

**Address by The Right Honourable President
Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari
to the Joint Session of Both Houses of the Federal Parliament**

**Government of Nepal
2022**

Unofficial Translation

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**Right Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Right Honourable Chairperson of the National Assembly,
Honourable Members of the Federal Parliament,**

1. Elections at all local levels and wards have been held for the second time since the promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal. Even in the ward where elections could not be held last time, elections were held this time. Conducted in an impartial, free, peaceful, fair and fearless environment, these elections have strengthened democracy from the very grassroots level. Against this pleasant backdrop, it is a matter of pride for me to address the Joint Session of both Houses of the Federal Parliament today.
2. On this occasion, I pay my heartfelt tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in defence of the nation and progressive movements. The contribution of the esteemed leaders who have provided leadership to the Nepali people in various periods of the seven decades of sacrificial struggle has always inspired us. The contribution made by citizens in these struggles and movements will keep us on the path of duty.
3. Conducting periodic elections for democratic institutions has remained a challenging task. It is a matter of satisfaction for the government that the local elections were held smoothly despite all doubts and misconceptions. At the same time, the enthusiastic participation of all political parties and forces in this process of local elections has ensured the ownership of all over Nepal's Constitution and political system.
4. The Government expresses its gratitude to the Election Commission for successfully holding local level elections, to the civil servants and the security forces for their support in the task, and to all political parties, organizations and the general public for their participation in this process.
5. The local level elections, the foundation of providing door-to-door service to the people as per their wishes, have further strengthened the base of people's competitive multi-party democratic governance system. Along with the formation of the local levels within the stipulated time with the new mandate, a strong foundation has been established to move towards fulfilling the desire of lasting peace, good governance, development and prosperity

by remaining committed to socialism based on democratic values and principles.

6. As a result of the steps we have taken to prevent, control and treat the COVID-19 pandemic spreading around the world for over two years, its effects are becoming less severe. I firmly believe that with the joint efforts of all, we can fight against such pandemics and face the adverse conditions created by them. I would like to thank all the citizens including doctors, nurses, health workers, cleaners, security personnel, civil servants, people's representatives, various social and business organizations who have been working day and night for the control and management of the pandemic. Despite the tireless efforts of all, about twelve thousand people lost their precious lives due to this terrible pandemic. I express my heartfelt tributes to all of them and heartfelt condolences to their relatives and family members.

Honourable Members,

7. The present Government attaches high importance to its relations with its neighbours and all friendly countries. The official visit of the Prime Minister to India, the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Lumbini and the visit of the Foreign Minister of China to Nepal have further strengthened the relations with the neighboring countries. Participating at the level of the Prime Minister in the United Nations Conference on Climate Change-COP 26 in Glasgow, Nepal has expressed significant commitment to climate change and environmental protection. The process of finalising the BIMSTEC Charter which was initiated by Nepal has been materialised in the Fifth Summit held in Colombo. The Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact concluded with the United States of America has been approved by the House of Representatives and the work of expanding the power transmission line and road network has moved forward.
8. The Government has made every effort to control, prevent and treat the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, about 96 percent of the target population has received at least one dose of vaccine and 85 percent has been fully vaccinated. Similarly, booster dose has been given to about 3.8 million citizens. Governments at all three levels have been mobilised for health infrastructure, medicine, oxygen, health care and manpower management.

9. Gautam Buddha International Airport and Chobhar Dry Port have come into operation. Pokhara Regional International Airport will come into operation soon. Despite the unfavorable conditions, in the first 10 months of this year, an additional 638 MW of electricity has been generated; 325 kilometers of blacktop roads have been constructed; 100 bridges have been built; and an additional 12,600 hectares of land have been irrigated. Damaged Melamchi Drinking Water Project has been restored. Drinking water facility has been provided to additional 85,000 people. There has been an increase in the infrastructure including manpower in the health sector. Landowner certificates have been provided to 23,591 people, who had not obtained such certificates for long due to various reasons.
10. Nepal aims to achieve the sustainable development goals and reach middle income country status by 2030. Nepal is set to graduate from the Least Developed Country category by 2026. A concrete plan will be implemented to manage the impact of the graduation.
11. Despite the pressures on the external sector of the economy due to the unfavorable conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic, remittance income has improved and tourism income has been gradually increasing over the past few months. Still, the macroeconomic structures need to be strengthened, in view of the constant strain on the economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing instability in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine.
12. Government policies and programmes will be aimed at achieving rapid economic growth by maintaining macroeconomic stability through joint efforts of Government and private sector by mobilising fiscal and monetary instruments. Economic policy capable of bearing the risk in the structure of the economy due to internal and external factors will be formulated. Programmes and projects that can transform the overall structure of the economy will be implemented. The means of production based on internal resources will be optimally mobilised.
13. Priority will be given for the increment of production and productivity, construction of infrastructure, access to drinking water and electricity, creation of human capital and job creation, reduction of income inequality

and multidimensional poverty rate, sustainable development and ecological balance, strengthening of federalism and good governance.

Honourable Members,

14. Economic growth and stability will be achieved through the combination of finance and monetary policy. Resilient economy will be built through special programs of economic recovery by promoting agriculture, transport, energy, tourism and information technology as the vehicle of economic growth. Inflation will be kept within the desired limits.
15. The Unbundling Report will be reviewed based on the practice, experiences and feedback of the implementation of federalism. Necessary legal provisions will be made for the implementation of the subjects as provided in the List of Powers of the Schedules of the Constitution. Apart from the big projects of national pride, transformation and strategic importance, other projects will be implemented at the provincial and local level. Fiscal transfers at provincial and local levels will be made on an objective basis. Conservation of natural resources, its utilization and equitable distribution will be in collaboration and coordination between the federal, provincial and local levels. The foundation of economic prosperity will be built by linking the local economy with the national economy.
16. Policy, legal and systemic reforms will be made to build quality infrastructure, promote investment, create and facilitate business environment for increasing domestic production and industrialization. Nepalis will be encouraged to use the income and skills earned abroad in creating employment and self-employment opportunities in the country. Bringing remittances through formal channels will be further incentivised. Other suitable investment and construction framework of public-private partnership for construction of large and strategically important infrastructure and industrial development will also be implemented.
17. Public expenditure management will be made result-oriented. In order to increase capital expenditure and to facilitate the implementation of development projects, separate laws on development including result-based project management system will be formulated. In order to expedite the settlement of disputes in the contract process related to development works,

the law on public procurement will be reformed and related structure will be strengthened. In order to maintain allocative efficiency, national priorities will be determined in line with the long-term vision and development programs and projects will be selected accordingly and will be linked with the annual budget. Budget will not be allocated for projects which have not been prepared in advance, not included in the project bank and not recommended by the National Planning Commission. Fiscal discipline will be maintained in the budget implementation of all the three levels.

