

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visit to Nepal: Renewing Relations.

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Abstract- This paper attempts to highlight the new beginning of Indo-Nepal relationships which reached its highest peaks during India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Visit to Nepal. The paper also attempts to explain the political and economic perspective of Indo-Nepal relations and Mr. Narendra Modi also lays stress upon 4Cs co-operation, connectivity, culture and constitution which may improve bi-lateral ties with Nepal.

Index Terms- Indo-Nepal Relation, hydropower, constitution

I. INTRODUCTION

As close neighbours, India and Nepal share a unique relationship of Friendship and cooperation characterized by open borders and deep-rooted people-to-people contacts of kinship and culture. There has been a long tradition of free movement of people across the borders. Nepal has an area of 147,181 Sq. Kms. and a population of 29 million. It shares a border of over 1850 Kms in the east, south and west with five Indian States - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand - and in the north with the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two day visit to Nepal, on 3-4 August 2014, marked a new beginning in Indo-Nepal relations. Prime Minister Modi extended support to Nepalese constitution makers and political leaders and "conveyed best wishes of the government and people of India to the Nepalese leadership and people for their commitment to promulgate the new constitution by early next year." Nepal is facing constitutional crisis since the Constituent Assembly was dissolved without drafting a new constitution in 2012. Prime Minister Modi hoped that the Constituent Assembly would draft a constitution to support federal and democratic political structure and promote equality in the country. Assuring the political leaders of Nepal, Prime Minister said "we are ready to extend all necessary helps to bring the constitution on time". His address to the Constituent Assembly of Nepal was appreciated by many Nepalese leaders across the "political spectrum". Interestingly, Pushpa Kumar Dahal or Prachanda, who has been a strong critic of India, praised Prime Minister Modi for touching, inspiring and encouraging speech. Prachanda, chairman of the United Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M), after the meeting with Prime Minister Modi, expressed confidence that "a new chapter has begun in Indo Nepal relations".

II. OBJECTIVE

- 1 To study Indo-Nepal relation in the context of Modi's visit.
- 2 To explain Political perspective and Economic and cultural perspective in context of Modi's visit.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of the study, both published and unpublished secondary data has been utilized. The data is collected from various magazines, Newspapers, such as the Hindu, Hindustan Times, Times of India

IV. POLITICAL PROSPECTIVE

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has concluded an important visit to Nepal where he tapped all the right nodes of the relations - political, economic and cultural. Modi focussing on 4 C-S co-operation, connectivity, culture and constitution, which may enhance bi-lateral ties with Nepal and is the first prime minister who visited Nepal after 17 years.

Nepal has been unusually united in its embrace of Mr. Modi, the first Indian prime minister in 17 years to make a state visit here. Nepali and Indian flags fluttered throughout a warren of muddy streets in the capital, Katmandu, and large banners were hung across major intersections welcoming him. "Long live Nepal-India friendship," they declared.

Mr. Modi arrived in Nepal a landslide swept down a valley northeast of Katmandu, leaving 150 people missing and at least 17 dead. "We have no hope of finding anyone alive there," said Yadav Prasad Koirala of Nepal's home ministry. Some 8,000 people who had been evacuated from the area after the landslide Saturday have begun to return to their homes, he added.

Modi in a high rhetoric and colourful phrases, he referred that India and Nepal relationship as "older as Himalayas and the Ganga, he also stress on constitutional framework of Nepal. He said to the Nepalese leadership president Ram Baran Yadav and prime minister Sushil Koirala in his quota Narendra Modi said that "you should not think about the party but the country Nepal need a constitution at the earliest".

Modi also assured Nepal that India did not want interfere in its internal affairs "Nepal is a truly sovereign nation we have always believed that it is not our job to interfere in what you do but to support you in the path you decide to take".

