

Himalayas to Ocean

01 May, 2026. Vol. 02



Friendship City

Nepal - Australia



Special Edition

METRO INN

Tours & Travels (P.) Ltd.

Pokhara-6, Lakeside



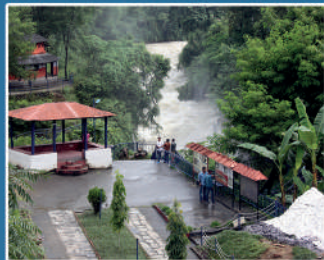
About Pokhara

Pokhara is the paradise of the natural scenery in Nepal. Pokhara is a city on Phewa Lake, in central Nepal. In Pokhara, the Annapurna region is the starting point for the trekking. It gives you a new experience to adventure the Himalaya ranges with a romantic climate. Tal Barahi Temple, a 2-story pagoda, sits on an island in the lake. On the eastern shore. In the city's south, the International Mountain Museum has exhibits on the history of mountaineering and the people of the Himalayas.



How to get to Pokhara?

Pokhara may not seem far from Kathmandu (the cities are only 126 miles / 204 km apart), but the Nepali terrain and road quality make for a very long drive. That's why many travelers opt to fly. Here are your options for traveling between the two cities, either by air or road.



Magnificent Places To Visit In Pokhara

Lakes:

This lake is the second largest lake in Nepal and many water activities like canoeing, boating, swimming, fishing, kayaking and bird watching are done here. There are 9 lakes in pokhara valley. The other lakes are Begnas, Rupa etc.



Devi's Fall



Devi's Fall in Pokhara is an extraordinary waterfall which creates a 500 feet long underground tunnel as it reaches its bottom. A landmark of Pokhara, Devi's waterfall is a must-visit when in Nepal.

Temple & Monuments

There are many temples & monuments in Pokhara, like Tal Barahi, Bindhabasini, Bhadrakali, Pumdikot Old Bazar, Peace Stupa, Kedarwhwor, Tibetan villages etc.



Ticketing & Booking



Domestic and International Flight Ticket, Bus Ticket, Vehicle Booking & Domestic & International Tour Package.

Muktinath:

Muktinath is an acknowledged pilgrimage for both Hindu and Buddhist. "Mukti" translating to "salvation", devotees believe that this is a sacred place to be washed away with all their sins. This site lies at the base of the Thorong La mountain pass in the Mustang district.



Other Activities:



Trekking, Mountaineering, Paragliding, Hiking, Sightseeing, Pony Trek, Ultra Light Flight, Bunjee Jump, Zip Liner, Mountain Flight, Rafting, Boating, Cannoning, Hunting, etc.

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Himalayas to Ocean: Bridging Nepal and Australia

The journey from the Himalayas to the ocean is not merely a story of geographical distance; it is a bridge that connects cultures, relationships, and possibilities. This edition of Himalayas to Ocean Magazine aims to explore and better understand the multidimensional relationship between Nepal and Australia. Through this issue, we have highlighted various aspects of diplomatic, social, economic, and cultural cooperation. Nepal–Australia relations are not limited to government-level interactions; they also encompass people-to-people connections, trade, tourism, and educational exchange. In this context, Nepal’s natural beauty, environmental diversity, and unique landscapes are presented through photographs and descriptions, showcasing the country’s identity to the global community. This edition features international platforms such as Asia Pacific Expo 2026, emphasizing opportunities to promote Nepali products, skills, and potential in the global market. Likewise, meetings and collaboration with Melbourne College reflect the growing expansion of educational ties. From a religious and cultural heritage perspective, the history and activities of the Great Stupa are included, highlighting the importance of spiritual tourism. Similarly, under the friendship city concept, the “Friend City” relationship between Wyndham City in Australia and Godawari

Municipality in Nepal has elevated international cooperation at the local level.

This relationship goes beyond formalities, serving as a strong foundation for cultural exchange, tourism promotion, education, and economic collaboration. Wyndham City, known for its multicultural community, has seen active participation from the Nepali diaspora, making this partnership vibrant and meaningful. On the other hand, Godawari Municipality, with its natural beauty, biodiversity, and cultural heritage, stands as an attractive destination for international collaboration. Highlights from the “Made in Nepal” Expo demonstrate the global reach of Nepali products. Various programs, especially those conducted in collaboration with the Australian Embassy, have further strengthened bilateral relations. Educational visits, cultural exhibitions, and trade partnerships have made the relationship between the two cities more practical and result-oriented.