18. The existing tax system will be reviewed and made fair, transparent and investment and business friendly. Necessary policies and standards will be formulated to facilitate revenue mobilization at the local level. Foreign aid will be mobilized through national system in projects with high return and in strategic and transformational projects. In line with the concept of digital banking, arrangements will be made to ensure all transactions through electronic medium by strengthening the national payment system.
19. Flow of credit towards productive and employment-oriented sectors will be simplified. Policy will be adopted either to merge with each other or to dissolve or to improve the management of the financially burdensome public enterprises and the areas in which the private sector is able to produce and distribute competitive goods and services. Industries that came into operation in the past but are now closed will be brought back into operation.
20. For the development and expansion of the capital market, attraction of investors to the productive sector will be increased and the capacity of the regulatory body will be enhanced. Nepal's credit rating will be completed next year. Insurance will be linked with production and productivity.
21. Cooperative sector will be linked with entrepreneurship, production and employment for economic development and poverty alleviation. The regulatory body will be empowered and strengthened to monitor the cooperatives and promote good corporate governance. Government funds with similar nature and purpose will be merged and efficiently operated.
22. State facility identity cards will be distributed to the identified poor and destitute households and the service facilities targeted for such households will be linked with the same identity card. Livelihood programs operated in

mountainous and high hill districts will be extended to the districts lagging behind in the Human Development Index.

Honorable Members,

23. Agriculture will be developed as a major driver of economic growth and employment. Agricultural research, mechanization, commercialization and climate adaptation technology will be promoted by formulating a new national agricultural policy. The basis of economic growth will be strengthened by modernising the agricultural sector. Coordination will be maintained while formulating policies in the areas of finance, monetary, irrigation, energy, forest, tourism, industry, commerce, supply, and land use so as to contribute to the production and productivity of agriculture and forest sector.
24. Programs will be introduced to increase food production and reduce processing costs. Emphasis will be given on research and development of environment friendly and climate resilient local seeds so as to become self-reliant in high quality and hybrid seed production. Organic farming system will be encouraged.
25. The Prime Minister's Agriculture Modernization Project will be restructured on the basis of mid-term review; potential crops zones will be handed over to the provinces from technical and economic point of view. Collective and cooperative farming based on value chain will be encouraged to make good use of barren land. Special programs will be implemented to increase the production of more imported crops like paddy, maize, potato, onion, apple and walnut. Special plan will be brought to promote commercial rubber farming.
26. Supply of chemical fertilizers will be ensured. Grants will be provided in the same proportion to organic fertilizer as provided for chemical fertilizer. The use of information technology in agriculture will be increased.
27. Policy will be adopted for the protection of farmers. Arrangements will be made to purchase agricultural produce produced by the farmers. Agriculture and livestock insurance program will be expanded and access to micro insurance will be extended to the remote areas and deprived sections.

Agricultural subsidies will be disbursed on the basis of production. Sugarcane promotion expenses will be made available to sugarcane farmers in the same year. Relief will be provided immediately to farmers who have suffered damage to their crops due to unseasonal rains this year. Severe epidemics of livestock will be controlled. Policy will be adopted to produce vaccines in the country.

28. Imports of agricultural produce will be managed by making the quality and price of Nepali agricultural produce competitive. The private sector will also be involved in pesticide and quarantine testing. Establishment of cold storage and agricultural marts near major cross-border points and international airports will be encouraged.
29. Irrigation facility will be provided to additional 22,200 hectares of land next year in line with the policy of providing year-round irrigation facility on cultivable land. Construction and maintenance of main and branch canals of large and multi-purpose irrigation projects, headwork of Bheri-Babai diversion and construction of power house and tunnel of Sunkoshi-Marine diversion will be expedited. Construction work of Naumure Rapti-Kapilvastu diversion will be started.
30. The main canal of Greater Dang Valley Irrigation Project and Praganna and Badkapath Irrigation Project will be expanded. Maintenance of Chandra Nahar will be carried out. Lift irrigation will be extended to hilly and mountainous areas. Irrigation facilities will be extended to additional lands from water storage ponds, shallow and deep tube wells in the cultivable pocket areas of Terai Madhesh. Additional concession will be provided for electricity consumed in irrigation work.
31. Policy will be adopted to address water-induced disasters by using innovative technology, riverine materials collected through scientific excavation of river, and managing and processing the erosion residues, and the embankments constructed under the river management works will be developed as road corridors if deemed technically feasible. Next year, additional 90 kilometers of embankment will be constructed and 600 hectares of land will be elevated.

