economic and cultural perspectives.

Pune is known as the cultural capital of Maharashtra, and we have a very thick and powerful bond with Nepal. For instance, Peshwas from Pune had a powerful cultural bond with the Nepali people and society. They do have Roti Beti relations with Nepal's royal family. So, taking the clue from the cultural bond with India, I mention that not many people from all over the place are aware of these socio-cultural relations between India and Nepal. For instance, the southern region of India and, to some extent, the far-eastern or, one can say, extreme northeastern states of India may not be made aware of these historical and traditional relations between the two neighbors. Whereas scholars and even ordinary people from the states of Uttar Pradesh,

Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand, which have immediate borders with Nepal, are well aware of the vibrancy of socio-economic and cultural relations. Civil society and other interested groups always kept themselves updated about Nepal. But rests of the people do not know much about Nepal's societal and cultural facets. And if someone develops an interest in understanding Nepal's political, social and cultural life, either they visit directly to Nepal or if a direct visit is not possible, they try to study the wonderful Himalayan country through the literature available on Nepal. For instance, magazines published on and from Nepal, and if the interest persists to know more about Nepal, many scholars do come to various universities like Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi or Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata where multiple programmes are being introduced and taught on Nepal. One may develop an interest also to visit Banaras Hindu University at Varanasi, where one gets an opportunity to observe the historical roots of Nepali intellectuals' legacy with Nepal's diverse cultural and ideological orientations.

Moreover, if someone has to go into the research and the academic exchange programme, there are several fellowships and scholarships, through the B. P. Koirala Foundation, at the Embassy of Nepal. Unfortunately, it is limited to Delhi-centric scholars and sometimes those known to the system or the institution. Many genuine scholars and researchers have been deprived and denied access to this academic exchange programme between India and Nepal. How can one read and understand Nepal and its society in this situation? One has to be proactive and take some positive steps to meet the challenges.

As a part of poverty alleviation in Nepal, a lot of debates and discussions are already in the process since long may be fifty years and on. But in reality, what happened? Do those policies and programmes to eradicate poverty in Nepal prove any worth? Experts in the field can assure you this! If Nepal addresses the two critical areas, education and health, most of the problems and challenges Nepal faces will be mitigated and empower the Nepalese population. I have to say something about teaching at the primary and secondary levels. The college has many

facilities; you can see some people from Bhutan studying in Bangalore. Students from Sri Lanka also go to Keralia and study different courses. They are looking at other places and parts of India. But we hardly find anybody from Nepal studying in other parts of India except BHU, Kolkata and Delhi NCR locations. But despite having such good close relations between India and Nepal, Nepali students are still missing out. We also have primary and higher secondary education systems for the neighboring states. To materialize these exchanges in education, we need to have lots of engagements on diplomatic and political levels too. The more and more dialogues we will have, it is beneficial. At the University level, I was talking to many students; we found out from Nepal their preference is only Delhi.

Why Delhi? If not JNU, then Delhi University, If not Delhi University, then Jamia University. Why so? And if not Jamia, then there is Ambedkar University, but they don't want to go to the other parts of India. Everybody wants to go to Bombay institutes. In addition to these institutes, there are highly reputed universities, for example, Hyderabad Central University, University of Madras, Bangalore University, Kerala University and Pondicherry University. But hardly any enrollment from Nepal in these universities or professional institutes like IITs and IIMs and any Medical Universities or semi-skilled professional research institutes and colleges or universities. Many students have done their post-graduation. We have more than 500 plus universities, but we can see Nepali students studying in less than ten universities. We must change this attitude to empower ourselves in skilled and semi-skilled learning and education.

I observed that many high-profile personalities, including political leaders, bureaucrats, army officials and business tycoons from Nepal, go to Delhi for health checkups. During these health checkups often, one could notice that these health checkups are followed by some meetings and gatherings with bilateral dialogues and informal interactions with the counterparts but the essentially Indian ones. At this juncture, one felt, so I suggest that while so many personalities from different walks of life from Nepal are coming to India for medical and health issues, why not create medical hubs and medical zones at the borders between India and

Nepal? So, Nepali people would visit India for medical checkups and receive the best treatment and medical treatments available. In these medical hubs, we can bring in skilled and trained nurses and doctors from both sides and station them at the borders. It even provides an opportunity to those willing to serve society for the cause of social service and do a kind of servitude to humanity. This young generation can also be trained and empowered in the mental health and medicine profession.

Once we establish these medical hubs and zones at the borders, in the beginning, even notionally, things like infrastructure facilities and skilled human resources should follow automatically. Once we have these medical hubs or hospitals at the borders, there will be no need to go further to metros and big hospitals where ordinary citizens cannot afford medical treatment. With these facilities and provisions, even locals from the border areas will have an opportunity for good earnings and employment for their livelihood. Indirectly it will help both sides of the government to reduce the burdens of subsidies under the pretext of poverty alleviation programmes and do away with the ‘dependency’ on government grants and loans. They will also have economic development and resources. In this way, developing medical hubs and medical zones can be one of the solutions for poverty alleviation. People from India come to Nepal for fresh air, oxygen, and traditional medicine like Ayurveda and treatments like Yoga. Specific therapies are available only in Nepal, not India and vice versa. So, you can give the treatment to Nepal and India. Nepalese and Indian citizens at the border can have employment as well. People won’t have to move here and there for any other things this way.

I also have another suggestion apart from the medical zone about the markets, also known as hats, the bazaars between the borders of India & Nepal. This also should be given priority and special treatment. It has to be intentionally created. Creating a marketing zone at the boundaries of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and Sikkim would be better than going to Chandani Chowk Sadar Bazar of Delhi or anywhere else in India. A similar process of creating a marketing zone between the Bangladesh & India border is going on and between India and Bhutan.

It is a second suggestion for generating income while providing opportunities for employment and sources of livelihood to eradicate poverty in Nepal.

Thirdly, the present governments are very much involved in these skill development and startup programmes. They are propelling lot of investments into the education field. So, those educational institutions can collaborate with the educational institution of Nepal, particularly in medical colleges or universities or other non-conventional education systems like private ones. We have MIT in India, Maharashtra Institute of Technology, Symbiosis International University in Pune. We can tie up with them for skill development joint programmes. It may not be easy as the required political will has to be there from both sides. I see lots of Good-Will between Nepal and India, but afraid to say that the same zeal of Political Will is missing.

As a result, few communities, families and the same elite class people with the establishment, whether from the Indian side or the Nepal side, are enjoying the fruits. What about those without access to the establishment, government institutions or the bureaucracy? We should consider them. I'm saying this about the common person. Privileged communities are given red carpet welcome in both countries. But for those people from marginal societies, marginal communities, not socially but economically and culturally, we should think about them. I thought this kind of gathering and association helps in sharing your ideas and exchanging thoughts would be a better solution for this issue. We have much historical and cultural background, but we have not been able to reap the benefits of these bonds. We, the academic and intellectual community from both sides, share and shoulder the responsibility of making our relations and cultural bonds much stronger than the earlier ones. My concern is not to lose this opportunity; once we return to our place, many things crop into our minds, and we end to forget what we spoke about and discussed. One has to make concerted efforts to make things happen for the better life and livelihood of the human being, and I'll stop here. These are the few concerns I wanted to raise. Thank you once again for allowing me to raise this issue thank you.



Professor Dr. V. K. Malhotra

Thank you Dr. Tikaram Poudelji. I'm thankful to Dr. Deepak Adhikariji, who represents Neeti Anusandhan Pratisthan, Nepal (NeNAP) here and have been doing great work in Nepal. The deputy chief of mission, Shri Ajay Kumarji and my colleague and friend Professor Rajesh from JNU were among the gathering. I could notice the number of people who have contributed to the Making of Nepal, the building of Nepal. And they have been very consistently thinking about Nepal and Nepal-India relationships. Maybe some of you have been involved in that relationship and thinking about that for more than 40-50 years ago. One fascinating thing I noticed was when Deepak was speaking or anybody speaking in Nepali at more stages. I could think that I could not understand what was being said.

I understand that when things are set from the mind, they are made to reach other hearts. I think language crosses its own barriers, which is what it crosses here also. I'll see you wherever you go. I'm in. Somebody was asking me before I formally started with my presentation. Somebody asked me if I had been to Nepal earlier. I said no; it was my first visit because I felt like visiting India only, and I did not ever feel like visiting a country I had not seen earlier. So we know each other much more than we think. Normally, to my students also, in a classroom situation, I should not be saying that before you, but my understanding is that history, culture, and civilization go further than

we ever imagined. There are several beliefs. There are several things in mind, maybe practices. Our ideas may be what we think and how we think, inherited from history, civilization and culture. There might be particular occasions we might say that I differ from you, but I think since we share many commonalities. So those differences are bound to get mitigated over time also.

In fact, before starting, I thought I should also be trying to speak something in Nepali, so I'm just making a very primary effort. You can vow how good I could make it. In fact, finally, so Shubhakamanaharu. I think that goes well can weigh and I give you best wishes, i.e., Shubhakamanaharu to you. There are many words. I noticed and didn't find much difference while coming here because of my understanding as a representative of the Epic Social Science Institute in the country. I looked at the boards and how they write in the Devanagari script.

