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Translation of Prime Minister's speech at Civic Reception in Kathmandu during his visit to Nepal (May 12, 2018)

May 13, 2018

छिमेकी र मित्र राष्ट्र नेपाल का महामहिम विदेश मंत्री
श्रीमान प्रदीप कुमार ग्यावाली ज्यू,
Province No.3 का सम्मानीय मुख्यमंत्री
श्री डोरनाथ पौडेल ज्यू,
काठमाडौं का महामहिम मेयर श्रीमान बिद्या सुन्दर शाक्य ज्यू,
उपस्थित सबै सम्मानीय विद्वषी र महानुभावाहरु,
तपाईंहरु सबै लाई मेरो विनम्र नमस्कार।
काठमाडौं को यस राष्ट्रीय सभागृह मा उपस्थित तपाईंहरु सबै लाई
हार्दिक अभिनन्दन
पनि गर्द छुँ ।
कृपया स्वीकार गर्नु होला।

External Affairs Minister of our friend and neighbor, Nepal
Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gawali,
Honorable Chief Minister of the Province No.3
Shri Dornath Poudel,
His Excellency, Mayor of Kathmandu Mr. Bidhya Sundar Shakya,
All the honorable ladies and gentlemen present,
My humble hello to all of you.
Heartfelt greetings to all of you present in this National Assembly of Kathmandu
I'm sorry.
Please agree.

Shakya ji,

You, your colleagues and Kathmandu's municipal corporation has organized this reception for me. I'm grateful from the bottom of my heart. It is not only mine, but honor of whole India. Not only me, but 1.25 billion Indians are also grateful. My relationship with Kathmandu and Nepal is very old. When I was not even in politics. Whenever I visit Nepal, I have this feeling of peace and affection. And the biggest reason for this is your love, your affection, your warm welcome and respect. Yesterday, I was in Janakpur. It gives a very important message in today's era. What was the virtue of Raja Janak, he threw the scriptures and joined all with affection, this is the land which breaks the scriptures and then binds with affection.

Friends,

Whenever I think of Kathmandu, the image that emerges is not just a city. That image is not just a geographical valley. Kathmandu is not only the capital of our neighbor and integral friend. It is not only the capital of the country of Lord Buddha's birthplace. It is not only the capital of the country of Mt. Everest and Lily Guraj. Kathmandu in itself is a world altogether. And the history of this world is as old, as majestic and as vast as the Himalayas. Kathmandu has always attracted me. Because this city is as much intense as it is on the move. It is a precious jewel in the lap of the Himalayas. Kathmandu, is not just a canopy of wood. This is the palace of our shared culture and heritage. The city's diversity gives a glimpse of Nepal's great heritage and its large heart. Whether it is the forest of Nagarjuna or the hills of Shivpuri, whether it is calmness of hundreds of waterfalls and streams or the origins of Bagmati. This city of thousands of temples, Manjushree caves and Buddhist monasteries is unique in the world. On one side Dhaulagiri and Annapurna and on the other side Sagarmatha i.e. Everest and Kanchenjunga, where else are such sights possible from the roof of the buildings? Only in Kathmandu. Patterns of Basantpur, reputation of Patan, magnificence of Bhaktapur, art of Kirtipur and the elegance of Lalitpur. It seems Kathmandu has gathered all the colors of rainbow in itself. So many traditions are mixed in its air just as roli amalgamates with sandalwood. Crowd of devotees praying at Pashupatinath, spirituality strolling on the stairs of Swayambhu, chants of 'Om Mani Padme Hum' echoing at the feet of the pilgrims circumambulating Buddha. It seems as if all the notes of scale are hugging each other on the stars. I have been told that certain festivals, such as the festivals of Nevari community, are such which have an unprecedented confluence of Buddhists and Hindu beliefs and practices. Tradition and culture has made Kathmandu's handicraft and its artists matchless. Whether it is hand-made paper or statues like Tara and Buddha. Whether it is utensils made of clay from Bhaktapur or stone, wood and metal work of Patan, Kathmandu is the great amalgamation of Nepal's unique art and craftsmanship. And I am glad that the younger generation here is carrying forward this tradition and also bringing newness to it.

Friends,

I have had the privilege of visiting Pashupatinath in both my visits to Nepal. In this visit I got the opportunity to visit all the three holy shrines i.e. apart from Pashupatinath, I visited Janakpur Dham and Muktinath also. These three places are not just important pilgrim centers, they represent Everest of India and Nepal's unshakable and unbreakable relations. In future whenever there will be an opportunity for me to visit Nepal, I will also make time to visit Lord Buddha's birth place Lumbini.