32. Both modern scientific and conventional knowledge will be utilised in disaster management. In order to make the rain and weather forecasting and early information system more reliable and dependable in the coming year, the latest technology for hydrology and meteorology will be used and automated real time centers will be installed and expanded. In order to reduce the risk of glacial lake outburst, the water level in Sankhuwasabha, Solukhumbu and Manang glaciers will be reduced. Early information system will be operated in the lower coastal area.
33. Policy will be adopted by the state to protect the poor families and bring them out of the vicious cycle of poverty. Necessary steps will be taken within the next two years to solve the problem of landless people and informal settlers. Production, employment and capacity building programs will be implemented in coordination with all three levels of government for the freed Kamaiyas, Haliyas and Kamlaris who are yet to be rehabilitated and for the Harwa herdsmen who are yet to be declared free. Targeted programs will be implemented for the destitute who are living along the National Parks and the river banks. Land ownership certificate will be provided to the village block and undocumented land owners (Swabasi and Benissa) who are left out from the land registration.
34. Land use plan will be prepared for the federal, provincial and local levels by classifying the land in accordance with the land use policy and law. Legal reforms will be made to facilitate the process of land acquisition required for development projects and to review the demarcation limits for the designated industries. Scientific utilization of land will be ensured by stopping the fragmentation of land.
35. Land administration will be simplified and made hassle-free. Arrangements will be made for the upgradation and integration of the existing technology and system to make it fully digital, to prepare electronic database of the lands owned by government, public, community and guthi (community trust) across the country and to get basic services related to land revenue and survey at the local level. Similarly, the value of land will be determined by scientific method by developing integrated land valuation system based on geographical information system.

36. Policy will be adopted to protect the property of the State. Programme will be implemented immediately to keep records of all kinds of national and public property and to conduct real estate business only through specialized institutions; the movable and immovable property of Nepal Trust will be documented, protected and utilized while also searching for the properties that may come into the ownership of the Trust. Geological mapping of Nepal will be carried out for the exploration, processing, production and conservation of mineral and natural gas and petroleum products.

Honourable Members,

37. The leading role of the industrial sector will be ascertained for building a strong economy. The private sector will be encouraged to set up and operate productive industries by creating an industry-friendly environment, improving business environment, and increasing public investment in basic infrastructure. Supplemental income generation and employment opportunities will be enhanced in areas with front, backward and parallel linkages of the industrial sector. Farm to industry integrated model programme will be implemented to link the products of agriculture, forestry, and mining sectors in the industrial processing chain.
38. Policy will be taken towards implementing special programmes for increasing domestic production and productivity by industrializing through clean technology. Industrialization will be promoted in such manner as to develop a green economy through energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. For developing industrial and entrepreneurial efficiency, standards related to industrial infrastructure and environmental adaptation will be implemented.
39. Nepali Production and Consumption Growth Campaign Decade will be launched with the slogan ‘Nepali Industry, Employment in Nepal: Nepal’s Own Production, Nepal’s Own Trade’ with a view to developing a prosperous economy through increased domestic and foreign investment in productive sectors of comparative advantage, innovation in small and medium enterprises, skill-based employment growth, expansion of market for Nepali products, increase in production and consumption through value chain development and import substitution and export promotion. To run this campaign successfully, ‘Prime Minister Nepali Production and

Consumption Growth Programme’ will be operationalized. As part of this programme, the policy of enhancing competitive skill development, business facilitation, construction and use of shared physical infrastructure, access and internalization of new technologies and procedural simplification will be given unbroken continuity, in addition to time-bound strategic promotion through tax and customs duty exemptions and export subsidies.

40. In order to promote and expand domestic production, support will be extended to the private sector-run campaigns of ‘Make in Nepal’ and ‘Made in Nepal’. The share of domestically produced goods in public procurement will be gradually increased. Products for which Nepal Standard is mandatory will be subjected to strict regulation. Initiative will be taken to achieve international recognition of Nepal Standard by modernizing and upgrading the quality and calibration laboratory.
41. In order to integrate Nepali products in national, regional and international value chains, the policy will be adopted for attracting skills, capital, investment and technology for establishment of industries producing ancillary materials for big foreign industries and for contract production in the already established industries. Automated route system will be introduced in industry, commerce, and company administration to attract foreign investment.
42. Industrial administration will be made simpler and more technology-friendly. Single point service centre will be empowered and made technology-based. Documentation and facilitation services for the establishment, operation and closure of industry and business will be made electronic.
43. Policy will be adopted to enhance the involvement of the private sector in the construction of industrial infrastructure. Policy will be adopted for private-sector construction, operation and management of infrastructure within industrial zones and government provision of basic facilities such as electricity, roads and water to industrial villages, industrial zones, special economic zones and cross-border economic zones. If the concerned industrialists construct the access roads and electricity transmission lines as per the government approved standards, the provision of reimbursement will be made easier. Bhairahawa Special Economic Zones will be expanded.

44. The establishment and operation of innovation-based start-up businesses will be facilitated. Young entrepreneurs will be encouraged to do business in the country by means of entrepreneurship development, protection of intellectual property rights, innovation, development of creative technology, access to finance and modernization of traditional knowledge and skills.
45. Exports will be promoted by reducing the production cost of manufacturing and export-based goods. These industries will be given concessions in electricity tariffs ensuring that such tariffs are not in excess of the rate of average external energy trade. Production of basic and life-saving medicines, oxygen, vaccines and medicinal products will be further encouraged. The supply of medicines will be enhanced by raising the production capacity of Nepali pharmaceutical manufacturers.
46. Small and cottage industries based on traditional knowledge and indigenous skills will be promoted through technology transfer and market protection. A package of entrepreneurship development, financial access, and marketing of products and facilitation of export for micro, cottage, small and medium enterprises will be prepared and implemented. Bilateral trade and transit treaties and agreements will be reviewed and amended. Trade agreements will be concluded with more countries. The facilities and concessions available in bilateral, regional and multilateral trade will be utilized optimally.
47. In order to reduce the cost of international trade, quality trade infrastructure will be developed. The construction of Integrated Check Posts of Bhirahawa and Nepalgunj will be concluded soon. Policy will be adopted for promoting domestic processing and export of natural resource-based goods.
48. Electronic trading system will be used for resuming supply chains and reducing the external impact on the economy and for enhancing market access for industrial products. Laws related to safeguards, anti-dumping and countervailing duties will be effectively implemented to protect Nepali products from unfair competition.
49. Expertise-based market and trade intelligence will be utilized to gather reliable information of international trade. For the expansion of export,

promotional programs will be launched in partnership with the private sector.