I understand that the differences are not much in what we want to say, but the fact is that phonetics differs. Phonetics also differs, and as a result of time, over letters, it starts to appear like that, and it is because we could see that kind of language auto science even in the signboards. So, when we discussed a few months before Deepak Kumar Adhikariji came to India, he made me and said that you should be coming to Kathmandu if I want you to speak on some issue and talk to our common people. When I say our common people, I definitely include folks Indians share and Nepalese share. So I said that I'd be coming. You could suggest to me any area of your liking on which I should be deliberating facts. So a few days back, he said that since you come from the economics sector, you should be talking about poverty alleviation. And I said that okay, I'm not done any research work on Nepal, the very suggestion that I am supposed to speak on this issue would make me interested in doing a little bit of understanding on the issue and sharing my understanding with all of you here, this is a wonderful and charming evening. So this is about the roots of our relationship, which is how I start because I believe that before I start any issue on which I'm supposed to concentrate finally. I should get connected to you, and you also get connected. So our relationship is ancient. I mean Lord Rama,

who does not know the very Janaki Sita he married, belonged to King Janak, the ruler of the Maithili community.

I'll just go through some of the slides because I'm told that I have 30 to 35 minutes to speak about the issue of poverty. So there will be some slides I will just be going through, and they will just be a few points that will definitely strike you. The next is how our borders are situated, how despite being a landlocked country, Nepal has never felt and rather that it is very much here and all trade has been facilitated. There are five states in India with a common border with Nepal.

In our cultural traditions also, we have locked many similarities. Lord Buddha was born in Nepal, and who doesn't know Lord Buddha in the world? I mean not only in India and Nepal but in the entire Asia. We all know that many countries worship the Lord Buddha. Anybody talking about peace in the current world will definitely have to start somewhere from good times. So language, I was just talking about it. All languages virtually have their deep roots in Sanskrit. Finally, programme all that and I were also languages have got their deep groups in the same languages. People of both countries share common religious faith and philosophies. Although the facts on certain occasions, we might say that no, I differ with you or I might differ from your opinions. However, there are not many faiths related and believe related peace relations between us. Cinema music are also a common concern you could go to next.

This is about the cultural connection that we have. Many MOUs and agreements exist between us, for example, agreements between Sahitya Kala Akademi (India) and Nepal Academy, Doordarshan (India) and Nepal TV, Press Council of India and Press Council of Nepal, Sangeet Natak Akademy (India) and Nepal Academy of Music & Drama. I understand that you know better than me in these respects, but that is to highlight what we have been sharing.

Swami Vivekananda, you have got a Swami Vivekananda Centre for Indian culture also, which was established in August 2007. The B. P. Koirala India Nepal Foundation was set up in 1991 through an MOU signed between the government of India and Nepal, and the objective

is to foster educational, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation between India and Nepal. And then there are economic ties between us. So we share a common history. We share a common culture and civilization, and then we have a substantial economic time and are Nepal's largest trade partner and most significant source of foreign investment besides providing transit for almost the entire Third Country Trade of Nepal. This refers to the growth of the trade between the two countries in the past ten years and then investment in their path. So far as Nepal's FDI is concerned, India contributes to 44% of Nepalese FDI, and about 150 Indian ventures are operating in Nepal.

I don't want to go to figures. These are the main companies that I refer to working in Nepal. And not only that, Nepal & India's relationship can be instrumental and significant so far as several molecular relationships are also concerned. They include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, (BBIN) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). We have been talking about the free trade area in the circle. So I'll come to that little later fact. So in the context of ease of doing business, India has also been thinking about how we could facilitate trade with many countries for the last five-six years. How could we definitely introduce it?

Let's say a factor like convenience. If one wants to start trade in a country, whether what happens to come from the country itself or one comes from outside the country. So I went to the indicators also; it is a very small line, in fact, these three lines. I also went through those ten indicators, which are about or of doing business index. So there are several indicators on which Nepal is ahead of India, and there are several indicators on which India has learned of Nepal. This is how we can learn from each other also and new partnerships and agriculture. This is an example that power is important for you and us, right? I'll come to that little later when I start talking about how we can move forward in fact and the tariff structure between India and Nepal. We all know that most products imported from Nepal are fixed at 0 degrees; however, beverages the spirits and vinegar. The simple average tariff rate is to wreck 50% products and there of

the rate is to take 30 per cent. The average tariff rate is on variation in a product, such as preparations of vegetable fruits, nuts, and other products. This is our concern.

There is our cooperation in the defense area. In fact, I know several officers in the Indian army. They basically are from Nepal. The Indian army allows Nepalese people to join the army also, and there are related relaxations with religion to work concerning the physical measurements also, and India has been assisting the Nepalese Army for modernization by supplying equipment and providing training, assistance during disasters.

Joint military exercises, adventure activities, bilateral visits and Indo-Nepal bilateral level joint military exercises. Surya Kiran is one such name, in fact, and then apart from back since 1950, India and Nepal have been awarding each other Army Chief with the honorary rank of General in recognition of the mutual harmonious relationship. This is about our relationship with regard to education and people-to-people connect also. India provides 3,000 scholarships annually to Nepalese students to pursue PhD, Masters, Bachelor of Arts and +2Level education in India, and; around 6 lakh Indians are living in Nepal, and around 6 million Nepali are living in India at the moment.

And our symbol continues to be democracy in spiritual scriptures, yoga mythology, language, literature and architecture. These are the areas of commonalities. Whereas for Nepal, there are indicators, for example, spiritualism, Buddhism, Mt Everest, Sherpa language and literature Pashupatinath, Lumbini. They definitely connect with each other's people. This is a little bit about statistics that suggest a geographical comparison. I would again not go into the details of that. Otherwise, this lecture will be too lengthy, and I would just skip it because you can just go through all that and whatever the points of concern I would be highlighting too.

We have a population of nearly 1.35 billion, whereas Nepal has got 29.3 million. The age structure is almost the same. You look at 0 to 14 years of age and 65 plus years of age; that is the dependent population, 27% and nearly 30% and then the working age population, 15 to 64, 66% and

64.6% they are. And then the medium age in India is 27.9 years; we are as medium age as Nepal is 24.1, You are a gaining nation, and we also constitute a very gaining nation, and very provided one even population growth rate are placed almost like being much closed 1.17 and 1.16. I have gone through even the record of this acceleration in population growth rate. They also appear to be virtually converging at some points. The birth rate, you could have a look at the previous one, please. The birth rate is there. You are slightly ahead of us. Why does that exist? I will speak a little about that.

This is about the sex ratio and infant mortality rate. Your infant mortality rate or that of Nepal is better than India. But the maternal mortality rate in India is slightly better than Nepal's. So you could see the population types also in the two countries. We spend for the literacy rate and education expenditure is almost similar to GDP or educational expenses.

So far as dependent on agriculture is concerned, Nepal assisted more dependent on agriculture, which is visible here. The rural population is much more than India's whole population right now. And the urban population in India is 33.5%, whereas Nepal's population share is 19.4%.

And the rate of urbanization, of course, we know the theory of convergence and divergence. The rate of urbanization in Nepal is currently ahead of India. I was talking about the maternal mortality rate of Nepal is slightly worse than India, 258 Per lakh and 174 for India per lakh and what average life expectancy and child mortality rates are. You are ahead of us. These facts show that Nepal has better health expenditure, potential meals, females, and overall life expectancy. Also, Nepal is better than India, as we spend 4.7% of its GDP on health, and Nepal 5.8% of its GDP on health.

This is the GDP data. Of course, the population also makes a difference in the overall size of the GDP on purchasing power parity basis. It has to be there. Nepal's currency has got a little better purchasing power than the Indian currency. I don't want to speak in detail about that. But if anybody would like to interact on that, I would be prepared for GDP

growth rates. I checked that Nepal has also started to grow quickly over the last few years. For the last 25 to 30 years, India grew by more than 6.5%. There is a debate in India whether the flu is threatening for the current year or the following year.

Governmental ways come out to the group with an expected growth rate of 7 to 7.5%. And then, IMF, World Bank and even Indian economists keep on correcting those figures. The correct figure for the current year for a predicted figure for the current year is around 6.9% for 2018. Growth rates have to be seen in the long run. They should not be seen on a year-on-year basis. That, in the current year, if they grow at 8% but next year we grow at the rate of 4 %, it won't matter much in class. A consistent growth rate throughout 20 to 25 years is very significant for any economy to come out of poverty. So I'll be arguing for that. In fact, GDP per capita is here, but when I see a population below the poverty line, I say that your currency has little for slightly better purchasing power. I thought because our poverty ratio right now is, I don't believe, 21.9 per cent. Whereas that of Nepal is 25 per cent, inflation rates are slightly different but well within control. I do not know what fiscal deficit the Nepalese government has given itself, so I need to go through that, but the Indian government has 3.5% as its target for fiscal deficits. So these are in previous slides.

It's done so far as GDP composition is concerned. In the case of India, 16 or 17 per cent is coming from agriculture and allied activities. Where as in the case of Nepal, 47% is coming from agriculture and allied activities. Industry in India has stagnated by 24 - 25%. But now it has slightly improved over the last two-three years, and it has come to 28 to 29 per cent and services around 50%. And for Nepal also, I see around 50 to 52 % actual contribution by service sector.

Unemployment rate distribution beneficent I was very interested because we will discuss the issue of poverty. So I was interested in looking at again efficient also that the rate of inequality in the two countries. How is it? They are so. I found that India's is at 25.2, whereas, in the case of Nepal, it is 32.8. So it is around one-third of the total income

distribution that both countries have. We can technically understand it. The curve is at one-third of the 45-degree angle where a place could be inside.

So this is about the major industries of India and the major industrial sectors of Nepal and export commodities of India and export commodities of Nepal, and then exports partners of India and Nepal also. So major export partners of India means the countries to which India is exporting or the countries to which Nepal is exporting. So India's exports largely go to the US, UAE, and Hong Kong. The major export partners of Nepal's exports are India, the US and Turkey. This is about import commodities and import partners.