He said while addressing the constituent assembly the first time a guest has been invited to address a joint session of the

constituent assembly and parliament in Kathmandu. He gave powerful 45 minutes speech to Nepal law makers. I am eager to take the relation between India & Nepal to new height during my tenure as prime minister.

The Indian prime minister assured the Nepalese prime minister that the on-going peace process in Nepal was entirely a Nepalese matter should be concluded as Nepal's requirement. Modi also met Nepalese soldier's and he walked around him and greeting them. "We have had elation for many years because of political instability and political interference said Rajesh war Thapa On f the people cheering the PM convey "We hope Mr. Modi will change that"

V. ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL PROSPECTIVE

India's Prime Minister Modi plans to provide one billion dollars in loans to help build infrastructure in Nepal and tries to regain ground as a power in south Asia. He assured that the work on Pancheswar multipurpose would begin in a year in the presence of two prime ministers the officials signed three agreements Ice Memorandum of the understanding (MOU)-tourism development in Nepal, Goitre, control program in Nepal, and co-operation between the state controlled televisions channels-door-darshan and Nepal television (NTP), They also exchanged reference for on Pancheswar development authority. Modi added that my visit is focussed on development and a new beginning between two countries.

During his two-day visit, Mr. Modi has emphasized the cultural and religious ties between India and Nepal, which are both Hindu-majority nations. A leader with Hindu nationalist roots, Mr. Modi offered prayers at an important Hindu temple in Katmandu on Monday.

Mr. Modi's visit has inspired unusual consensus here that Nepal set aside decades of mistrust and accept Indian offers to help develop Nepal's hydropower and tourism potentials. Such optimism has flowered before here only to be crushed by Indian indifference or Nepal mistrust, but there is real hope that this time will be different. Mr. Modi's campaign messages of economic development and good governance resonated strongly in Nepal, which has been deprived of both for decades. "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to begin fresh and build a level of trust that needs to be developed to define relations for the next 50 years," said Sridhar k. Khatri, former executive director of the south Asia Center for policy studies in Katmandu.

A last-minute dispute over the wording of a major hydropower development agreement meant that the two sides signed only minor agreements on Sunday. But there is considerable hope that the power deal will materialize.

Before his speech, some analysts worried that Mr. Modi would urge Nepal to adopt a constitutional provision declaring the country a Hindu state, as royalist factions have advocated. An avowed Hindu nationalist, Mr. Modi is scheduled to visit the Pashupatinath temple, one of Hinduism's holiest places, on Monday, an arrangement made in part to coincide with a religiously auspicious day.

"To avoid any misperception, Modi must clearly support the current draft constitution's identification of Nepal as a 'federal, secular democratic republic, said by Raja Mohan, an Indian foreign affairs analyst.

In his speech, Mr. Modi described Nepal as a "federal democratic republic," dropping the "secular," long a fraught word in Indian politics as well. But he did not call for explicit Hindu identification and said Nepal was "the birth place of Lord Buddha."

All in all, Mr. Modi got high marks. "Modi is giving us a good moment," Bhekh b. Thapa, a former Nepal minister of foreign affairs and finance, said in an interview. "Whether it will yield results, time will tell."

The new Indian administration hopes to use the visit to make progress on a power-trading pact to help India harness Nepal's abundant hydroelectric-power potential, by which Mr. Modi said that he can solve India's power shortage. "You decide what needs to be done, India will stand by you," he said.

VI. CONCLUSION

The visit opened a fresh chapter in Indo- Nepal relations. By giving new idea of "federal and democratic republic", Prime Minister Modi dispelled fears in Nepal that the new government in India might work for the restoration of monarchy. His momentous speech in Nepal's Parliament won the hearts and minds of Nepalese. Both countries endorsed new developmental projects, showed their willingness to improve the peace and security at border, promised to improve border infrastructure, and expressed concern over the slow pace of implementation of many projects. In fact, a momentum has already been generated in Indo- Nepal relations and it must be continued with better follow up and implementations

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