50. The supply system of petroleum products will be made regular, smooth, and cost effective. Pricing of petroleum products will be based on an automated system.
51. Policy will be adopted to guarantee food security. Additional food storage facilities will be constructed on cost sharing-basis with the province and local levels. Arrangements for timely and smooth availability of food products will be made across the country by strengthening the internal distribution system. The work of transporting rice and salt to mountainous and remote districts will be made more effective by reviewing the system on a scientific basis.
52. As a dynamic dimension of the economy, tourism will be linked with all kinds of economic activities. Emphasis will be placed on enhancing employment growth, earning of foreign exchange and promotion of local products by diversifying touristic sites and products. Special programmes will be launched to attract domestic and foreign investment in the development and promotion of integrated tourism infrastructure and high value tourism products. Rural tourism and home stay will be promoted.
53. Policy will be adopted to promote cultural tourism by conserving and promoting tangible and intangible cultural heritage. A comprehensive museum comprising of the specialties of Nepal's history, art, culture and other unique features of the country will be set up, adding to touristic attraction. Priority will be given to the upgradation of the Taplejung-Darchula Great Himalayan Trail.
54. Lumbini, Pashupati and Janakpur will be developed as centres of religious tourism. An integrated programme will be implemented for developing a mega religious-cultural-eco-tourism centre comprising of Baraha Chhetra, Chatara Dham, Ramdhuni and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. Collaboration among the three tiers of governments will be enhanced for the protection, development and promotion of religious and cultural sites mentioned in Vedic and Puranic texts.

55. Tilaurakot in Kapilvastu will be included in the World Heritage List. Archives of national importance will be preserved and managed by utilizing modern technology. Initiatives will be taken for bringing back lost heritage items of archeological significance from abroad.
56. Air services will be expanded and made safer and more qualitative. Adherence to international aviation standards, enhancement of regulatory capacity and optimum utilization of innovative technologies will be encouraged. Airlines will be encouraged to operate flights to and from outside of Kathmandu as well. The international market of Nepali airlines will be expanded by concluding additional air service agreements.
57. The investment and construction structure of Nijgadh International Airport will be finalized in order that its construction begins from Fiscal Year 2080/81 B.S. Necessary arrangements will be made to bring completed regional and international airports into full operation. Construction of terminals with facilities will start in the major cities of Terai such as Chandragadhi, Biratnagar, Rajbiraj, Janakpur, Simara, Bharatpur, Nepalgunj and Dhangadhi. Construction of a new provincial airport will begin in Bheriganga, Surkhet.

Honorable Members,

58. The transport network will be developed and expanded to expeditiously interconnect the entire territory of the country. All available transport systems will be developed as complementary to each other to make the supply chain, transportation, and movement easier and more systematic. Road safety standards will be implemented while constructing and upgrading road infrastructure.
59. The East-West Highway will be upgraded to the standard of at least four-lane Asian Highway within five years. Construction work of Kakarbhitta-Laukahi, Pathalaiya-Kamala and Pathalaiya-Narayangadh sections will be started this year, in addition to the ongoing works of Butwal-Narayangadh and Kamala-Kanchanpur sections. Construction work will be expedited for timely completion of Kathmandu-Terai/Madhesh Fast Track.

60. Roads connecting National Highways and the district headquarters of Terai-Madesh will be upgraded to at least four-lane roads. Priority will be given to the construction of the road linking Gobindapur-Chhinamasta of Saptari with Gaighat of Udayapur.
61. Roads in Kathmandu Valley including the Ring-Road will be expanded and upgraded and construction of flyovers in areas where feasible will be started. Local level centers outside the network of the blacktopped roads will be linked with the provincial or national road network. An additional 800 kilometers of roads will be constructed, and 257 kilometers of roads will be upgraded next year.
62. Construction and upgradation of national pride projects of Kaligandaki, Koshi and Karnali corridors will be continued. Humla district will be connected to the national road network next year upon completion of the opening of the track in Karnali corridor. Priorities will be given to the expeditious completion of Postal Highway and Pushpalal (Mid-Hill) Highway, upgradation of Galchi-Rasuwadhi road to two-lane blacktopped road, upgradation of Chandranigahapur-Gaur road to four-lane road, and upgradation of roads connecting East-West Highway with major trade points near Nepal-India border. Remaining construction work of Madan Bhandari Highway will be completed.
63. Modern road network with tunnels, flyovers and underpasses will be developed on major highways including the Tribhuvan Highway. Construction of tunnel from Sisnekhola to Nagdhunga will be completed. Construction work of Siddhababa tunnel will be started. Necessary preparations will be made for the construction of tunnel way at Daunne of Narayangadh-Butwal section of East-West Highway and from Majhimatar to Shaktikhor, Chitwan, of Prithvi Highway.
64. Construction of additional 300 road bridges will be completed next year. Responsibility of construction of road bridges will be handed over to the provincial governments. Ongoing construction works of four-lane bridge over the Mahakali River connecting Dodhara-Chandani will be completed.
65. Cargo train will be operated up to Biratnagar dry port. The East-West Electric Railway project will be advanced. Feasibility study of

Rasuwagadhi-Kathmandu railway and detailed study of Birgunj-Kathmandu railway and metro-rail in Kathmandu Valley will be conducted. The potentials of inland waterways in Nepal's river systems will be explored and developed.

66. Environment-friendly mass bus transport system will be encouraged to make public transport more effective. The construction and operation of cable car and rope way will be further encouraged. Arrangements will be made for easy and expeditious distribution of driver's license from the respective provinces.
67. A campaign will be launched to provide affordable and environment-friendly housing to the extremely poor, dalits, endangered and marginalized people. Settlements at risk and displaced families will be relocated to safer places. Public buildings in places prone to earthquakes will be made earthquake resistant by retrofitting. The post-earthquake reconstruction works handed over thus far will be completed within the next two years.
68. Necessary policy and legal arrangements will be made to develop physical infrastructure including utility corridors to integrate various services and make the cities organized and systematic. Utility corridor from Tribhuvan International Airport to Maitighar will be started next year.
69. Singh durbar, the Central Secretariat, will be made beautiful, attractive, and well-organized as per the master plan. Necessary government office buildings will be constructed in Nawalparasi (Bardaghat Susta-East) and Rukum East. Urban infrastructure will be developed at the border trade points to promote them as economic hub. Preliminary preparations will be started for urban development in Dodhara-Chandani and Rajapur.
70. Policies will be adopted for the protection and systematic development of cultural heritages. An integrated master plan for Kathmandu Valley development will be prepared. The construction process Outer Ring Road of Kathmandu Valley will be advanced by conducting further study. Locations identified within the Kathmandu Valley will be developed as new cities. Cities will be revitalized through house pooling. Disaster targeted evacuation parks will be constructed in four places in the Kathmandu Valley and in big cities of all provinces. Institutional arrangements will be made to

provide technical assistance to the local level for scientific management of garbage in cities.