Great! So India's where from India is importing, and where from Nepal is importing. India imports largely from China, the US, UAE and Saudi Arabia. We have little idea about foreign exchange reserves, which speak about an economy's trade-related or import-related muscles.

This is about poverty. After building this background, I come to the issue of poverty, right? We all understand that there are several ways to look at poverty before I go through these slides. I would just try to speak for 5 to 10 minutes about poverty. First, we all know how to measure poverty in an economy. This issue has been debated all over the world, and it has been debated for a long.

75 to 125 years long, in fact, and every country in the world has its way of measuring poverty. In India's case, we know we have got a Nepal's measurement of poverty is not much different from that of India impact. In India, we measure poverty because we all know those who have read to economists Dandekar and Truck. They suggested calorie intake no and calorie intake. The calorie intake was then converted into monthly expenditure, qualifying to cross the poverty line or disqualifying. We have different calorie intake norms, and Nepal also has poverty estimates of poverty measurement, and both of us apply and come to the ratio, right? Nepal also applies minimums.

We can apply indigenous criteria to measure poverty in the country. When minimum needs are identified, those needs are converted into expenditures. How much expenditure shall you leave for buying the

basket photos, minimum needs that would make one qualify the skyline of the quality act? So in 1973-74, I am reminded that India, for the first time, accepted this poverty line, as I said by Dandekar Delta in your case. Also, the policy making body of the country goes above an estimation prepared by various agencies. I'll talk about too very briefly, but in India, the whole view about poverty is identifying basic needs or minimum calorie intake. That is one criterion. This is what exists at the country level, another major yardstick to look at.

I am reminded that we are, for the first time next, after this poverty line was developed, as I said by Dandekar Delta, in your case. Also, the country's policymaking body goes above that of Stevie, and various agencies prepare estimations. I'll talk about it to be very briefly, but in India; the whole view about poverty is that identifying basic needs or minimum calorie intake is one criterion. This is what exists at the country level. Applying the World Bank law is the major yardstick to look at poverty estimates.

At one stage, one dollar was a day on \$2. We are currently looking at things and applying them to one point in one line. Or, at another point, zero to five dollars per day. The UNDP introduced another concept, which talks about multi-dimensional poverty index funds. So I talked about the components of the multi-poverty multi-dimensional poverty index. So this is a bit about the very concept.

I already talked about an allegation of poverty. There are three ideas basically in respect of which we try to analyze what has been done concerning Poverty alleviation. What is there has been a typical belief that as a country grows with growth, the benefit of the growth will trickle down to the bottom base of the population or the people who are below the poverty line and that are how the people will come about the poverty line and its alleviation. We are saying poverty will be alleviated. There is a difference between alleviation and the elimination of solving it. So all of us appreciate that.

So in India also, we went ahead with this kind of theory for a very long period. India grows with growth will be a certain growth rate at which the trickle-down effect will be greater than the other growth rates, and

we estimated various structures. I'm repeatedly reminded that I will not go into the details of that. When we had the first plan in India, your first plan in Nepal started in 1956. Our first plan came into existence in 1951, right?

So in the first plan, we talked about a growth projection of 3.5% or a growth target of 3.5%. And we always wanted a five plus 5 per cent growth rate in India. There came a time when the sixth plan in India began in 1980.

And I was looking at that Nepal 6th plan also began in 1980-81, right? So we thought that if India achieved a growth rate of 5 to 6%, then power team India would be eliminated quickly. But the surprising aspect was that I am reminded of a debate in Planning Commission itself. Somebody from the Planning Commission initiated a comment that every time we sit to talk about poverty elevation, we say that at 3.5%, it was not working. But if it is made 5%, then alleviation would happen at a rate of 2 to 2.5 percent, but we raised our growth rate, but poverty appears to be stagnating today. So what exactly happened, and this is what happened in the Nepalese economy as well as in India to watch the late seventies and early eighties came almost a consensus kind of opinion. I'm reminded of those elections in India. In Mrs Gandhi's leadership, people talked about removing poverty, Garibi hatao, right? This is why, for the first time in India; we started with direct measures against poverty. We started with the ILDP integrated rural development programme, followed by the NREP programme, the RNDP programme, and the Pradhanmantri Sworojgar Yojana.

Towards the 11th or 12th Five-Year Plan, we considered the big scheme. I'll talk about that also because the idea was that mere growth was not working, and we needed that effort to alleviate poverty in the country. And as a result of that, a number of schemes were initiated. So IRDP, NREPP, even for urban areas with the Pradhanmantri Sworojgar Yojana. Through all these schemes we attempted to eliminate or alleviate poverty. We could make a big gang into the things. But of course, sometimes this tent was not to the expected extent, in fact.

Because had we gone by our ambitions and target, poverty might have

been elevated 10-15 years back, four dozen happenings. And we need to understand those regions, and then I come to the areas of mutual cooperation. So query down was, one direct strategy attack on poverty was a rather strategy. Then the third major scheme, which was being considered in most of the economies it was fair, especially this part of the world, South Asia or Southeast Asia. I felt that if poverty must be alleviated, unemployment is the most important factor behind poverty. So unemployment has to be resolved, and these schemes and programmes concentrate on employment generation. And if not, there came a time in India's case also that the government cannot generate employment for all. So what should we be doing?

I'm also not a fan of the Nobel Prize; they have authored several books. He came out with a plan suggested to Dr. Manmohan Singh, the prime minister of defense, that we can start with one, the manraiga, Mahatma Gandhi National rural employment guarantee Act. So that kind of steam that is you cannot provide employment. Then we would give some allowances against unemployment in fact, so the government takes this responsibility of either providing employment, and if it fails to provide employment, it will take guarantee of at least unemployment allowance.

So that also was not working, and I listened carefully to what Professor Rajesh was talking about. Why in the recent past, the focus has shifted to health and education and maybe more of social media centers around the UNDP's concept of multi-dimensional poverty. In fact, there are different spectrums of poverty. If we are close to that, we can appreciate the multi-pronged strategy to alleviate poverty.

So, Tendulkar communities, these are little tactical things that in the measurement of the poverty how changes in India respect was occurring and how for the first time because we were trying to look at the root and darken poverty differently and we were applying different norms also. It was for the first time that the Tendulkar committee, around 2004 & 2005, talked about that known the stricter of the stringent measures that we apply in the case of the urban setting. Similar steps have to be applied for the rural areas because there was a debate in Parliament, and I remember Monte Casa La Guardia, who happened to be the deputy

chairman Planning Commission in India. He answered this question: parliamentarians in India can take their meal at a such-and-such price in the Parliament, giving the full day's calories. Why can't we pull this country? Why does this country not deserve that much?

This is about Nepal and how poverty is placed here, which is their decision to beautiful statistic National Planning Commission and National brush to paint. That is the Sun to bank the other main agencies involved in measuring poverty.

Poverty trend of Nepal in 1995-96 was 42% and in 2010-11 it was 25.16%. I think this per cent has not started to fall at an accelerated pace in the recent past, and that should worry all of us. This is a multi-dimensional poverty index. You will out its constitution. These are the variables. All the dimensions compose multi-dimensional poverty.

In health-related measures, we have child mortality and nutrition in education, years of schooling, school attendance, and living standards. This is what the government of India, in the recent past last five-six years focusing on. You see Ujjala cooking fuel right sanitation such a right? Drinking water is the new focus of the government in India right now. The electricity is why they returned the next five years of water in the remotest part of the country. All villages in India is electrified right now. This is why I propose this housing the different types of Awas Yojana for poor people; at least they must have one room accommodation. There should be one room, a combination for all. So Indira Awas Yojanas continues and asset creation through all these skims. That's the focus. This is how we are again raising the per cent of the population in a multi-poverty index. 2019 is 27.9% in India and 34% in Nepal, while in terms of purchasing power priority, 1.9 dollars a day. I was talking in the context of the World Bank. In fact, both countries have 21%, and 50% of Nepal is slightly ahead of India. I said that Nepal's purchasing power is slightly better right? Sometimes we feel that our currency is getting less, but it is getting more within the country. This factor definitely places Nepal marginally higher.

I think we missed one slide on India's already. That crack was little bad justice.

This is about India's Parliament, right? This is how we have progressed from 1973-74. I am reminded that if we go back to 1951, when we started to plan for the country, we had a 75 per cent population below the poverty line in fact and in 1993 the aggregate or the average of the rural or the urban areas was 45% & right now, it is 21.9%. And let me tell you if we do not apply Tendulkar committee Norms to this poverty in the recent past because all these figures have been corrected on the suggestion of the Tendulkar committee report. In fact, if we do not apply those knobs right now, this poverty which appears to deal 1.9%, would perhaps appear at somewhere around 14 to 15 per cent because I said knobs had been made a little stringent. Rural poverty has greater strength, and the norms have been registering them for rural poverty. And that is why it still appears at 25.7%. If we drop Tendulkar's recommendation from here and go back to the earlier estimates of the poverty, then this 25.7% would come down to 60 to 80% now we can go back to the flights.

