

BILATERAL DIPLOMACY BETWEEN NEPAL AND INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

India the biggest fish in the sea of south Asia. As a part of this India has a Good bilateral and multilateral relations from other countries to make it international bond and international policies perfect. As a result of these bilateral and multilateral diplomacies have been arise. As, being in one of the most powerful countries in the world many countries try to be good friend of India.

There are many things which is there to be discussed, as India is a giant player in the field of international politics. But here in this project the researcher has tried to discuss about the India diplomatic relations with Nepal. Nepal is a small country in the foot hills of Himalayas. Also one of the oldest country of Asia.

As, a close neighbors a good friend and unique friend of India .Nepal has a unique type of friendship and cooperation accompanied by open border and deep rooted , people-to-people contacts and relationship. One thing also need to marked that both the country has a long tradition of free movement of population across the border. Nepal is landlocked country and from three sides surrounded by india. **Over 1850km border was shared between this two countries. 5 indian states share its border with Nepal.**

The India-Nepal friendship and peace treaty of 1950 is the reason of special relations and friendship exists between Nepal and India. Nepali citizens use facilities and opportunities on par with indian citizen under this treaty. Nearly 6 million Nepalese citizens live and work in India. ¹there are many treaties signed between these two countries in order to make their residents life more beautiful and easier. This research paper has been divided in (**2 phases 20th century and 21st century**) . The bilateral diplomatic relationship between Nepal and India in this research paper has been divided in 2 phases. 1st phase talks about all the treaties and agreement that was signed from independence of India (1947) to (2000). And the second phase talks about treaties and agreement that was signed after (2000) i.e (2000 to recent times)

In this research paper the researcher has talked about India bilateral relations with Nepal. The researcher has focused on agreements and treaties between these two nations. the cultural relations, traditions and military. In this paper various treaties and agreement between Nepal and India has been discussed and after studying of those treaties and agreements. The arguments which the researcher is trying to establish here is,

¹ .https://mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/India-Nepal_bilateral_brief_05.11.2019.

How with the lapse of time the bilateral diplomacy between these two country is changing. And what are it impacts, does the impact of this diplomatic relationship is good or not, or the bilateral diplomatic process between these two countries need to changed or improved?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research method adapted by the researcher is doctrinal and descriptive in nature. This research paper talks about bilateral diplomacy between Nepal and India. Many articles and other research paper and internet has been uses as a main source in completing this research paper. This research paper is divided into two phases bilateral diplomacy and its impacts in 20th century and in 21st century. Various treaties and agreement signed between this two country has also been discussed in this research paper. And those treaties and agreement is the center of attraction in this research paper.

HISTORY OF BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL

20th century.

The start of bilateral diplomatic relationship between Nepal and India can be traced back from **1950 peace and friendship treaty**. 5,6,7 articles of the treaty were the key articles in 1950 peace and friendship treaty.

Article 5- allowed Nepal access to weaponry from India.

Article 6- Says that national treatment for both Indian and Nepalese business (i.e. if once imported, foreign goods would be treated no differently than domestic goods). Article 7-says about reciprocal treatment of Indian and Nepali citizens in these two countries.

In 1950 the treaty of trade and commerce was signed between these two countries. Which has also helped in strengthening of trade bond between these two countries. Not only there was a improvement in trade policies. but also customs duties and trade regulations between these two countries were made narrower resulting to increase in trade between India and Nepal. 1960 has been a golden year for Nepal as Nepal has balanced its relations with both India and China.² By these time the trade and commerce between India and Nepal has achieved a new height of glory.

In 1960 another PEACE and FRIENDSHIP TREATY was signed with china. How ever in the long journey of relationship between these two countries there were many more treaties signed. In 1965 a secret agreement is signed between this two countries. According to this agreement Nepal is allowed to import arms only from India. However in 1969 this treaty was cancelled by Nepal also a call was made to remove indian military personnel from Nepal.

1978 has also saw a great joint investments between Indian and Nepalese co-operates and firms. That was also marked as a great year of business between this two countries. the turning point come in 1989, when failure to negotiate a new trade policy and purchase of weapons from china which

² .http://www.southasiaathudson.org/history(last acc on 5/15/2019)

leads to the expiration of main trade and transit of goods treaties between these two countries, which had placed a big blind spot in Nepal economy.