71. In order to strengthen and effectively manage the public transport system in the Kathmandu Valley, integrated public transport plan will be implemented in collaboration and partnership with the local levels of the Kathmandu Valley. Footpaths will be expanded to make the roads of Kathmandu Valley pedestrian-friendly.
72. Preparations will be made to ensure 'A Tap in Each House'. Arrangements will be made for review of people's voluntary labour contributions, sustainable operation, and maintenance of drinking water projects. Medium and high-quality drinking water services will be provided to an estimated 466,000 additional population in arid, urban and semi-urban areas.
73. Institutional coordination will be ensured for sustainable water diversion of Melamchi drinking water project on the basis of the study report of geography and river morphology of Melamchi watershed. Drinking water pipes will be laid in places outside the Ring Road of the Kathmandu Valley and around the Araniko Highway in Bhaktapur.
74. Arrangements will be made for sustainable drinking water supply to the people by conserving surface and underground water resources. Study on additional water resources will be conducted to guarantee drinking water supply while ensuring watershed conservation in the Kathmandu Valley. Sustainable solutions will be sought to address the arsenic problem.
75. Wastewater management and sewage treatment programs will be conducted with appropriate technology at each local level. Next year, assistance will be provided to 100 local levels to prepare Sanitation Master Plan. A detailed study for integrated drinking water and wastewater treatment will be conducted in 12 different cities.

Honourable Members,

76. Policies will be adopted to enhance power generation, transmission and distribution in a harmonious manner, promote private sector participation in electricity trade, increase internal consumption and export of hydropower

and build large reservoir-based hydropower projects to ensure the supply of electricity round the year.

77. As per the Nepal-India Joint Vision Statement on Power Sector Cooperation, opportunities in the fields of power generation, transmission system expansion, bilateral electricity trade, coordinated use of national transmission lines of both the countries and institutional cooperation will be utilized.
78. Investment in power generation, transmission and distribution will be enhanced in order to ensure electrification at all local levels within next two years. An additional 715 MW of electricity will be connected to the national transmission system in the next year by completing the hydropower projects promoted by the government and private sector. Expansion work of national and cross-border power transmission lines with 400 KVA capacities will be started to connecting reservoir-based and river basin projects. Electricity distribution system will be made reliable by expanding and strengthening the electricity distribution system. Electricity services will be provided from micro and small hydropower and solar energy to additional 25,000 households in remote areas that do not have access to national transmission system.
79. Budhi Gandaki Hydroelectricity Project will be constructed with Nepal's own investment. Construction work of West Seti project, Lower Arun project and Seti River-6 will be started.
80. The use of conventional energy will be gradually replaced by encouraging the use of green energy. Charging stations will be set up to promote the use of electric vehicles in collaboration with the private sector. The smart electric meter connection programme will be expanded.
81. Free electric meters will be installed for indigent class to ensure access to energy for all Nepali people. Electricity tariff rate will be reviewed for increasing electricity consumption and gradually displacing the use cooking gas.
82. Policies will be taken to make public service simple, easy, accessible and transparent through effective implementation of the Digital Nepal

Framework, 2076. Under this, the use of paper will be gradually reduced by implementing integrated office management system in all Government agencies from next year.

83. Infrastructure expansion and access enhancement programmes will be expeditiously implemented to provide high speed internet services across the country. The process of launching Nepal's own satellite will be taken forward. Digital literacy program will be carried out as a campaign for safe use of information technology by implementing cyber security system. Social networks using digital transaction will be brought under the purview of law and tax.
84. With the use of Rural Telecommunication Technology Fund, 50 percent concession will be provided on the minimum fee of internet connection to the secondary level community schools and community hospitals across the country from the coming Fiscal Year. Information technology will be used in at least 100 secondary level community schools in all the seven provinces to provide uniform quality education in the selected subjects. Necessary technology will be adopted for providing quality telemedicine services in hospitals in the remote areas.
85. For the capacity building of the human resources working in the field of mass media, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai Mass Media Training Academy will be brought into operation. Postal service will be made timely, modern, competitive and professional. Art, culture, geographical diversity and beauty of Nepal will be promoted at the international level through cinema. Nepal will be promoted and developed as an attractive destination for filming of foreign cinemas. The use of modern technology and capacity enhancement will be made in order to begin security printing works in Nepal.

Honourable Members,

86. Resources and assistance will be garnered from international financial and technical mechanisms by strongly presenting to the world the contribution of Nepal's mountain ranges, ecosystems and forests to climate adaptation and ecological balance. Financial resources will be mobilised from international organisations including Green Climate Fund for minimising the impact of climate change and promotion and expansion of clean and

renewable energy sources and energy efficient technology. Additional benefits will be gained from carbon trading by increasing the carbon absorption capacity.