I was talking about the spins of the programmes to alleviate poverty in India. They include prominent Lehman Vega, such a parrot mudra. This is a very important scheme. You know, Bangladeshi economists like Nobel Prize winners. Bangladesh performed very well by giving micro and small enterprises small loans. People provide themselves with the requirement, so a similar kind of scheme has been implemented in India; and I was going through the statistics last year, and more than 3 lakh crore rupees was spent under the Mudra Yojana programme. If you go through the track record of mudra yojana over the previous three years, the average will come to around 2.5 to 2.7 lakh crore per annum. So Ujjala, I was talking about it is in the context of the multi-dimensional poverty and PM Awas Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana I was looking at the statistics for Nepal also, and this is where I intend to talk about how this relationship can be taken forward. Health mission Pradhanmantri gram sadak yojana these days, whenever we are talking about infrastructure, we are talking about roads, which is a severe concern for Nepal. So Bharatiya Pradhanmantri has done. Among the programmes I could notice somebody who has got better understanding than me. Nepal also has the Karnali Rojgar Karyakaram, Garib

sanga Bishweshor programme, and rural community infrastructure development programme.

This is how we can move. We know that Nepal is an agro-economy. More than 65% of the population directly depends on farms. And agriculture is the mainstay of the economy and has a large share of the GDP. The big advantage of Nepal in agriculture is that within 200 kilometers, you have the climate of the mountain and the climate of the flaming hot so and all important things which are having or which are turning out to be the hot currency in the international market. They can be grown here, and they include medical medicinal herbs, fruits and high-quality tea, coffee, saffron, barley, cotton, shoe, wheat, potato, rice& sugar. Use potentials exist in a group processing industry where India is considered one of the World's leaders.

The right problem of traditional methods of farming is one problem. Nobody stays straight today. When we talk about this tag and eating share of agriculture in the countries total GDP, we have to refer to this issue. So there are supply-side constraints in export promotion and a lack of adequate infrastructure. I was referring to port facilities, roads and even electricity. They are part of those supply-side constraints, in fact, and 44.7% of the agriculture entities are commercialized. So, commercial agriculture is 44.7%. Let's say 45 to 55% of farming is still subsistence part.

That is for own consumption. Then they are the economy. So one major problem that India also suffers from is the same problem. The problem of small-size holdings, which are largely uneconomic; in fact, so what I'm trying to say about this technological shift and integration of holdings will happen unless it happens, the farmer at the bottom.

It's very important for apparently for 2016 where travel and tourism contributed only three point six per cent of the GDP directly. If you go through the linkage effect, we'll find that travel and tourism contributed 7.5%. In fact, and we know in Nepal, it is very important that religious tourism is very important and it has both types of tourism uterus as well as religious tourism and new theory that can be given shape is agro-

tourism also, and we could learn from the examples of other countries as well. You know, you have got beautiful religious spots.

Where the entire world loves to come to Nepal, the only thing from my sight that I would like to suggest is that Napali's will have to understand their poorest and we'll have to definitely, if I could put it, will have to learn the language of hospitality a little greater than what is being practiced. I think it goes deeper into your heart, and it comes out with a big success in days to come.

Direct and indirect jobs created by tourism in 2016 was 9 lakh, and so, on average, 25% of total foreign exchange for the country. Poor infrastructure is the major roadblock for Nepal and the development of tourism. I think this need to be corrected for all those countries that have made tourism their main state; they have definitely felt of very good infrastructure. They definitely have a very good infrastructure which is very good for both road and transport facilities. And this is where a lot of work has to be done. So poor quality road network too actual suits well for collaboration and India's hospitality. India is known for its soft part. Nepal is known for its religious tourist. So we can connect it in a much better way.

Hydropower is again one of the major areas. Look at your potential of 84 thousand megawatts, of which 43 thousand megawatts of electricity are potential, but the actual use is only 900 megawatts. So there is no assured supply of power.

You are a power basically in terms of potential. Nepal can be a power surplus country. You can be an exporter in very few years, in fact, however, you need to negotiate skillfully in terms of power generation. So India is a surplus power capacity, right that used to be the scenario in India 10 - 8 years back, but now we are up our surplus. I just heard that every remotest village in India is also being electrified now. So, Nepal and India because India is an aspiring country. I was talking to a few Britishers a few days back, and they say when a British delegation visited our office, and they were talking about how Indian certain can have a mutual partnership and grow together. I said that you must resolve the issue of British first before putting anything on the table. In

fact, what I'm trying to end this is what has happened in the recent past even the prime minister has got replaced by another gentleman, right? So the basic thing is that the nations must definitely try to have these stable policies and whatever they are trying to achieve. No external power can interfere in internal matters. So they must resolve those issues, and then they are dependable friends. They must be trusting. This is why I first argued for historical and civilization, and cultural connectivity. Historically, we have depended on each other.

India accounts for I said that 44% of the FDI in Nepal. These ventures have been carried out in Nepal by major India Industrial conglomerates; in fact, sectors of high potential include agriculture, hydro power infrastructure, education, health, transport communication industry, trade and service sector and financial sector as well, and Nepal talk the chart of three countries where India provides development branch, and it is ahead of both of Afganishthan and Srilanka. There are a few facts which have to be kept in mind; India has also extended four lines of credit to Nepal for the execution of infrastructure development projects and post-earthquake reconstruction.

This is how we intend to have a better network of roads through collaborative efforts. In fact, so some of the roads have been mentioned. I did not read that for you. I can read my presentation here, and you can go through that afterwards. So, a good network of roads linking hills with Terai anytime.

So hills are not all that connected with Terai& where in the country. Strengthening the India - Nepal relationship will be a game changer for expanding the SAARC Free Trade Agreement prospects. I think if two nations state lead, the rest of the neighborhood would also fall in line or would also like to jump. So we have to set an example before the world in terms of the relationship. We are, I mean, Nepalese goods are our priority. I have already presented that you were talking about the trade partners of your exports and trade partners of our export import.

Nepal has the benefit of lower tariffs most favored nation opportunities for India to develop processed food value change the share of India's export or processed food. I was trying to ensure you have good potential

in agriculture. India is placed where in terms of processing of those foods, and we stand at 2.3 per cent of the international trade input. I mean a process for an agro-process industry. In fact, we can gain from this mutual existence or mutual growth or understanding, whatever you call it. This intrigues me that the banking habits in Nepal have to be taken to another large-scale impact because only 38 per cent of the adults are very conscious of that number. You can correct me if you have a better figure than that. I think that only 6.7% use debit cards. So India, in the recent past, tried to disguise their transactions for 5-6 years again. Not many transactions in India have been digitized, and more than 90% of India's population today has Jandhan. I mean, before that, they are connected with the time, and that is why for welfare recipients also, benefits are being directly transferred to universal basic income, which was not released as a good concept a few years back but is now being accepted as a major achievement and as an instrument of transferring the benefits to the bottom lines of the population at virtually zero delays. So that is essential for transferring the benefits to the bottom population. So, public education and quality of education is an important area. India did understand that issue. We have been talking about a mismatch between degrees and skills. That is why a skill, skill India programme and similar initiatives have to take place like that. And, of course, we can work together on all that. If you find, I'm very sure in days to come way the government is concerned right now in India, the few institutions of eminence have to be created in the next ten years. So I think I believe that more than 10000 crore rupees are going to be allocated for that, for the creation of institutions of educational institutions of M&M's. So the idea is to create five to ten institutions among the top hundred institutions in the world. In fact, given that assumption, I think we can gain from what we have and what we need to have in the future by providing training and turning out quality-oriented graduates. Major universities can assign exchange programmes, and I'm going to use Nepalese University's improved governance also. I am talking about a point, and that is from the perspective of the owner of an academic than a membership; you are all representative of the government of India. The point is that there have been enough times that we talk

about politics alone is the right time to talk about the government's performance and improvement in quality. I think this alone and trusting others, especially trusting your past and trusting others' past. We can definitely move forward.

I believe this is where I intended to end, and I would like to conclude with these words. Professor Kharat was talking about trusted efficiency. We need to understand each other much better than you have ever tried to understand, and this is why he said gone are the days of unproductive things. These are the days of productive association's understanding and taking those understandings forward. So I would just like to end with a few lines in Hindi. If you need me, I can see those learning English. Also, my darkness can be kept outside while drowning in the river of light. Words can also be pacified for the one who cannot go anywhere. Thank you very much.

Question-Answer and Comments

Ramesh Chandra Adhikari

Thank you so much, sir and very good evening to everybody. I'm Ramesh Chandra Adhikari, a professor of chemistry at Tribhuvan University. I have two very short questions. First of all, one question for Professor Rajesh Kharat. Thank you so much you highlighted. So there are so many Universities in India under assigned exchange programmes, so, very much appreciated. So it is not bad connectivity, but we should grow it.

So you mention one joint programme for skill development. So can we do some joint programmes for skill development to educate people? So that they can go for forestry or agricultural enterprises. Can we do this kind of activity in different activities? So, Professor Rajesh and Professor Malhotra, you gave very inspiring lectures. Thank you so much. So you know most of the things about our country. I really once again appreciate it. You know very small details of our body and what potential we have. So you mentioned that most of the time about physical poverty. So if we take the opposite of poverty, we can say wealth prosperity. So we do not talk much about material prosperity.

So I want to hear from you. If you could get some comments about the public life spiritual. From that spiritual point of view, many people believe that we in this region are perhaps spiritual. Can we use our spiritual identity to contribute to poverty? If you could make some comments on this and that, if it is possible in your opinion, to develop some collaboration, for example, industry and agriculture and to start some fertilizers, bio-fertilizer from pesticides and to start some agro-based and price based in prizes in our country through that joint skill development programme? Professor Rajesh can answer it. Thank you.