This edition aspires to strengthen Nepal–Australia relations further while presenting Nepal’s diversity, cultural heritage, and collaborative efforts to the world. It is expected to offer readers knowledge, inspiration, and a fresh perspective.

Dan Ghising
Editorial Coordinator



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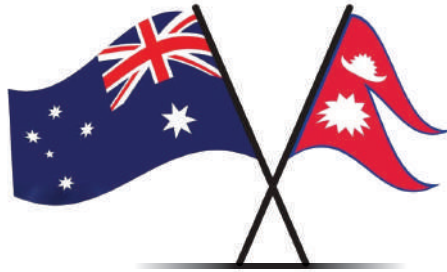
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Dimensions of **Nepal** **Australia** Bilateral Relations

Nepal and Australia established diplomatic relations on 15 February 1960. Since then, the relationship between the two countries has continuously grown into a friendly, cooperative, and multi-dimensional partnership. Australia established a diplomatic mission in Kathmandu, which was later upgraded to the ambassadorial level. Nepal, in turn, established its residential embassy in Canberra, strengthening its official diplomatic presence.

Even before the formal establishment of diplomatic



structured platform for regular dialogue on political, economic, regional, and international issues. This has institutionalized the relationship further.

Economic relations between Nepal and Australia have expanded in trade and investment. Nepal exports carpets, tea, coffee, handicrafts, and other products to Australia, while importing petroleum products, dairy items, and other goods. Trade activities between the two countries have increased in recent years, and various frameworks have been developed to promote trade and investment cooperation, further strengthening future economic potential.

People-to-people relations are a key pillar of Nepal–Australia ties. A large number of people of Nepali origin live in Australia. Similarly, many Nepali students are studying in Australian educational institutions, contributing significantly to educational and cultural exchange between the two countries.

Tourism exchange has also strengthened bilateral relations.

The flow of tourists between Nepal and Australia has enhanced cultural understanding and mutual appreciation.

In the field of development cooperation, Australia has been supporting Nepal in areas such as governance, climate change, gender equality, social inclusion, agriculture, natural resource management, education, and health. These contributions have supported Nepal's sustainable development efforts.

Nepal's economy is based on the service, agriculture, and industrial sectors, with remittances playing a major role. Tourism, agricultural production, and foreign employment are also key components of the economy.

There is also cooperation between Nepal and Australia in the field of human rights, including issues such as refugees, human trafficking, modern slavery, and social inclusion. Continuous dialogue and collaboration exist in these areas.

Overall, Nepal–Australia relations have continuously strengthened across diplomatic, economic, educational, developmental, cultural, and people-to-people dimensions. Educational exchange, development cooperation, and volunteer exchange programs have further deepened this relationship. These areas are expected to make the partnership even stronger, broader, and more sustainable in the future. ♦

The Nepal–Australia Parliamentary Friendship Groups in both countries have played an important role in strengthening people-to-people and parliamentary relations. These groups promote political dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation.

relations, Australia had already been supporting Nepal's development in areas such as health, education, agriculture, forestry, hydropower, governance, civil aviation, and animal husbandry. This early engagement laid a foundation of trust and cooperation between the two countries.

Following the establishment of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM), Nepal and Australia have developed a



Werribee Asia-Pacific Expo 2025 & Community Honours



Melbourne

The Werribee Asia-Pacific Expo 2025 featured the official launch of Power of Habits by Nepali author Dan Ghising, strengthening intellectual and cultural ties between Nepal and Australia.

The Werribee Asia-Pacific Expo 2025 and Made in Nepal Promotion Event concluded this week with the official launch of Power of Habits, a book by Nepali author Dan Ghising. Held at Wyndham City Council premises under the theme "Innovation, Culture & Connection in Asia-Pacific," the event brought together government officials, business leaders, academics and community representatives from across the region.

MP Kathleen Mathews-Ward unveiled the book, commending Ghising's creative insights. The expo featured keynote addresses emphasising the growing significance of Asia-Pacific collaboration in trade, technology, culture and tourism.