87. The Glasgow Declaration that aims at reducing deforestation to zero by 2030 will be implemented. In order to achieve the national goal of reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2045, programmes conducted by different agencies will be coordinated. Use of fossil fuel will be replaced by clean and renewable energy sources. An agency capable of implementing climate change and environmental protection issues in an integrated manner and maintaining inter-agency coordination will be established. Institutional arrangements will be made for the implementation of the Second Nationally Determined Contribution and National Adaptation Plan for climate change management at the federal, provincial and local levels. The climate adaptation capacity of the vulnerable community will be enhanced by improving the ecosystem.
88. A balance will be stricken between development and environment. Through sustainable management of forests, increase in income, improvement in livelihood, protection of environment and reduction of deforestation and forest degradation will be made. Tree plantation will be carried out as a campaign. Legal arrangements will be made to make community forest management productive and employment oriented so as to contribute to the economy.
89. Arrangements will be made for self-reliance in forest products, regular supply of timber and development and expansion of forest enterprises through sustainable management of forests. Import of forest products including timber will be discouraged. Conservation and management of high value herbs will be carried out for its commercial production.
90. Illegal trade of wild animals will be strictly controlled. Wildlife habitat improvement, conservation and management programmes will be implemented with priority. Standards for the commercial rearing, breeding and consumption of wild animals will be developed and implemented. Special plan will be implemented for the management of important wildlife including tigers, rhinos and elephants. Wild animal rescue center will be built and operated while minimizing human-wildlife conflict. Necessary

coordination will be made to make all kinds of infrastructure construction wildlife friendly.

91. Under the President Chure Terai-Madhesh Conservation Program, high priority will be given to the overall conservation of the Chure region. Integrated protection and development of Chure region will be done on the basis of upper and lower riparian relations by reviewing the master plan of Chure region. Considering the sensitivity of the Chure area, adequate attention will be given to environmental and watershed protection while developing large projects.
92. Important catchment areas of Koshi, Gandaki, Karnali and Mahakali rivers will be protected and managed. Special programs will be implemented for construction and management of multi-purpose conservation ponds and lakes, protection of water sources, sudden landslide and soil erosion control.
93. River systems will be strengthened. By assessing risks in river flows, water induced disaster risk reduction will be carried out in an integrated manner by prioritizing risks in river systems. The problem of flooding in the border area every year will be solved through integrated conservation and river management from the Chure area.
94. Arrangements will be made to provide quality and reliable information on weather and flood forecast to the emergency operation centers in real time by expanding the automatic water and meteorological measurement system.
95. Standards relating to environmental protection will be revised to make it development-friendly. Sectoral measures and action plan for control of air, noise, water pollution and battery emission pollution will be implemented in major cities. Special programs will be implemented to reduce the loss of life and property and environmental pollution due to fires in settlements, forested slopes and forests.

Honorable Members,

96. A gender responsive system of governance by ensuring proportional representation of women and dalits at all levels of the Government will be ensured. The President Women Upliftment Programme will be made

effective. ending all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination against women and gender and sexual minorities. Immediate rescue, rehabilitation and family reunion and economic empowerment of the victims of violence will be made more effective. Air rescue of pregnant women and lactating mothers at risk in remote areas will be made more systematic.

97. While ensuring the rights of children, everyone's access to basic health, education and nutrition will be increased. Street children free Nepal Campaign will be continued. Child Rehabilitation Centers will be operated in partnership, cooperation and coordination with the province and local level for the protection of children who are victims of violence, need special protection and orphans. While making the juvenile justice system effective, additional juvenile correction home will be constructed and the physical infrastructure of the existing juvenile correction home will be upgraded.
98. Senior citizens and persons with disabilities will be protected. A National Policy on Senior Citizens will be formulated to protect the rights of senior citizens and conduct welfare programs. For protection and self-reliance of persons with disabilities, their access to education, technology and skills will be increased.
99. A District-level coordination unit will be established in cooperation with provincial and local levels to address the problems and protect interests of women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and the gender and sexual minorities.
100. Social organizations will be directed and encouraged to operate in remote areas, targeted groups and areas of national need and priority while ensuring their transparency and social responsibility. Programmes of international non-governmental organizations will be monitored. Federal law will be formulated and implemented for the registration and regulation of associations.

Honorable Members,

101. A quality education system will be developed to produce good, deserving, disciplined and responsible citizens towards the society and the nation and

to increase the knowledge, skills and capacities of the individual to contribute to the development of the society and the nation. Curriculum, teaching methods, testing system and physical infrastructure from basic level to higher level education will be improved.

102. School sector development plan will be implemented for quality, compulsory and free education. Minimum infrastructure construction work will be completed in maximum number of public schools next year. The number of teacher positions will be reviewed on the basis of teacher-student ratio in community schools so that there will be no shortage of teachers in science, mathematics, English and technical subjects. A specialized model school will be brought into operation determining the national standard for quality education.
103. Enhancement of education quality, development of physical infrastructure and extracurricular activities will be undertaken by modifying the President Educational Reform Programme. The mid-day meal programme will be extended to class eight. Health attendants will be provided in community secondary schools in collaboration with the province and local levels.
104. Legal provision will be made to integrate madrasa education with modern education system. Grants being given to educational programmes run by gurukuls, gumbas, madrasas etc. will be linked with the number of students and the level/classes run. Residential schools will be set up at the province level to increase access to quality education for children of dalit, minorities, endangered communities, backward areas, remote and mountainous areas and economically disadvantaged families and children with special needs. Special opportunity will be ensured in education for the children of martyrs and families of disappeared persons, persons injured and disabled in people's movements, and victims of conflict.
105. Incentive programmes will be implemented for increasing student enrollment and access to higher education. Technical schools will be mapped and expanded to all local levels. The curriculum from Class 9 to bachelor's level will be revised to include technical and vocational education. The 'Earning while Studying' programme will be further expanded to link education with skill, skill with labour, labour with employment, employment with production, and production with market.