Laxman Ghimire

Professor Dr. V.K. Malhotra, you covered almost everything regarding the poverty elevation; however, one of the most important things in this part of the world will touch upon regarding the correction factor, which is the main in a ranch in a path of poverty alleviation. Of course, you

mentioned the last item that is good governance. It is a really nice item there. But I think it should come up earlier also because corruption is one of the main factors for poverty elevation. Thank you.

Dr. Arun Thakur

I am from the CEDA (Center for Economic Development and Administration). Though V.K. Malhotraji has already briefed about the situation, some differences between Nepal and India, some common things are also found between Nepal and India, but the most important theories about the plan.

I have just talked with Dr. Deepak Adhikariji. Our education system is already established with Indian establishment. We know we had many things about the contribution of India to Nepal. We know it better. But after the restoration of democracy, everything was captured. University exchange programmes were also displayed.

Between the universities, the most important thing is our exchange programme. Our interaction is very much required. What is the development occurring in India? What kind of gap exists in Nepal? Once we are very close to each other, India is supposed to link only with the politicians.

What kind of politicians Nepal had we know better? What are their levels we know better? What kind of things was oriented in India to do just to restore the democracy in Nepal we know better? Only you have given such kind of idea just to throw the king to throw the Ranaism which is not sufficient. What kind of development is taking place in the politicians of India in terms of literacy? In our opinions, only the Indian leaders have used the Nepalese leaders.

What for good governance? That is the most important, but how can it take place? Most of the leaders were concerning university teachers; however, nowadays, they all are the most known figures in economics and politics because we have known the political leaders. Thank you.

Professor Dr. V. K. Malhotra

Regarding demonetization, there was a query. See, such kinds of things have been out of the box and out of normal expectations. They definitely

have both aspects. But definitely, it's not that. The government of India does not understand what it should do and should not. The point is, again, I'll say. The whole Reserve Bank of India, the Central Bank of India, the prime minister's economic advisor, and the entire possible advisor in the country were involved, and only decisions were taken. These are not decisions of our decisions and determine our pieces. These are decisions under a democratic system.

Where the fallout of any decision is assessed value in advance, only the things are given a final shape. There are a few things that I would be reserving myself to share with. But I'm very sure the target or objective the government intended to achieve. It did achieve to a large extent. So, nobody will comment on whether the Nepalese government decides about some kind of demonetization tomorrow. What did the government of India do? I think there was a rational behind that.

And from the policy quarters I know and understand, I appreciate that the objectives have largely been achieved. So far as the issue of spiritual prosperity is concerned, I was supposed to discuss poverty. If you want me to spend some time on spirituality happiness, right such issues a few days back? I was in Nalanda. I spent three or four days in Nalanda itself. We had this issue of Moksha only being discussed. Nirvana and Moksha. There was a conference on Dharma and Dhamma. Dhamma comes from the Buddhist philosophy, and Dharma comes from the Hindu philosophy.

And then, we discussed how Sachchhitana in Buddhist philosophy leaked to Nirvana. Right or Moksha under the Hindu system of thinking, in fact. I understand the world is coming to a realization and those of us who have read commentaries on data and those who have read the Geeta understand it much better than anybody else. Many people interpret data and have written that happiness and enjoyment are feelings of liberty. They are not subservient to any kind of dispensation or any kind of circumstances that one is faced with; of course, you see that Bhutan is not a very developed country, but on the happiness index where it is placed. I do feel that Nepal, India & Bhutan are such countries which have a glorious past and have a deep faith in God and the faith in their union with the God even after that.

So in such countries, the elements of spirituality, truthfulness, and the agreement of achievement from life happen to be of the ultimate quality and ultimate in four hands. So I did not deliberately touch up on this issue. In fact, I was engrossed entirely in the issue.

Both of you, the third question in the fourth question accepted the point that the worst is the concluding part of my presentation. I did make a mention of governance. My study is on the governance issue itself, and I wanted to spare myself because I had already exceeded my time limit had I started on governance. I might have been a little 30-40 minutes more, right? The point is all these less performing or low performing countries or less developed or medium developed countries. I'm talking from the perspective of India and Nepal; both, of course, a low level of education, poor quality of education, a number of falsely bent beliefs, and a number of myths without enough justification and embarrasses they have definitely. Let us or let our leadership be corrupt. There is no doubt. But I'm compelled to say when we blame the leadership for being corrupt. We have to understand, as a democracy, what we then voted for. What are we waiting for as a democracy? So I think in a democratic setup, if people are well-intended, options are clear because democracy means exercising your options and making a choice. A choice that is the best, and I believe it is said about the political researchers also in the world. Now those democracies mature over a period. Indian democracy passed through such a face for several years after independence in modern times.

The disconnect between our past and our present is one thing that is quite as forgetting our pasts are together what we were made of or posters to spoil. I personally believe that we are right now on a path that we are moving towards a mature democracy now, and this is why governance and corruption-free governance is the main issue before the government. I wish the same issue comes to the height of the Nepalese house. And this is how the government they will belong to; any dispensation doesn't matter, but they are bound to be corruption-free then in that case. I did not want to make a comment on Nepal for the deliberation regions because I'm nobody to comment on the internal situations in Nepal. So, you know better than me. This is why

I left it free for you also. So far as learning from education or through education is concerned.

Yes, we learn from each other and must learn from each other. We cannot afford to live in our narrow boundaries, compartments and silos. The word has understood from each other. We need to understand each other much better than earlier. I think if this understanding is based on our past experiences and, as I said, the entire history and civilization practices that we have gone through, then we believe in learning from each other. I think that is where, and this is why, this was virtually my objective to come here to Nepal because I noticed that in social science researchers, we have a number of collaborations, almost 25 to 30 collaborations and last year. We signed one memorandum of understanding (MoU) involving all European countries, which was turned their equip Europe India platform and the entire Europe and India would take up researchers in areas of mutual interest in social science and such issues that have been highlighted here.

So there is no such arrangement with Nepal. This is why I requested Dr. Deepak Kumar Adhikariji. In future, if we can take mutual and learning and underrated researchers find that that would be of interest to both India and Nepal; we would understand each other much better than we understand right now. Thank you very much.

Professor Dr. Rajesh Kharat

Thank you, Professor Ramesh Chandra Adhikariji. I was celebrating so many individual academic exchange programmes in collaboration. Our sir has given over half of the answer. We should have an institutional educational exchange programme or partnership. That we don't have, and I think we should cover ICCR for initiating the whole programme under Europe and maybe India, South Asia, any country combined Nepal, Bhutan and the other countries Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Second, I have observed the skill development not as a student of the Nepal Studies coursework but as part of the Nepalese society.

Nepal has a very good in hosting and caring for the people. It is my observation. So, instead of sending the Nepali women to the domestic

servant out of domestic work, they should train in nursing and the medical profession, and in cities like Bombay, we have so many medical colleges and paramedical colleges and centers affiliated with the hospital profession. We should send many women from Nepal for nursing. Babysitting is another profession where Nepalese women may be considered skilled workers, where both husband and wife go to an office and pursue their careers. In the absence of both parents, competent babysitters may be a helping hand to them. When the Indian government began the skill development programme, this is one of the thoughts I shared somewhere I want to continue here so that you can do that a skill development programme about the hospitality and tourism industry.

We have two more important things, not on Mount Everest but the Pashupatinath and the place of Lord Buddha in Nepal. We devised this circuit of cultural heritage tourism combined with India Nepal borders. You can further step up to the Northeast, and from the Northeast, you can also go to Southeast Asia. For example, Cambodia was originally a Hindu state, Angarkot and culturally connected to the states like Meghalaya. Similarly, Nepal also deserves to be culturally associated with Northeast India.

The presence of the Nepalese diaspora in the whole northeastern region of India would undoubtedly develop this region as a hub of cultural heritage tourism. It is in my mind. I hope one day I can elaborate on this angle too. Thank you once again for this thing.

Dr. Ajay Kumar

Thank you. Dr. Tikaram Poudelji. Professor Malhotraji gave such an excellent presentation detailed presentation. He made a straightforward way of diagnosing the problem. I think all of us agree that he has interpreted the problem. So when it's not that, I say there is a problem. But at the same time, he has gone through a tiny bit of things and then explained how things can go wrong and where we all can collaborate and really thankful for Professor Malhotraji. Good evening everybody and I am really very happy to be among you all, Professor V.K. Malhotraji, Professor Rajesh Kharatji, Dr. Tikaram Poudelji, Dr. Deepak Kumar

Adhikariji. Today's topic is basically poverty alleviation. What can Nepal and India do together?

I tell you, I don't want to talk about poverty alleviation because we had to be social scientists. They have talked about it. Professor Kharat has actually raised some serious questions in the India-Nepal relationship. And I think these questions are not for Nepali people only. These questions are equally important for Indian people also. So I think while Professor Kharat raised serious questions in our relationship. Professor Malhotra diagnosed these things, and then he gave a way forward. I'm really happy that I as a scientist myself. I did my doctorate in agriculture on plenty of occasions. I have discussed these four areas that Professor Malhotra identified for collaboration between our two countries. Let me say them again agriculture sector, which I always say as an agriculture scientist myself. I say that Nepal not only could feed its people, but it also has real export capacity and capability, and agriculture is scientifically developed. I was very happy to learn about the new initiative in agriculture when the right honorable prime minister KP Sharma Oli visited last year and two prime ministers agreed on the new agriculture partnership. And I always strongly believe that research and development in the agriculture sector is one area where India is ready to collaborate. You know, I know that at least 50 scientists in Nepal have studied at my institutions when I graduated with master's and PhD degrees, and I know all of them are all top-class scientists in Nepal. The only thing is there is a policy requirement.