Senior officials from Nepal attended, including Godawari Municipality Mayor Gajendra Maharjan and Kathekhola Rural Municipality Mayor Raju Thapa. Space-technology entrepreneur Mohan Tamang, founder of Mach24 Orbitals, was among notable speakers.

A high-level panel discussion included academics from the University of Melbourne and Federation University alongside international



The expo promoted collaboration in trade, technology, tourism, and culture, while effectively showcasing “Made in Nepal” products to an international audience.

experts, covering education, entrepreneurship, cultural diplomacy and regional opportunities. Multiple individuals received community service honours, including Wyndham City Councilors Jennie Barrera,

Jasmine Hills and Larry Zhao, and Merri-bek City Councilor Chris Miles. Additional recipients included Narayan Kandel, Taranjeet Kaur Maharjan and Rachana Shrestha.



The Nepal stall showcased made-in-Nepal products, tourism materials, traditional handicrafts and entrepreneurial innovations, drawing significant visitor engagement. Cultural performances, B2B networking sessions and global market stalls created an inclusive atmosphere throughout the day.

Ghising noted the expo strengthened economic, cultural, tourism and technological ties between Nepal and Australia. ♦

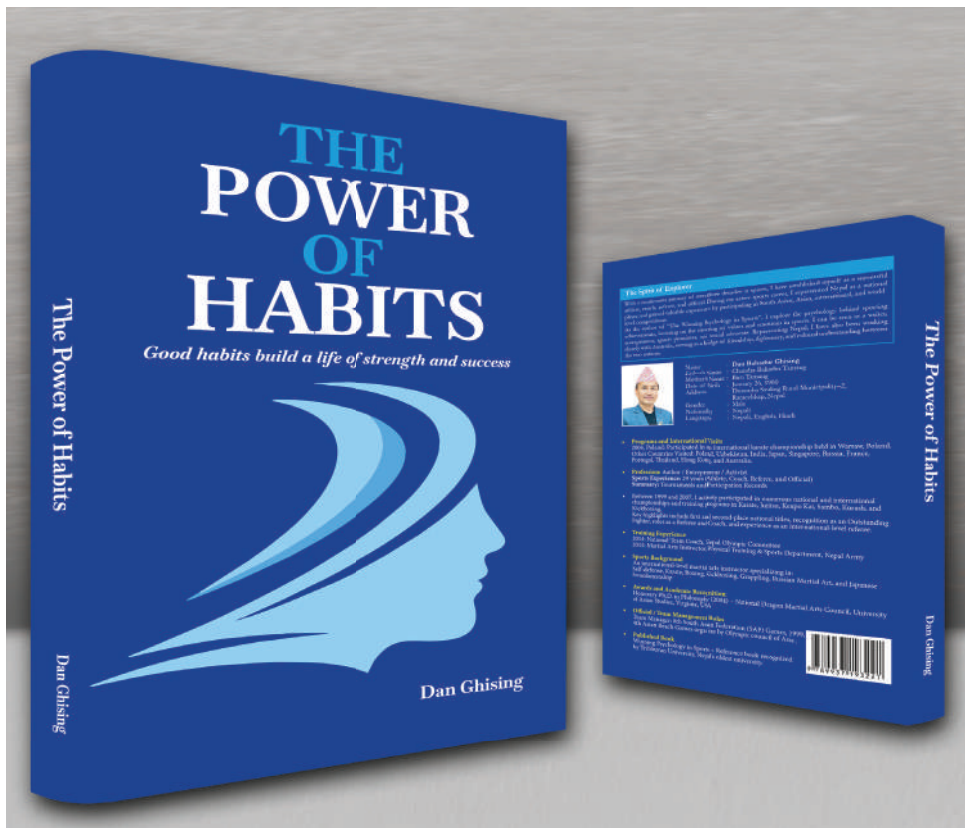


Book Review

The Power of Habits: Good Habits Build a Life of Strength and Success

Dan Ghising's *The Power of Habits* is an inspiring and highly readable exploration of how small, intentional routines can transform a life. Drawing from his early childhood experiences growing up in rural Nepal, Ghising weaves a narrative that feels both deeply personal and universally relatable. His reflections on a humble upbringing, shaped by resilience, discipline, and community, provide a powerful foundation for the book's central message: greatness is built through consistent, everyday choices.