106. Coordination with the universities operating in Nepal will be made effective. Boards, secretariats, commissions and councils related to education administration will be reviewed, restructured and strengthened as per requirements. The universities to be established on the basis of national importance and need will be supported in building infrastructure.
107. University curriculum will be made research-oriented. Arrangements will be made to conduct public sector studies and research through the universities so as to develop the capacity of the students and the human resource of the university. Priority will be given to procure necessary consultancy services from the university in the implementation of government programmes. Policy will be adopted for determining the grant provided to the universities rating them on the basis of the indicators such as education quality, contribution to research and placement of students into employment.
108. Universities will be gradually developed as the centre of excellence. Investment in higher education will be encouraged so as to provide higher education in specialized subjects and attract foreign students to Nepal. Dadeldhura Medical College will be brought into operation in collaboration with the Far-Western University. A policy will be adopted to establish and operate at least two medical colleges/institutions in each Province. Number of students will be increased in institutions of medical education on the basis of their capacity.
109. Competitiveness of sports persons will be enhanced by organizing basic, national and international level trainings and competitions. Sportsmen will be provided with the opportunity to participate in national and international level trainings and sports. Players will be provided with incentives such as prizes, allowances, insurance and emergency assistance by developing criteria. Scout training will be further expanded. Sports clubs will be established in every school. International competitions of adventure and mountain sports will be organized.
110. A policy will be adopted towards building an international level stadium in each Province with at least one training facility. BP Koirala International Sports Village will be established in Gaundakot. Sports villages will be gradually developed at all local levels. High altitude sports training centre

will be developed. Necessary process of feasibility study of Sports University will be advanced. Construction of Fapla International Cricket Stadium will be started. Conclusion of the remaining construction work of Chitawan's Gautam Buddha International Cricket Stadium will be coordinated and facilitated. Citizens will be encouraged to practice sports, physical exercise, yoga and meditation for the improvement of physical and mental health.

111. A policy will be adopted towards integrating science and technology in all dimensions of development. Science and technology will be developed as an integral part of education system. Institutions and individuals who have made significant contribution in the field of science and technology will be honoured. Scientific research will be promoted up to the provincial level.
112. Arrangements will be made for regulation of radioactive substances and radiation safety to facilitate research, study and investigation on nuclear resources and technology. Forensic laboratory will be upgraded and expanded. BP Koirala Memorial Planetarium Observatory and Science Museum will be upgraded.
113. Digital health programme will be brought into implementation. An integrated electronic health information system will be implemented in all hospitals to manage the health records of every citizen. Arrangement will be made for mandatory audit of deaths during treatment in hospital. Legal provisions will be further strengthened for the protection of health institutions, doctors and health workers. Integrating social health security programme, it will be incorporated into the health insurance programme. Arrangements will be made to provide services from a single point by establishing social service units in all the hospitals. COVID-19 vaccination will be started for the children in the age group of 5 to 11 years.
114. Specialized health care will be ensured for senior citizens. Disease prevention and control will be made effective through public health programmes. Basic laboratory tests for citizens above 40 years of age once a year and free screening for cervical cancer in women will be conducted in all the local level health institutions. Vaccine will be provided to adolescent girls against cervical cancer. Special programmes will be introduced to make breast cancer diagnosis and treatment easier and more accessible.

Government-owned blood banks will be established in all Provinces with the participation of and in coordination with the provinces.

115. Arrangements will be made for making all kinds of specialized tests simple and easy by modernizing and well-equipping the central public health laboratory. Shahid Dharmabhakta National Transplant Centre will be expanded. The private sector will be encouraged and invited to establish specialized health laboratories. Only in case of non-availability of tests within the country, it will be sent abroad for testing.
116. Multi-sectoral action plan for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases will be implemented effectively. Rehabilitation, palliative and counseling centre will be established in every state for persons with physical and mental disabilities and chronic patients including cancer patients. Citizen health campaign will be launched to reduce non-communicable diseases with the participation of citizens. Resistance to anti-microbial drugs will be minimized by implementing 'One Health Strategy'.
117. The rights of workers including respect for labour and dignified labour will be ensured. A policy will be adopted to provide employment opportunities to Nepali labour force in the country. Generation of employment will be encouraged in public and other sector programmes. Skill and employment e-directory will be prepared by developing integrated information system related to employment opportunities available in public, private and cooperative sectors.
118. A policy will be adopted to produce manpower with specialized skill as per the demand of the labour market. Skill development training will be linked with employment and entrepreneurship. A policy will be adopted to reintegrate the returnees from foreign employment into the society by generating employment and entrepreneurship as per their skills.
119. Arrangements will be made for skill development, financial access and training in public and private sector workplaces according to the qualifications and interests of the labour force coming to the labour market every year. All the workers will be integrated in the social security fund.

120. The Prime Minister Employment Programme will be restructured to ensure ownership of all levels. The effectiveness of programmes related to employment, skill development and entrepreneurship will be studied and implemented in an integrated manner.
121. Programme for rescue, rehabilitation and reunification of child labour will be conducted in coordination and cooperation of the centre, province and local level as well as private sector. Provision of labour audit will be made mandatory in all government and private establishments.
122. Labor agreements for foreign employment will be reviewed and employment in new and attractive destination countries will be promoted. Services related to foreign employment will also be provided from Bhairahawa and Pokhara. Foreign employment information system will be upgraded. Fraud in foreign employment will be controlled. Psychosocial counselling services will be provided as per the need through the local level. Relief, rescue and other welfare services provided to Nepali citizens in foreign employment and their families will be availed more effectively through local level.

Honourable Members,

123. On the basis of the Constitution of Nepal and allocation of functions, the provincial and local levels will be empowered to take leadership and ownership of development works while promoting service delivery, financial discipline and good governance. A national action plan on public sector management and good governance will be executed. A policy research lab will be established in the National Planning Commission for overall analysis of public policy. In the next year, the Nepal Living Standard Survey will be concluded and the preliminary works for formulating the 16th Periodic Plan will be initiated.
124. Federal law on the civil service will be enacted in accordance with the federal structure. For improving the performance of the public service by making it highly motivated, impartial, professional, committed and specialized, incentives will be provided. Public officials will be made accountable and responsible towards their assigned responsibilities.

