



**Embassy of Nepal
Paris, France**

Press Release

On the second day of formal visit to France, The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli met with his French counterpart His Excellency Mr. Édouard Philippe at Hôtel de Matignon, the Official Residence of the French Prime Minister in Paris on 13 June 2019.

The two Prime Ministers expressed their happiness on the excellent state of the relationship between Nepal and France, which share the fundamental values of democracy and human rights. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister commended the continued progress and prosperity achieved by France. The French Prime Minister congratulated Nepal on its historic political transformation and the institutionalization of political gains through the democratic constitution.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister thanked the Government and people of France for their support and cooperation extended to Nepal including through the European Union. He also acknowledged the French support to Nepal in the aftermath of 2015 earthquakes.

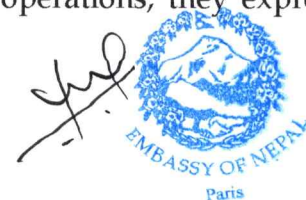
The two Prime Ministers underscored the importance of expanding and deepening bilateral cooperation, in the field of trade, investment and technology to contribute to the realization of Nepal's national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister highlighted the various reform measures undertaken by the Government of Nepal in creating a conducive environment for business and investment.

The two sides mentioned that the Himalayan Mountain Range was a strong historical part of their bilateral relationship since the first ascent of Mount Annapurna-I by a French climber in 1950 in promoting Nepal's adventure tourism. Noting that tourism was a key sector for both countries, they agreed to share their experiences and best practices in this area, taking into account Nepal's major tourism campaign *Visit Nepal 2020*. They also underlined the importance of cultural cooperation and people-to-people contacts.

In the area of civil aviation safety, the administrative arrangement signed between the French and Nepali competent authorities in 2017 was commended.

The two Prime Ministers also shared the commitment to multilateralism, regional integration and peaceful resolution of conflict. Highlighting that both countries are major contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations, they expressed their

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commitment to work together for the maintenance of the international peace and security under the auspices of the United Nations.

Both the Prime Ministers acknowledged the climate change as one of the most serious existential threats to humanity and agreed to promote collaboration, both at bilateral and multilateral levels.

The two Prime Ministers decided to conduct consultations, on a regular basis, between the two Foreign Ministries, building on the consultations held on 9 January 2019 in Kathmandu. They underlined the significance of exchanging high-level visits in further cementing friendly ties and promoting collaborative partnerships in mutually beneficial areas.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Oli extended his cordial invitation to H E Mr. Philippe, Prime Minister of France to visit Nepal at the earliest opportunity.

Later in the evening on June 13, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister held a meeting with H E Madame Carole Bureau-Bonnard, Vice President of National Assembly in-charge of International Relations and H E Madame Veronique Riotton, President of Nepal-France Friendship Group at the National Assembly of the French Parliament. A dinner was hosted in honour of the Prime Minister and his delegations at Petit Hotel of the National Assembly.

Earlier, in the afternoon, Rt Hon. Prime Minister met with Nepali community and Nepali businessmen in France at Hotel Le Maurice in Paris and held interaction with them.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister visited the Musée national des arts asiatiques (National Museum of Asian Arts) popularly known as Guimet Museum earlier in the morning and observed the collections of Arts and sculpture showcased there and also held a meeting with President of the Museum Madame Sophie Makariou at her office.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister was accompanied by his spouse Mrs. Radhika Shakya, Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Mr. Bishnu Rimal Chief Advisor and Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Press Advisor to the Prime Minister Mr. Kundan Aryal, H. E. Mr. Dipak Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal to France and other high-ranking government officials.

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