A lifetime devoted to competitive sport gives Ghising a unique voice. As a national and international athlete in karate, jujitsu, and kickboxing, and later as a national team coach for Nepal's Olympic program, he writes with the authority of someone who has lived the principles he teaches. His stories from the dojo, the competition mat, and the global sporting arena make this book much more than theory—it's a lived testament to the habits that build champions. Readers familiar with his earlier work, *Winning Psychology in Sports*, will recognise Ghising's signature blend of mental-skills training and practical wisdom. But



The Power of Habits goes further, expanding beyond the sporting world into everyday life. The book is filled with candid anecdotes, lessons learned through discipline and setbacks, and actionable tips for cultivating both mental and physical wellbeing.

Whether he is describing early morning training rituals, the self-belief required to coach Olympians, or the grounding values passed down in rural Nepal, Ghising consistently returns to one

truth: small habits, repeated with purpose, shape character, success, and a fulfilling life.

The Power of Habits is a motivating read for anyone wanting to strengthen their mindset, improve their wellbeing, or simply understand the power of routine. Dan Ghising has created a book that is uplifting, practical, and rooted in a life lived with intention.

Cr Dr Jennie Barrera
Wyndham city council



Preliminary Meeting on Friendship City Relationship Concluded



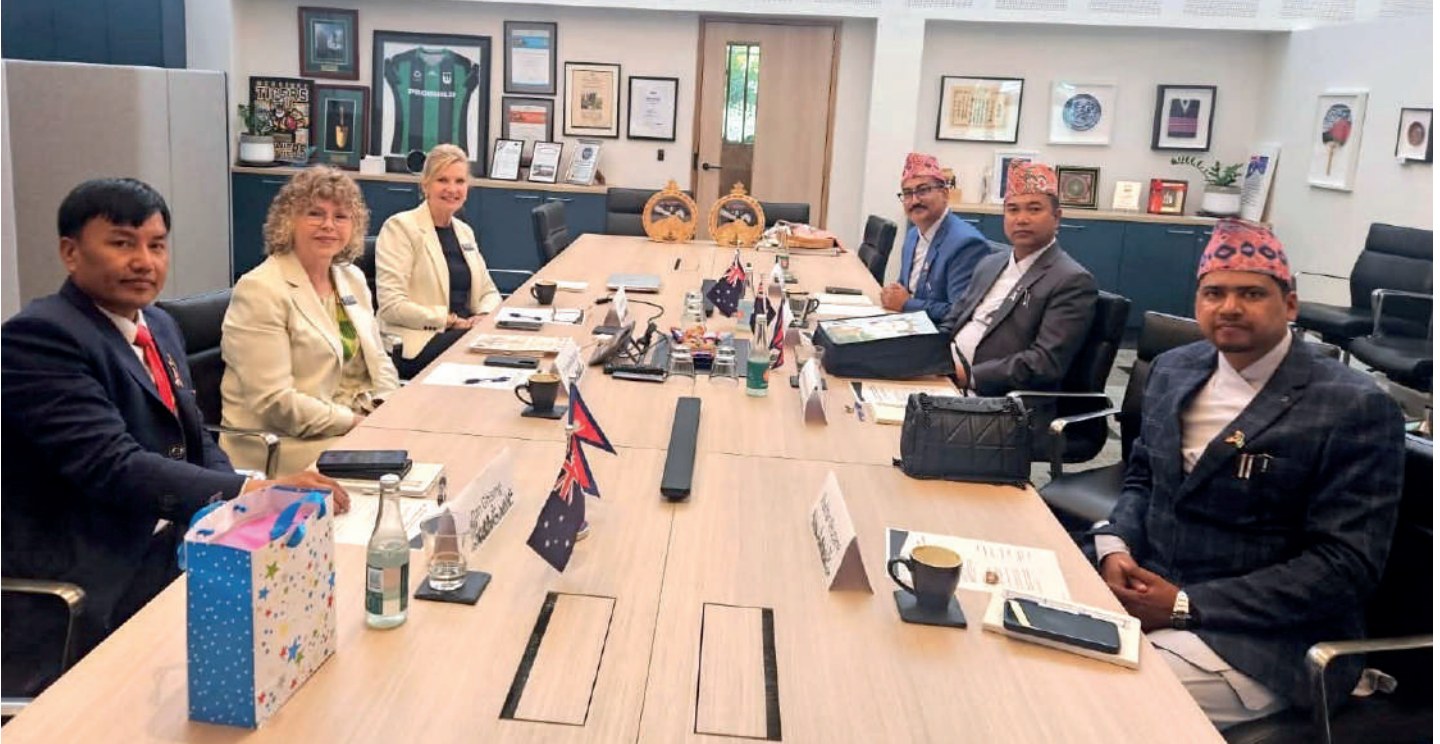
A preliminary meeting was held between Wyndham City Council (Australia) and Godawari Municipality (Nepal) to discuss the establishment of a friendship-city relationship.