125. Public service delivery will be simplified with necessary coordination, while making it timely and predictable. Development infrastructure will be constructed to ensure completion within the prescribed cost, quantity and quality in a timely manner. A high-level mechanism will be set up to promote e-governance through the simplified and systematic use of information technology. The existing federal administrative structure, on the basis of workload, nature of work and the necessity, will be merged with each other or restructured. The jurisdiction of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration will be reviewed with a view to addressing human resources development aspects.
126. The professional capacity of the Nepali Army will be enhanced. A policy will be adopted for enhancing the capacity of factories producing explosives, arms and ammunition, uniform and other materials required for security and development, while gradually becoming self-sufficient on these materials. Housing construction with basic facilities will be continued for rank and file of the Nepali Army. The National Defense University will be brought into operation.
127. Under the policy of "Protecting people's life and property - Government's priority", the capacity of the Nepal Police, the Armed Police Force and the National Investigation Department will be enhanced for their mobilization for national security management. Immigration and border protection will be made technology-friendly and equipped with modern physical infrastructure.
128. Peace and security will be strengthened as a prerequisite for good governance, service delivery, development and prosperity. The use of modern technology in peace and security, crime investigation and control will be enhanced by strengthening the security information system.
129. For the use of the Nepal Police and the Armed Police Force, accommodations, offices and border outposts (BOP) with facilities will be arranged. A Prison Reform Plan will be implemented to improve the current situation of high number of prisoners/inmates in excess of the capacity, while developing the prison as a correctional facility. An alternative concept of the open prison will be brought into implementation.

130. Disaster preparedness, early warning, response, reconstruction and rehabilitation arrangements will be strengthened so that natural, human and biological disasters including erratic rains, floods, landslides, droughts and fires can be addressed immediately. At all three levels of the Government, volunteers will be mobilized for rescue, emergency resettlement and treatment of those affected by disaster. A Disaster Risk Reduction Financial Strategy will be implemented. Arrangements will be made to conduct trainings related to disaster management in an integrated manner. All security agencies, including the Nepali Army, will be mobilized in a coordinated manner for disaster response and rescue.
131. With a view to addressing the challenges created by the changing nature of crime, the capacity of security forces will be enhanced to control all kinds of crimes including terrorism and organized crime, financial crime, acts of loan shark, cybercrimes and trafficking in drugs. Domestic and international crimes will be controlled by fully utilizing bilateral information sharing mechanisms. By minutely monitoring the activities that could disrupt social goodwill, religious tolerance and social values, all sorts of crimes and financing therein will be discouraged.
132. The Citizenship Bill which is under consideration of the Parliament will be expedited for the approval on the basis of consensus. The National Identity Card will be distributed in a prompt manner, integrating gradually into other public service deliveries. Vital registration, while making it online, will be expanded to the Ward level. A one window system will be applied in the Social Security Programme.
133. For prompt and transparent justice dispensation, citizen's access to justice will be increased with the application of online system. Institutional reform and capacity building will be carried out for the Judicial Committees of the local level. While simplifying free legal aid service, court decisions and orders will be executed with priority.
134. While addressing the overall aspects of truth and reconciliation, justice to victim and reparation, necessary legal reforms and institutional arrangements will be made for the conclusion of the remaining tasks of the peace process.

135. The constitutional bodies will be made more effective and result-oriented by providing them requisite physical infrastructure and resources. The capacity of the Attorney General will be enhanced on criminal investigation, litigation and defence of the government side. Human rights will be protected and promoted including through the institutional strengthening. The obligations arising from the commitments made by Nepal in the international instruments will be fulfilled.
136. While analyzing high-risk areas, institutions and responsibilities for corruption as well as monitoring them effectively, preventive, punitive and promotional measures will be undertaken. The Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority will be strengthened by equipping it with technology and capacity. Through the use of modern technology and new tools, investigations will be made objective and prompt. The National Vigilance Center will be empowered in corruption control and promoting good governance, while discouraging improper acts.
137. An integrated election law will be formulated. An inclusive policy, including in terms of gender, will be implemented in the election management. By the application of modern information technology, necessary arrangements will be made to enable Nepali nationals living abroad use their franchise.
138. For making the audit objective and transparent, the use of information technology and capacity building will be enhanced. Economic transparency and financial discipline will be strictly adhered to, while reducing financial irregularities. Settlement of such irregularities will be conducted as a campaign.

Honorable Members,

139. An independent and balanced foreign policy, founded on the United Nations Charter, Non-Alignment, the Panchsheel, international law and values of world peace, will be implemented. With the national interest at the center, Nepal's relations with the neighbours and friendly countries will be further deepened. The yet-to-be-settled border issues will be resolved through diplomatic channels on the basis of historical treaties, maps, facts and evidence.

140. At the behest of the United Nations, Nepal will continue to increase its contribution for the maintenance of world peace. Nepal's presence in the multilateral and regional forums will be made more meaningful.
141. Economic diplomacy will be mobilized to complement the overall development of Nepal. The capacity of diplomatic missions will be enhanced for trade expansion, tourism promotion, investment attraction and technology transfer. Experiences and expertise of trade experts will be mobilised for trade diplomacy.
142. Protection of rights and interests of the Nepali diaspora and support to those facing hardships will be made more effective. For simplified, easier and more accessible consular services, engagement with the local level will be further expanded. Electronic passports will be issued in an easier way. NRN Cards will be digitized.

**Right Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Right Honorable Chairperson of the National Assembly,
Honorable Members,**

143. The Policy and Programme of the Fiscal Year 2079/80 has fully internalised the aspirations for a prosperous Nepal. The implementation of this Policy and Programme will contribute to building a robust economy by increasing productivity in agricultural, industrial and service sectors. Similarly, this will help to maintain social justice through availability of services such as citizen safety, social protection, education and health.
144. There must be mutual harmony and consensus among all Nepalis in order to achieve social justice with economic prosperity by increasing production, productivity, employment; to make livelihood arrangements for every Nepal befitting the 21st century; to build quality development infrastructure; to combat pandemics like COVID-19; to minimize adverse effects of climate change; and to make the country prosperous. The Government believes that the objectives of this Policy and Programme can be achieved through national consensus and commitment. I am confident that the Government will receive active support from all sides in the implementation of the Policy

and Programme, which prioritizes the country's necessities and economic recovery.

145. In closing, I express my sincere thanks to the political parties, civil servants, workers, the private sector, cooperatives, community sector, civil society, media and all brothers and sisters who have contributed to the national development. I would also like to thank all friendly countries including the neighbours, development partners and non-resident Nepali community for their support to Nepal's development.

Thank you !