There are resources made available. They all come back, and they really want to serve this nation. So I'm very proud that I know so many good agriculture scientists in your country. They are in very senior positions, and we are very happy that they have all gone through various scholarships which the government of India provides, and we know that our scholars have done well. So it's a good thing. So this agriculture sector has great potential for our two countries. We all know that at some point in time, agriculture was the net exporting sector today. Today it is a net importer. Little bit of brainstorming by the policymakers needs to be done. And I know that this sector can be brought on the right side.

The second sector, which has been talked about, is Professor Malhotra,

who also said the hydropower sector for our collaboration and I'm very happy to say that in the last five years. We can move forward significantly in the hydropower sector. The Arun Three project was actually inaugurated or laid as the foundation stone by the combined ministers last year. I'm delighted to say that more than 20% progress is there; it's a nine-hundred-megawatt project.

The current installed capacity of Nepal is 972 megawatts. I tell you, it will match within five years. It will be a transformational project. We are very happy to move forward collaboratively with the Government of Nepal on this project.

There are really many edges you go to any kill any luck, so much of our natural beauty. So many herbs are there. Is there plenty of time? A scientific approach is required towards that, also the fourth area, which, again very happy to hear from Professor Malhotra. Is this the tourism and education sector? I actually add the education sector also.

I'm very happy to note that medical education in Nepal is much ahead. So please leverage this sector. We are also ahead, but with your medical education, lots of Indian students come here, Maldives students, the South Asian students. They really come here for medical education. So if it needs to be adequately refreshed, policy guidelines are made this one properly. We have worked with BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences in Dharan and our prestigious institutions like AIMS. We actually give more than 3,000 scholarships every year to Nepali students to not only study in India but we study in Nepal too. You will be surprised to know that there are 2200 scholarships for Nepali students to study in Nepal only.

So we do very different things here, which we don't do anywhere else. I tell you one example: last year, two hundred scholarships, which we gave for golden jubilee scholarships. We were able to find this scholarship actually covers the expenses. We had minimum profit expenses for undergoing various undergraduate courses in Nepal last year. We have actually covered 34 different undergraduate courses for just 200 scholarships. We were able to cover fifty-three districts.

Whatever you come up 46% girls in this woman, very responsive something we were able to cover even eight per cent disabled students who could actually get disability scholarships. So my point is that these are the areas Professor VK Malhotra highlighted. We are already working on it. So thank you very much for giving me this opportunity this time. I know that I don't want to add much because it's already we have already got such a wonderful presentation. I wish you all the best. Thank you very much, and good evening. Thank you.

Dr. Tikaram Paudel

Now we are almost to the end of the programme. I am here to thank you all for this wonderful evening. We are very much grateful to Professor Dr. Rajesh Kharat and Professor Dr. V.K. Malhotra for travelling from India to Nepal despite the weekend holidays that they have to be on the classroom presentations and other things. As a university professor, I understand the value of weekends. Because next week, we have to get all those preparations and prepare with the questions that students often put on us. Despite that busy schedule, these two professors shared lovely ideas.

Thank you, Professor Malhotra and Professor Kharat, for being with us and making this evening more wonderful than we have ever imagined. And I also didn't know that Dr. Ajay was an agricultural scientist though we met very often in programmes before, and it was wonderful to hear from a scientist as well as bureaucrats. Because normally, either the social scientist or a physical scientist, they generate knowledge in the universities in departments, laboratories, and somewhere else, but very often, bureaucrats fail to implement those kinds of research findings and education or knowledge generated. These rarely reach the public to the people who need that knowledge to alleviate poverty, but here we have a scientist. As a bureaucrat, I think he will take our message to the place where that should be taken. And so that policymaking will take place and in the same way I also believe that we have lots of our guests our invitees from government bodies from different bodies, like the security forces, business bureaucrats and all others.

I have also seen that Professor Thakur is also here. These are the people who can take our discussions and their own insights to the respected distant making bodies so that similar discussions with you and the experts will sometimes be useful for the policymakers and particular stakeholders.

And thank you, Adhikari and Professor Dr. Arun Thakur. I also thank others for making this evening more interesting by interacting with the experts and giving us a chance to listen to your ideas. We expect in days to come that you will also be doing similar types of things in the future. We will always try to make a good place for the world, and we hope South Asia, like in ancient times, will be a leading place. Nepal and India will bear more Buddhas and Gandhis. Better harmony in the world in this to come, and your effort is always needed. NeNAP thanks for your effort. Thanks to all of you, and we are waiting for the tea outside. I think.

Thank you.

Poverty Alleviation: What can India and Nepal Do together?

Professor V. K. Malhotra

Member Secretary

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

Government of India, New Delhi

(SLIDES)

The Roots of Relationship

- Indo-Nepal relations are century old, systematic and strong bounded, which can be seen in their socio-cultural, economical, religious and political similarities.
- Lord Ram married Sita, the daughter of king Janak who was the ruler of Mithilapuri which is also now a part of Nepal.
- From Ramayan to present days these marital relations are being established between the Royal families of India - Nepal.
- Indo-Nepal relations proof can be seen from 6 B.C. It is written in Pali literature that king Prasenjit of Kaushal, who was equivalent to Lord Buddha, ruled the Shakyas of Kapilavastu.
- India and Nepal share unique ties of friendship and cooperation characterized by an open border and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts based on kinship and culture.
- Nepal shares a border of over 1850 km with five Indian states – Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttarakhand.
- The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations between India and Nepal.



Culture

- Nepal and India share special closeness and similarity in cultural tradition.
- Lord Buddha, born in Nepal, left his footprints not only in South Asia but all over the world.
- Language is yet another component of Nepal-India cultural affinity. Peoples in both countries share many languages. Such common languages include, inter alia, Nepali, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Hindi, Avadhi, etc. Sanskrit is the root of many of these languages, which is regarded as the language of the gods and saints. Nepal and India both use Devnagari script in writing Nepali, Hindi and many other common languages. Many a religious texts, including the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, Tripitak, are written in this script.
- Peoples of both countries share common religious faiths and philosophies, and revere and worship same gods and incarnations, their cultural ties are really very strong and inseparable.
- Another component of Nepal-India cultural relations is cinemas and music. Indian movies are popular in Nepal; and so is Indian music. Similarly, Nepali cinemas and music are popular in India, especially in places with concentration of the people of Nepalese origin, mainly in Northern and North-eastern India.

Culture...

- Indian initiatives to promote people-to-people contacts in the fields of art & culture, academics and media include cultural programmes, symposia and events organized in partnership with different local bodies of Nepal, as well as conferences and seminars in Hindi.
- Familiarization visits to India by Nepalese journalists/editors and short term training in India for Nepalese editors/journalists/experts/officials in the field of print & electronic media and archaeology.
- Various MoUs/Agreements have been signed between:
 - (i) Sahitya Kala Akademi (India) and Nepal Academy,
 - (ii) Doordarshan (India) and Nepal TV,
 - (iii) Press Council of India and Press Council of Nepal,
 - (iv) Lalit Kala Akademi (India) and Nepal Academy of Fine Arts,
 - (v) GoI and Government of Nepal for cooperation on youth affairs,
 - (vi) Sangeet Natak Akademi (India) and Nepal Academy of Music & Drama,
 - (vii) GoI and Government of Nepal for twinning of sister cities Kathmandu-Varanasi, Lumbini-Bodhgaya and Janakpur-Ayodhya.

Culture...

- The Swami Vivekananda Centre for Indian Culture was set up in Kathmandu in August 2007 to showcase the best of Indian culture.
- The B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation was set up in 1991 through an MoU signed between the Governments of India and Nepal. The Foundation's objective is to foster educational, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation between India and Nepal.

Economic

- India is Nepal's largest trade partner and the largest source of foreign investments, besides providing transit for almost the entire third country trade of Nepal.
- Indian firms engage in manufacturing, services (banking, insurance, dry port), power sector and tourism industries etc
- In the past ten years, bilateral trade grew over six times from INR 5585 crores in 2006-07 to INR 39564 crores (US\$ 5.89 billion) in 2016-17. During the same period, exports from Nepal to India more than doubled from INR 1384 crores in 2006-07 to INR 2985 crores (US\$ 445 million) in 2016-17.

Investment in Nepal

- India is Nepal's largest source of FDI. India accounts for around 44% of Nepal's total foreign direct investment. There are about 150 Indian ventures operating in Nepal. They are engaged in manufacturing, services such as banking, insurance, dry port, education and telecom; powersector and tourism industries.
- As on 15 September 2018, Indian ventures led foreign investment with FDI commitments of INR 5942.68 crores.
- There are about 150 Indian ventures operating in Nepal engaged in manufacturing, services (banking, insurance, dry port, education and telecom), power sector and tourism industries.
- Some large Indian investors include ITC, Dabur India, Hindustan

Unilever, VSNL, TCIL, MTNL, State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Asian Paints, CONCOR, GMR India, IL&FS, Manipal Group, MIT Group Holdings, Nupur International, Transworld Group, Patel Engineering, Bhilwara Energy, Bhushan Group, Feedback Ventures, RJ Corp, KSK Energy, Berger Paints, Essel Infra Project Ltd. and Tata Power, India etc.

Trade

- Trade ties were strengthened through streamlining of customs and duties regulations between the two nations, which was an important factor for Nepal's trade as it is a landlocked country. During 1970 – 80, multiple Trade and Transit Treaties were signed between India and Nepal.

Multilateral Partnership

- India and Nepal share multiple multilateral forums such as BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal), BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) NAM, and SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) etc.