Nov. 24, Melbourne

A preliminary meeting was held to discuss the establishment of a friendship-city relationship between Wyndham City Council, Australia, and Godawari Municipality, Nepal. The Godawari delegation, led by Mayor Gajendra Maharjan, took

part in the discussion. From the Wyndham City Council side, Councillor Jenny Barrera was present in person, while the Mayor and Councillor Josh Gilligan joined the meeting virtually.

The meeting focused on strengthening mutual cooperation and exploring areas of shared interest such as cultural exchange, education, community development, and



Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in areas such as cultural exchange, education, and local governance, and Wyndham representatives are expected to visit Godawari in the near future.

local governance. Both sides expressed positive interest in building a long-term partnership through a formal friendship-city agreement. It was also agreed that representatives from Wyndham City Council will visit Godawari Municipality in the near future for further observation, engagement, and collaboration. The meeting marked an important step toward fostering international cooperation and strengthening ties between the two municipalities. ♦





Wyndham City An Overview

Wyndham City is a fast-growing, multicultural area with major suburbs, expanding population, strong economy, and attractions driving tourism, development, and infrastructure demand.

Wyndham City is a rapidly growing Local Government Area located on the southwestern edge of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. It covers an area of approximately 542 square kilometres and has a population exceeding 325,000 people. Centered around Werribee, it is recognized as one of Australia's fastest-growing municipalities.

Location and Geography

Wyndham City lies between metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong, making it a strategically important region for residential and economic development. The area features a mix of urban, suburban, and semi-rural landscapes, along with a 27.4 km coastline along Port Phillip Bay. Its flat terrain has supported rapid urban expansion and large-scale infrastructure development.

Major Suburbs

The municipality includes several key suburbs such as:

- **Werribee**
- **Point Cook**
- **Hoppers**
- **rossing**
- **Tarneit**

These suburbs have experienced significant population growth due to new housing developments and improved connectivity to Melbourne.

Population and Growth

Wyndham City has a population of over 325,000 residents and is one of the fastest-growing areas in Australia. This rapid growth has created strong demand for housing, transport, education, healthcare, and other essential



infrastructure.

The community is highly multicultural, with residents from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds contributing to its vibrant social fabric.

