

Nepal National Day Special

Critical help leads to vaccination increase

PRATIVA RANA
AMBASSADOR OF NEPAL



On the auspicious occasion of the National Day and Constitution Day of Nepal, I am deeply honored to express on behalf of the government and people of Nepal my respectful warm

greetings and gratitude to their majesties the emperor and empress and the government and friendly people of Japan. I extend warm greetings also to my fellow nationals living in Japan who have been playing an instrumental role in deepening our bilateral ties through deeper engagements at the public level.

I would like to extend hearty congratulations to the government of Japan for the historic success of holding the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics safely and grandly at a time when the world is combating the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. Japan also deserves profound appreciation for its leadership role in the global fight against the pandemic.

A federal democratic republican system is being institutionalized in Nepal after the promulgation of the constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 2015. Building on participatory and inclusive principles, Nepal has been vigorously pursuing a path of peace, progress and prosperity. As a result, women and other marginalized members of society have been able to secure significant representation in various state structures, including legislative bodies at the federal, provincial and local levels.

However, the continuation of the

COVID-19 pandemic has delivered a severe blow to our efforts on all fronts. As in most parts of the world, many people in Nepal succumbed to COVID-19 and many are still waging a harsh battle against it. I am happy to share that due to the relentless efforts of the government of Nepal, along with strong support from the international community, COVID-19 cases are on a downward trend, although the threat of a resurgence is still very much there.

Getting back to normal is a mounting challenge before us. Vaccines are the best option to surmount the challenge effectively. Based on this fact, the government of Nepal led by Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Sher Bahadur Deuba has placed top priority on providing vaccines to all eligible citizens according to a set time frame. As a consequence, vaccination in Nepal has gained

strong momentum in recent days.

On my behalf and that of the government, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the government of Japan for standing by the side of Nepal and the Nepali people during this truly trying time, and for providing urgently needed medical equipment to cope with the pandemic. We are especially grateful for the more than 1.6 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine provided through the COVAX facility, which has been key to saving human lives.

Nepal-Japan relations have been characterized by goodwill, mutual understanding, cooperation and mutual respect. Although high-level, face-to-face engagements could not take place during the pandemic, our long-standing bilateral relations continued to strengthen. Japan is

a key development partner of Nepal. The government and people of Nepal sincerely appreciate the government and people of Japan for their continued contribution to the socioeconomic development of Nepal. On the international front, we share similar views on various matters, including the promotion of values for world peace and harmony.

Enhanced people-to-people contacts in recent years have helped to further our bilateral ties. Today, the Nepali community is the sixth-largest foreign community in Japan. I would like to extend sincere thanks to the government of Japan for properly taking care of the health, safety as well as overall well-being of my compatriots in Japan during this ongoing painful pandemic.

Long live Nepal-Japan relations!



The royal palace complex of Bhaktapur Durbar Square in the town of Bhaktapur dates from the 16th to 17th centuries and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
EMBASSY OF NEPAL

Democratic efforts lauded under new constitution

TOSHIHIRO NIKAI
JAPAN-NEPAL PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-Nepal Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the government and people of Nepal on the occasion of their National Day.

Sept. 20 is the day that marks the promulgation of Nepal's new constitution. This year we celebrate its sixth anniversary. I would like to express once again my respect

to Nepal, a country with a long history of friendship with Japan, for continuing its efforts to consolidate democracy through the process of formulating the constitution.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation, various people-to-people exchanges have been suspended. Japan, as a longtime good friend of Nepal, provided approximately 1.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine through the COVAX facility last month. It is my hope that such assistance will help us overcome this difficulty together.

2022 has been designated the Japan-Southwest Asian Exchange Year and is aimed at strengthening Japan's relations with the countries of Southwest Asia even further. It will also have been 120 years

since the first Nepali students visited Japan for their studies. I expect that the relations between our two countries will be further deepened in this memorable year.

As the president of the Japan-Nepal Parliamentarians' Friendship League, it was a great honor for me to meet Rt. Hon. Bidya Devi Bhandari, the president of Nepal, twice in 2019 and exchange views on promoting our bilateral relationship. On our side, we, the members of the Japan-Nepal Parliamentarians' Friendship League, shall continue to make every possible effort to expand relations and understanding between Japan and Nepal. I would like to extend my best wishes for the continuing good health and success of the people of Nepal.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Congratulations
to the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on the Anniversary of Their National Day



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to the Government and People of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on the Occasion of Their National Day



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to the People of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on the Anniversary of Their National Day



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