Development Assistance to Nepal

- Government of India's development assistance to Nepal is a broad-based programme focusing on infrastructure, health, water resources, education and rural & community development.
- In recent years, India has been providing assistance Nepal in development of border infrastructure through upgradation of roads in the Terai areas; development of crossborder rail links at Jognani-Biratnagar, Jaynagar-Bardibas; and establishment of Integrated Check Posts at Birgunj, Biratnagar, Bhairahawa, and Nepalganj.
- The total economic assistance earmarked under 'Aid to Nepal' budget for FY 2017-18 was Rs. 375 crore. A total of Rs. 650 crore was allocated under the 'Aid to Nepal' budget head for FY 2018-19, registering an increase of 73% over the previous year.
- During the visit of Prime Minister of Nepal in April 2018, the two Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated the Integrated Check Post in Birgunj (Nepal) built with GoI assistance.
- On 31 August 2018, the two Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala in Kathmandu
- Over 559 large, intermediate and small-scale projects at an estimated cost of NPR 76 billion have been implemented across Nepal with Indian assistance since 1951.
- Apart from grant assistance, Government of India has extended Lines of Credit of USD 1.65 billion for undertaking development of infrastructure, including post-earthquake reconstruction.

Ease of Doing Business

- On the Ease of Doing Business front, India witnessed a remarkable jump in ranking from 130th position in 2017 to 100th in 2018 whereas Nepal witnessed a decline in its ranking from 99th in 2017 to 105th position in 2018.

New Partnership in Agriculture

- During the visit of PM of Nepal, K. P. Sharma Oli to India in April 2018, the ‘India-Nepal New Partnership in Agriculture’ was launched with a focus on collaborative projects in agricultural research, development and education.

Power

- India is currently supplying a total of about 450 MW of power to Nepal.

Tariff Structure between India and Nepal

- Majority of the products imported from Nepal tariff rates are fixed at zero duty. However, for beverages, spirits and vinegar simple average tariff rate stood at 50%; and for tobacco and products thereof the rate stood at 30%.
- Average tariff rate on various Indian products such as preparations of vegetables, fruits, nuts and other products; ores, slag and ash; lead; and vehicles are higher than the averages tariffs imposed by Nepal on all the countries.

Defence Cooperation

- India has been assisting the Nepal Army (NA) in its modernisation by supplying equipment and providing training.
- Assistance during disasters, joint military exercises, adventure activities and bilateral visits are other aspects of India's defence cooperation with Nepal.
- Since 2001, the 'Indo-Nepal Battalion-level Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN' is conducted twice a year alternately in India and in Nepal.
- Since 1950, India and Nepal have been awarding each other's Army Chief with the honorary rank of General in recognition of the mutual harmonious relationship between the two armies.

Education

- India provides around 3000 scholarships/seats annually to Nepalese nationals for various courses at the Ph.D / Masters, Bachelors and plus-two levels in India and in Nepal.

Indian Community in Nepal

- Around 6,00,000 Indians are living in Nepal.
- Nearly 6 million Nepalese citizens live and work in India in the field of army, labour, home security, central/ state govt. offices etc.

Cultural Symbol

India- Democracy, Spiritualism, Script, Yoga, Mythology, Language and Literature, Architecture

Nepal- Spiritualism- Buddhism, Mount Everest, Sherpa, Language and Literature, Pashupatinath, Lumbini (the birth place of Buddha, Ram-Janaki temple in Janakpur (the birth place of Janak and Sita)

India-Nepal: Geographic Comparison

S.N.	India	Nepal
Location	Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and Pakistan	Southern Asia, between China and India
Land boundaries	total: 13,888 km border countries (6): Bangladesh 4,142 km, Bhutan 659 km, Burma 1,468 km, China 2,659 km, Nepal 1,770 km, Pakistan 3,190 km	total: 3,159 km border countries (2): China 1,389 km, India 1,770 km
Coastline	7,000 km	0 km (landlocked)
Land use	agricultural land: 60.5% arable land 52.8%; permanent crops 4.2%; permanent pasture 3.5% forest: 23.1% other: 16.4% (2011 est.)	agricultural land: 28.8% arable land 15.1%; permanent crops 1.2%; permanent pasture 12.5% forest: 25.4% other: 45.8% (2011 est.)
Irrigated land	667,000 sq km (2012)	13,320 sq km (2012)

India-Nepal: Demographic Scenario

S.N.	India	Nepal
Population	1,281,935,911 (July 2017 est.)	29,384,297 (July 2017 est.)
Age structure	0-14 years: 27.34% 15-64 years: 66.43% 65 years and over: 6.24 (2017 est.)	0-14 years: 30.2% 15-64 years: 64.63% 65 years and over: 5.17% (2017 est.)
Median age	total: 27.9 years	total: 24.1 years
Population growth rate	1.17% (2017 est.)	1.16% (2017 est.)
Birth rate	19 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)	19.5 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)
Death rate	7.3 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)	5.6 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)

India-Nepal: Demographic Scenario

S.N.	India	Nepal
Sex ratio	at birth: 1.12 male(s)/female	at birth: 1.04 male(s)/female
	total population: 1.08 male(s)/female (2016 est.)	total population: 0.95 male(s)/female (2016 est.)
Infant mortality rate	total: 39.1 deaths/1,000 live births male: 38 deaths/1,000 live births female: 40.4 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)	total: 27.9 deaths/1,000 live births male: 29.2 deaths/1,000 live births female: 26.6 deaths/1,000 live births (2017 est.)
Life expectancy at birth	total population: 68.8 years male: 67.6 years female: 70.1 years (2017 est.)	total population: 71 years male: 70.4 years female: 71.6 years (2017 est.)
Total fertility rate	2.43 children born/woman (2017 est.)	2.12 children born/woman (2017 est.)
Religions	Hindu 79.8%, Muslim 14.2%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.7%, other and unspecified 2% (2011 est.)	Hindu 81.3%, Buddhist 9%, Muslim 4.4%, Kirant 3.1%, Christian 1.4%, other 0.5%, unspecified 0.2% (2011 est.)
Literacy	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 71.2% male: 81.3% female: 60.6% (2015 est.)	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 63.9% male: 76.4% female: 53.1% (2015 est.)
Education expenditures	3.8% of GDP (2013)	3.7% of GDP (2015)

India-Nepal: Demographic Scenario

S.N.	India	Nepal
Urbanization	urban population: 33.5% of total population (2017) rate of urbanization: 2.28% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)	urban population: 19.4% of total population (2017) rate of urbanization: 3.08% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)
Maternal mortality rate	174 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)	258 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)
Health expenditures	4.7% of GDP (2014)	5.8% of GDP (2014)
Dependency ratios	total dependency ratio: 52.2 youth dependency ratio: 43.6 elderly dependency ratio: 8.6 potential support ratio: 11.7 (2015 est.)	total dependency ratio: 61.4 youth dependency ratio: 52.5 elderly dependency ratio: 8.8 potential support ratio: 11.3 (2015 est.)

India-Nepal: Basic Economic Indicators

S.N.	India	Nepal
GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$9447 billion (2017 est.)	\$78.55 billion (2017 est.)
GDP - real growth rate	6.7% (2017 est.) 7.1% (2016 est.) 8% (2015 est.)	7.5% (2017 est.) 0.4% (2016 est.) 3.3% (2015 est.)
GDP - per capita (PPP)	\$7,200 (2017 est.)	\$2,700 (2017 est.)
GDP - composition by sector	agriculture: 16.8% industry: 28.9% services: 46.6% (2017 est.)	agriculture: 27% industry: 13.5% services: 51.5% (2017 est.)
Population below poverty line	21.9% (2011 est.)	25.2% (2011 est.)
Inflation rate (consumer prices)	3.8% (2017 est.)	4.5% (2017 est.)

India-Nepal: Basic Economic Indicators

S.N.	India	Nepal
Unemployment rate	8.8% (2017 est.)	3.3% (2013 est.)
Distribution of family income - Gini index	35.2 (2011)	32.8 (2010)
Industries	textiles, chemicals, food processing, steel, transportation equipment, cement, mining, petroleum, machinery, software, pharmaceuticals	tourism, carpets, textiles; small rice, jute, sugar, and oilseed mills; cigarettes, cement and brick production
Exports - commodities	petroleum products, precious stones, vehicles, machinery, iron and steel, chemicals, pharmaceutical products, cereals, apparel	clothing, pulses, carpets, textiles, juice, jute goods
Exports - partners	US 16%, UAE 11.7%, Hong Kong 5.1% (2016)	India 56.6%, US 11.5%, Turkey 4% (2016)

India-Nepal: Basic Economic Indicators

S.N.	India	Nepal
Imports - commodities	crude oil, precious stones, machinery, chemicals, fertilizer, plastics, iron and steel	petroleum products, machinery and equipment, gold, electrical goods, medicine
Imports - partners	China 17%, US 5.8%, UAE 5.4%, Saudi Arabia 5.2%, Switzerland 4.2% (2016)	India 70.1%, China 10.3% (2016)
Reserves of foreign exchange and gold	\$407.2 billion (31 December 2017 est.)	\$8.668 billion (31 December 2017 est.)

Poverty: Concept and Measurement in India and Nepal

Concepts:

- The poverty in conventional way is measured in terms of minimum expenditure/income required to purchase a basket of goods and services necessary to satisfy basic human needs. This minimum expenditure is called the **poverty line**.
- **The basket of goods and services necessary to satisfy basic human needs is the poverty line basket or PLB.**
- Poverty is measured as **headcount ratio (HCR)** which is the proportion of population below the poverty line and it is the standard approach globally.
- India and Nepal followed the calorie approach to measure poverty.