Key Attractions and Features

Wyndham City is home to several well-known

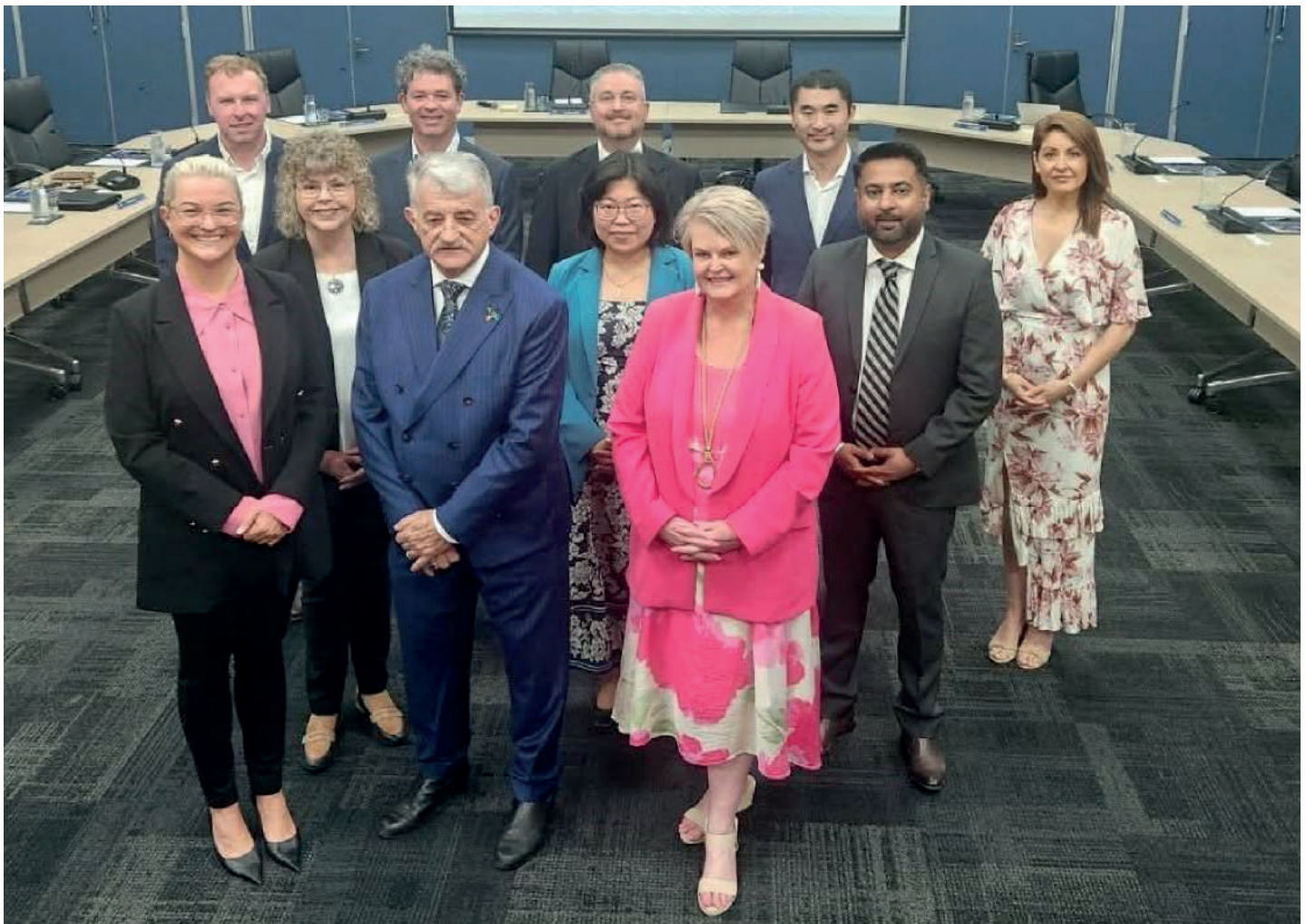
attractions, including:

- Werribee Open Range Zoo
- Werribee Park Mansion and State Rose Garden
- Wyndham Harbour
- Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre

These sites make the region an important destination for tourism, recreation, and cultural activities.

Economy and Development

The economy of Wyndham City is diverse and rapidly expanding. Key sectors include retail, construction, services, education, and small-to-medium enterprises. The area is strongly focused on suburban development, employment creation, and infrastructure expansion to support its growing population. ♦



Wyndham City Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors



Godawari Municipality

An Overview



Godawari Municipality blends natural beauty, cultural heritage, and religious importance, featuring forests, rivers, and sacred sites like Godavari Kunda and Bajrabarahi Temple.

Godawari Municipality is an important municipality located in Lalitpur District under Bagmati Province, Nepal. It lies in the southern part of the Kathmandu Valley and is known for its natural beauty, cultural heritage, religious significance, and rapid urbanization. Due to its proximity to the capital city region and strong development potential, the area is currently undergoing rapid transformation.

The municipality is also a historic, religious, and

tourist destination covering a total area of 96.11 square kilometers. It is a scenic valley surrounded by green hills and forests on all sides, with a climate similar to the Inner Terai region. Important sites such as Godavari Kunda and Bajrabarahi Temple are located here.

Geography and Location

Godawari Municipality extends from the southern hilly region of the Kathmandu Valley to the Terai-facing areas. It has a mixed geographical structure that includes hills, dense



green forests, rivers and streams, and plains near the valley edge.

The main natural resource of the municipality is the Godavari River, from which it gets its name. The rich biodiversity and lush green environment surrounding this river make the area highly attractive and ecologically important.