IN 21ST CENTURY TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS SINCE 2000.

In this phase India has tried to normalize its relations with Nepal again after when the monarchy system is demolished in 2008. These two countries witnessed high level of exchanges between them. India is the largest foreign investor on Nepal .and have a significant role in Nepal economy. India is currently helping a lot to Nepal providing aid and developing infrastructure with the extension of \$1 billion. These aid and development also include military aid. Nepal prime minister has recently visited india and signed agreements focusing on improving of infrastructure and aiding to earthquake victims post earthquake reconstructions border security and hydropower development.

DIPLOMATIC MOVE OF INDIA IN EARTHQUAKE 2015

When Nepal was hitted by a devastating earthquake of 7.8 magnitude in 2015April25 followed by a powerful after shock in 12May2015 of 7.4 magnitude. The first move that government of India has taken was dispersion of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). With rescue and important materials this relief has arrived in Nepal after 6 hours of earthquake. India also has helped Nepal in restoring three power sub-stations in Kathmandu. The relief was amounted to over US\$67 million.

BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC ROLE OF INDIA IN NEPALESE ECONOMY.

Since over the past 10 years bilateral trade between these two country has been grew over 6 times *from (INR-5585 crores) in 2006-07 to (INR-39564 crores) –(US\$5.89 billion) in 20162017*. In the same time Nepal exports to india *is just more then doubled (INR-1384 crores) in 2006-2007 to (INR-2985 crores) in 2016-2017*. Nepal main imports from India are petroleum products, motor vehicles and its spare parts, medicine, wires, rods, coils, bars and vegetables. Nepal imports more from India then Nepal exports to India.³

³ . <http://mea.gov.in/indian-mission.htm?>(last acc on 5/13/2019)

INDIA INVESTMENT IN NEPAL

The largest investors in Nepalese market are Indian firms. Accounting for about 30% of the total foreign direct investments of the country. The total indian investments of indian firms in Nepalese market is (INR-5942.68 crores). About 150 Indian ventures are operating in Nepal now engaged in various sectors like banking, insurance, dry port, education, telecommunication etc.

BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL

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. Similarly, India's exports to Nepal grew over eight times from INR 4201 crores in 2006-07 to INR 36579 crores (US\$ 5.45 billion) in 2016-17. Nepal's main imports from India are petroleum products (13.7%); motor vehicles and spare parts (13.1%); M. S. billet (4.7%); rice & paddy (4.5%); other machinery & parts (4%); medicine (4%); hot-rolled sheet in coil (2.8%); electrical equipment(2.5%); cement (2.4%); agricultural equipment & parts(1.9%); coal (1.9%); m.s. wires, rods, coils, bars (1.6%); vegetables (1.6%); cold rolled sheet in coil (1.4%); thread (1.3%), etc.

BILATERAL DIPLOMATISM BETWEEN NEPAL AND INDIA ON

WATER RESOURCES

Mutual understanding on water resources is one of the key prospects of bilateral diplomacy. There was a large number of rivers that flow from Nepal to India. These small flowing rivers have power to become the major source of irrigation and power for both these countries. A 3 tier bilateral mechanism was established in 2008 to concentrate on key areas of water management, flood management, and hydropower related issues between Nepal and India.

INDIA DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL

India has been assisting Nepal since many years. These assistance are given for cross border road development, infrastructure, health, and education development. The total economic help provided by India in financial year 2017-2018 is Rs.375 crore. Which was increased by 73% in the financial year 2018-2019.

More than 559 projects including small scale and large scale projects of cost NPR-76 billion have implemented in Nepal by India since 1951. Till now approx 692 ambulances, 140 school buses have been allotted in 77 districts of Nepal. Except from these assistance a credit of (USD-1.65 billion) has been granted for infrastructural development and post earth quake assistance.