Efforts to Measure Poverty in India

- Dadabhai Naoroji in his book, 'Poverty and the UnBritish Rule in India', made the first attempt to estimate poverty in India.
- He formulated a poverty line ranging from Rs 16 to Rs 35 per capita per year, based on 1867-68 prices.
- In the post Independence period, the Planning Commission constituted a Committee in 1979 to estimate poverty. This committee constructed a poverty line for rural and urban areas on the basis of nutritional requirements.

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- Later on three more committees (D. T. Lakdawala Committee-1993, the Tendulkar committee-2005, and the Rangarajan Committee-2012), were also formed to address certain inadequacies and suggest required refinements in the estimation of poverty in India.

Major shifts recommended by the Tendulkar Committee:

- This committee suggested to move away from the calorie based model and broadened the concept of poverty line. It included expenditure on education, health, electricity and transport while calculating the poverty line.
- It very strongly recommended to target nutritional outcomes rather than simply focussing on calories intake only.
- It further suggested that a uniform Poverty Basket Line be used for rural and urban region.
- It adopted the cost of living as the basis for identifying and fixing the poverty line.
- The panel stipulated a benchmark daily per capita expenditure of Rs. 27 and Rs 33 in rural and urban areas, respectively and arrived at a cut-off of about 22% of the population below poverty line.

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Poverty Trend in India

Table 1: National poverty estimates (% below poverty line) (1993- 2012)

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
1993 – 94	50.1	31.8	45.3
2004 – 05	41.8	25.7	37.2
2009 – 10	33.8	20.9	29.8
2011 – 12	25.7	13.7	21.9

- According to these estimates, poverty declined at an average rate of 0.74 percentage points per year between 1993-94 and 2004-05, and at 2.18 percentage points per year between 2004-05 and 2011-12.
- Overall, India has registered a net decline of about 23.4 percentage points in two decades between 1993-94 and 2011-12.

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Nepal

- Nepal has 21.6% of population below the poverty line in 2017-2018.
- The analysis of the socio-economic condition and welfare level at the household level is mainly studied by three national institutions in Nepal namely
 - The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)
 - The National Planning Commission (NPC)
 - The Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB).
- The Nepal Livelihood Security Surveys (NLSS) conducted by CBS are direct and more consistent efforts to measure poverty in Nepal.
- Up to now, three surveys have been conducted; the first NLSS-I 1995/96, the second NLSS-II 2003/04 and the third NLSS-III 2010/11.
- The estimation of poverty in all rounds of surveys, NLSS I, NLSS I, NLSS III is based on the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) approach. Using the CBN approach, the Central Bureau of Statistics has formulated the poverty line for all three periods of time and defined the poverty line as the expenditure required by an individual to fulfill the basic needs expressed by food and non-food items as well.
- Both India and Nepal follow almost similar approach towards measurement of poverty by conducting sample surveys and measuring it terms of expenditure required to meet the basic needs.

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Poverty Trend in Nepal

Table 1: National poverty estimates (% below poverty line) (1995 - 2011)

Year	Total
1995 – 96	41.76
2003 – 04	30.85
2010 – 11	25.16

- Overall, Nepal has registered a net decline of about 16.6 percentage points from 1995-96 to 2010-11.

Multidimensional Poverty Index

- To address the inadequacies of Human Poverty Index, the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was developed in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative and the United Nations Development Programme.
- MPI uses different factors to determine poverty along with income-based lists.
- MPI measures the same three dimensions as the Human Development Index, using ten indicators

Dimension	Indicators
Health	1. Child Mortality 2. Nutrition
Education	3. Years of schooling 4. School attendance
Living Standards	5. Cooking fuel 6. Sanitation 7. Drinking Water 8. Electricity 9. Housing 10. Assets

- The percentage of population in MPI in 2019 is 27.9 per cent in India and 34 per cent in Nepal, while in terms of PPP \$ 1.9 a day, both the countries have 21.2 % and 15% of their population in below poverty line category.

Approach and Major Schemes/Programmes to alleviate poverty in India and Nepal

India

- Some of the programmes towards addressing the challenge of poverty in an integrated and holistic manner are
 - MGNREGA (to ensure gainful employment to every household)
 - Swach Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) (to address the needs of sanitation and hygiene)
 - MUDRA Yojana (to enable enterprising people to start their own businesses)
 - Ujjawala Yojana (to provide access to cooking gas connection)
 - PM Awas Yojana PMAY (to help the poor people build a house)
 - Jan Dhan Yojana (aims at financial inclusion)
 - National Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat scheme
 - Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
 - Saubhagya (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana)

Nepal

- The major programmes initiated by Nepal are
 - Karnali Rojagar Karyakram
 - Garib Sanga Bisheshwar Programme
 - Rural Community Infrastructure Development Programme
- Border Area Development Programme

What India-Nepal can do together

- Nepal is an **agrarian economy** with more than 65% of the population directly engaged in farming. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy and contributes one-third to the GDP of Nepal.
- Nepal has climatic advantage due to the terrain ranging from almost the sea level up to the Mount Everest within the average distance of 200 kms provide wider scope for growing all sorts of agricultural products such as medicinal herbs, fruits and high quality tea, coffee, saffron, barley, cotton, jute, maize, potato, rice, sugarcane, tobacco etc.
- Huge potentials exist in agro processing industry
- Problem of traditional methods of farming coupled with scarcity of skilled manpower
- Supply side constraints in export promotion, lack of adequate infrastructure
- 44.7% of the agriculture entities are commercialized while the majority (55.3%) of the farmers indulges in subsistence farming.
- Small farm size holdings

What India-Nepal can do together

- Direct contribution of **travel and tourism** was 3.6% of the total GDP in 2016 while the total contribution has been estimated at 7.5%
- Direct and indirect jobs created by tourism in 2016 was 9 lakh, Earns on an average 25% of the total foreign exchange
- Poor infrastructure is the major roadblock to expansion and development of tourism sector in Nepal.
- Problems being inadequate and low quality road networks, lack of chain of international hotels and airports, preservation of natural habitat, and exploration of new travel destinations
- **Tourism** suits well for collaboration – India's hospitality industry
- Hydropower has a huge scope in the economy
- South Asia's considerable hydropower potential is concentrated in the Himalayan region.
- Total potential 84,000 MW, of which 43,000 MW has been identified as economically viable while Nepal's total power generation has been estimated at around 900 MW.
- India has surplus power capacity. It can import flexible hydropower from Nepal to balance its fast growing renewable generation. Nepal to develop the infrastructural capabilities

What India-Nepal can do together

- India has surplus power capacity. It can import flexible hydropower from Nepal to balance its fast growing renewable generation. Nepal to develop the infrastructural capabilities.
- India accounts for around 44% of Nepal's total **foreign direct investment**. About 150 Indian ventures operating in Nepal. From manufacturing, services such as banking, insurance, dry port, education and telecom; power sector to tourism industries. Some of the major joint ventures of India in Nepal include Surya Nepal – a joint venture with ITC India, Dabur Nepal, Nepal Lever and United Telecom Nepal, Everest Bank, SBI Bank, LIC Nepal, Asian Paints, GMR India, IL & FS and Manipal.
- Sectors of high potentials include agriculture, hydropower, infrastructure, education, health, tourism, transport, communication, industry, trade and service sectors such as financial sector.
- Nepal tops the chart of three countries where India provides developmental grants and it is ahead of both Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.
- India has also extended four lines of credit to Nepal for execution of infrastructure development projects and post-earthquake reconstruction.

What India-Nepal can do together

- India has been supporting Nepal in development of border **infrastructure** through up-gradation of **roads** in the Terai areas, development of cross-border rail links at Jogbani-Biratnagar, Jaynagar-Bardibas, Nepalgunj Road-Nepalgunj, Nautanwa-Bhairhawa, and New Jalpaigudi-Kakarbhitta; and establishment of Integrated Check Posts at Raxaul-Birgunj, Sunauli-Bhairhawa, Jogbani-Biratnagar, and Nepalgunj Road-Nepalgunj.
- Good network of roads connecting north-south corridor for linking hills, with Tarai and valley
- The strengthening of India – Nepal relations will be game changer for expanding the prospects of SAARC Free Trade Agreement, going forward.
- Connecting Indian **railway** lines to Kathmandu to improve the general economic prospects
- **The Treaty of Trade** between Nepal and India provides access to the Indian market for Nepalese products at a zero tariff rate, except for a small negative list, and as long as they meet specific rules of origin.

What India-Nepal can do together

- Nepal has the benefit of lower tariffs than the **Most Favoured Nation (MFN)** tariffs. With robust connectivity, Nepal can boost its exports to India even. Tapping the unexplored potentials
- Opportunities for India to develop processed food value chains
The share of India's export of processed food in global trade stood at 2.3%.
- The magnitude and coverage of banking and financial services in Nepal is relatively small. In Nepal, only 38% of adults have bank accounts. Of that number, only 6.7% use debit cards. India to enter into collaboration with Nepal- non-banking finance institutions, insurance companies.
- Nepal's education sector is downtrodden due to poor quality of public education and disparity in access. Nepal lacks research centers that are committed to the creation and dissemination of knowledge
- Providing training and turning out quality oriented graduates. Major Indian universities can sign exchange programmes and MoUs with Nepalese Universities.
- Improved Governance Quality

Thank you

Glimpses of the Programme "Poverty Alleviation: What can Nepal and India Do together?"



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