Friends,

Our value systems of peace, balance with nature, and life filled with spiritual values are the heritage of the whole world. And, therefore, it is not surprising that people from all over the world come drawn towards India and Nepal in search of peace and tranquility. Some people go to Banaras and some to BodhGaya, some people go and stay in the lap of the Himalayas, while some people go to Buddha monasteries, quest is the same. Solutions to the malaise of modern life will be found in the shared values of India and Nepal.

Friends,

Pashupatinath on the banks of Bagmati in Kathmandu and Kashi Vishwanath on the banks of the Ganges, Buddha's birthplace Lumbini, hermitage place BodhGaya, and discourse place Sarnath.

Friends,

We all have rich common heritage of thousands of years. Our shared heritage is the property of youth of both the countries. It has the roots of their past, the seeds of the present and the shoots of future.

Friends,

Whole world is going through a phase of many types of changes. Global environment is full of several fluctuations and uncertainties.

Friends,

For thousands of years 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - that is, whole world is a family, has been the philosophy of India. "Together with all, development for all," we have also been implementing it in our foreign policy. There is a prayer in Indian scriptures

"सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः। सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः। सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु। मा कश्चित् दुःख भाग्भवेत्।"

Which means, all people become happy, all people become healthy, May there be welfare of everyone and nobody has any sorrow. Indian sages have always dreamed this. To achieve this ideal, our foreign policy is based on taking everyone together with us and particularly we share the experiences and opportunities of India with our neighborhood. In our culture "Neighborhood First" is not just foreign policy but it is our lifestyle. There are many examples. While being a developing country itself, India has been cooperating for more than 50 years for capacity building in more than 160 countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Program in accordance with the requirements of those countries. Last year India launched South Asia satellite. As a result of this, our neighboring countries are receiving a valuable gift from our space capabilities. At the same time, we are also focusing on how we can develop international partnerships to face the major challenges of the modern world, which no country can handle it alone. For example, In 2016, India and France together conceived a new international treaty based organization in the context of climate change. This revolutionary step has now changed into a successful experiment. In March this year, French President Macron and the leaders of nearly 50 other countries participated in the first summit of this International Solar Alliance in Delhi. Such efforts will help in forging technological and economic partnerships to meet the challenges of climate change, especially in meeting the needs of small developing countries.

Friends,

When Indians look at Nepal, they are happy to see the atmosphere and people here. The atmosphere in Nepal is full of hope, desire of a bright future, and strengthening of democracy, and also of the vision of "Prosperous Nepal, happy Nepalese." and you all have contributed hugely in creation of this atmosphere. After the horrific tragedy of 2015 earthquake, the patience and indomitable courage exhibited by the people of Nepal, and especially in Kathmandu, is an example for the whole world. This is a testimony to the firm commitment and hard work of your society that a new system has been created in Nepal in such a short time while dealing with the disaster. After the earthquake, not just the buildings, in a way whole country and society has been rebuilt. Today there is democratic government at all the three levels in Nepal, i.e. federal, provincial and local. And the elections for all the three levels have been successfully conducted within one year. This power is inherent in you. And hence, I congratulate all of you from the bottom of my heart.

Friends,

From war to Buddha, Nepal has traversed a long distance. But the destination is yet far away, still have to travel quite far. In a way, the base camp of Mount Everest has arrived, but the climb to the summit is yet to be done.

And just the way mountaineers get very strong support from Nepal's Sherpas, India is ready to do Sherpa's work for you in this development journey of Nepal. This was the message in Prime Minister Oli's visit to India last month, and my current visit to Nepal for two days. Nepal must move forward according to its needs and priorities, and India will always walk shoulder to shoulder with Nepal in its journey of progress. India succeeds in your success. India is delighted with Nepal's happiness. Whether the job is of construction of railway lines or roads; of hydropower, or transmission lines; of Integrated check Post, or oil pipeline, or whether it is the job of further strengthening the cultural and people to people ties between the people of Nepal and India, we are always with you in your every need and will continue to do so in the future also. We have started work on the DPR of connecting Kathmandu to India through railway. And now we are also connected in cricket, in IPL. You are familiar with this visit, and many recent initiatives. I am told that for the first time, a Nepalese player, Sandeep Lamichane is participating in the IPL. I hope that in future our people-to-people relationship will continue to be strengthened not only in cricket but also through other sports.

Friends,

With these words, I once again express my heartfelt gratitude to the \ Mayor of Kathmandu Mr. Shakya ji, to the Kathmandu administration, to the Government of Nepal and to all of you. And we both have same feelings in our hearts, that which is present in the heart of every Nepalese, and every Indian, and that is

Long Live, Nepal- India Friendship
Long Live, Nepal- India Friendship
Long Live, Nepal- India Friendship

Thanks a lot.

(Disclaimer: PM's Speech was delivered in Hindi. This is an approximate translation of Speech)



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