DEFENCE COOPERATION BETWEEN NEPAL AND INDIA

Both country have a great cooperation in field of defense. India has always been supporting to Nepalese Army(NA) by providing training and supplying required equipment's. joint military

trainings, bilateral visit by army staffs shows how strong the defence cooperation between these two countries are. The indo-Nepal joint military exercise **SURYA KIRAN** Is conducted twice a year between both the armies.

GORKHA SOLDIERS IN THE INDIAN ARMY

The gorkha regiments of Indian army has been recruited from the hilly districts of Nepal. In present scenario is that about 32,000 Gorkha soldiers from Nepal is working and serving in Indian army. There are 2 pensions paying offices of indian army in Nepal which take care of retired gorkhas soldiers in Nepal. There 22 district soldiers boards in Nepal, all functions under the defence wing of the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu.⁴

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.

DIPLOMATISM IN EDUCATION AND CULTURE

India contribution in the development of human resources has always been a important point of India's bilateral diplomacy with Nepal. Government of India provides around 3000 scholarship to desired candidates every year at various levels i.e undergraduate, postgraduate, MPhil, Ph.D. and schooling. These scholarship covers a wide variety of subjects including engineering, medicine, agriculture, pharmacology, vetenary sciences, computer sciences, business administration, music, fine arts, etc.

Both the countries have almost the similar culture which has acted as a boon in past years in developing the cultural image of India in Nepal. In cultural context government of India takes initiatives to promote people-to-people contacts by organizing various cultural programmes and series of events organized by collaboration and partnership of various bodies in Nepal. Various MOUs have been signed between various Nepalese organizations in order to promote culture and strength the bond between these two countries.

The B.P Koirala India-Nepal foundation has been established in year 1991 by an MOU signed between these two countries. The main aim of the foundation is make educational, cultural, scientific cooperation between India-Nepal. Many Indian schools like DAV, DPS etc have been setup in Nepal to promote Indian culture and education.⁵

INDIAN COMMUNITY IN NEPAL

Around 6,00,000 Indians are living/domiciled in Nepal. These include businessmen and traders who have been living in Nepal for a long time, professionals (doctors, engineers, IT personnel) and labourers (including seasonal/migratory in the construction sector). An Indian Citizens' Association (ICA) of Nepal was formed on 14 September 1990. ICA is the only association of resident Indian citizens in Nepal with branches at Pokhara, Damak and Bhairahawa, and provides a platform for discussion on matters pertaining to the legitimate interest of resident Indians in Nepal and works for the protection of such interests

⁴ . <http://www.indianembassy.org.np>

⁵ . <http://indianstrategicknowledgeonline.com/web/Nepal-India%20Relations.pdf>

CONCLUSION

Reading and Referring various articles, various books and government organization websites. I can tell that through the lapse of time there was no change in diplomatical relationship and structure between these two countries. However, since years the relationship between these two countries is improving and there was no major change in relationship Between these two countries. There was many situations of odds between these two countries. Like blockage by India. And also there were many falls in the relationship between these two countries. But also major change in relationship is not heard.

However these changes in day to day diplomatic process between Nepal and India does not have a major impact in its diplomatic process. Landlocked between two major regional powers, the quick readthrough of Nepal's ties with India and China shows that not being overly dependent on either India or China is a crucial aspect of Nepal's foreign policy. Strategically, it makes sense for Nepal to balance between India and China, as being landlocked hinders Nepal's opportunity to trade with the rest of the world freely and being overly reliant on either nation would only lead to potential problems if either country withdrew their support. The bilateral diplomatic process between these two country is good. But yes need certain improvements like-1. The diplomatic process should be such that it does not effect the subject population.

2. there is a lack of information in the grassroot level of Nepal about India. People should also be made aware about the aids, funds and facilities so that the corruption should also be minimized and peoples of Nepal should be made aware about what help their neighbor is giving.

The latest developments hence, suggest no diversion from this historical status quo and future talks between India and Nepal should be expected.

There are numerous treaties and agreements such as the PFT, Trade and Transit Treaties, Arms Assistance Agreement, etc. between the two neighbors. The current dispute must be solved mutually, believing the universal truth that neighbors can never be changed. The suffering of neighbors shall effect all, owing to the world's liberal trend towards global citizenship, or citizenship without frontiers.

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