Geographical Features

Location

The municipality extends from remote and rugged hilly areas of Lalitpur District to the outskirts (Kanthe area) of the Kathmandu Valley.

Topography

The land is mostly hilly and sloping, with large forest-covered areas, including the Godavari Botanical Garden.

Area

The total area is 96.11 square kilometers, out of which Ward No. 6 alone covers 12.49 square kilometers.

Climate

The climate is mainly temperate, with cold winters and moderate summers.

Boundaries

It shares borders with other areas of the Kathmandu Valley as well as southern

Rapid urbanization driven by proximity to Kathmandu Valley is transforming the municipality, boosting housing, infrastructure, economic activity, and population growth while maintaining ecological significance.



Godawari Municipality Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Ward Representatives

municipalities of Lalitpur District.

Population

The municipality is home to people from diverse ethnic, linguistic, and cultural backgrounds, making it socially rich and inclusive. Due to its close connection with the capital city and continuous urban expansion, the population is steadily increasing. The estimated population is around 100,000 over people. Migration and residential development have further accelerated this growth.

Administrative Structure

Godawari Municipality is governed by a municipal executive body. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected representatives. Each ward is managed by a Ward Chairperson and Ward Members. The municipality is responsible for education, health, roads, drinking water,

With diverse communities, rich biodiversity, and strong governance structure, Godawari Municipality is emerging as a key urban center with high development potential in Bagmati Province.

sanitation, urban planning, and social development. This structure ensures participatory, decentralized, and effective local governance.

Key Features and Development

Godawari Municipality is an area of great natural, cultural, religious, and touristic importance. It is rich in forests, green landscapes, biodiversity, and religious sites.

At present, the municipality is experiencing rapid development in housing, road expansion, education, and infrastructure. Its proximity to the Kathmandu Valley has further accelerated urban growth and economic activities.

Conclusion

Overall, Godawari Municipality is a significant municipality that combines natural beauty, cultural and religious importance, and modern urban development. Its strategic location, increasing population, and strong development potential make it an emerging and important urban center for the future. ♦



Godawari Trade Promotion and Dialogue - 2025

Godawari International Trade Promotion & Dialogue - 2025” was successfully organized by Made in Nepal Expo Australia in collaboration with Godawari Municipality. The event marked an important milestone in strengthening economic cooperation, promoting trade opportunities, and building international partnerships. It brought together business leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and community representatives to explore areas of mutual interest and investment potential. The program highlighted local



products, innovation, and cultural exchange while creating a platform for dialogue and collaboration. Overall, the event concluded successfully, opening

a new chapter for Godawari Municipality in advancing economic growth, global connectivity, and long-term development partnerships.



Nepali Delegation Held at the University of Melbourne



A high-level meeting was successfully held at the University of Melbourne, Australia, with the participation of the Mayor and ward chairpersons of Godawari Municipality, Nepal. The meeting was organized

at the Steve Howard Room, Melbourne Connect.

From the University of Melbourne, Professor Muthupandian Ashokkumar, Associate Professor Jagannath Aryal, Associate Professor Felix Hui, and Associate Professor Ranjit Unnithan participated in the meeting.

The Nepali delegation included Mr. Gajendra Maharjan, Mayor of Godawari Municipality; Chairpersons Mr. Shriraj Thapa and Mr. Shekhar Neupane; engineer Mr. Dan Ghising; Mr. David J. Bratke; and entrepreneur Rachana Shrestha.



Collaboration between **University of Melbourne & Godawari**

The agenda of the meeting included a welcome address, an introduction to the university, a presentation from the Faculty of Engineering, and a satellite rocket presentation.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential areas of collaboration between the University of Melbourne and Godawari Municipality in engineering, technology, business development, and local-level innovation. The discussion also focused on future possibilities of technical exchange and cooperation in smart city development, with Godawari Municipality expressing readiness to play an active role in this initiative.



The University of Melbourne and Godawari Municipality in engineering, technology, business development, and local-level innovation.



Journey from the **Himalayas to the Ocean**



Promoting business collaboration, cultural exchange, and engagement between Nepal & Australia.

The International Business Forum and Magazine Launch 2025 was successfully held at the Spark Innovation Hub, Wyndham City Council, Victoria. The event was jointly organized by the Werribee Business and Tourism Association and the Australian

Council for Multicultural Entrepreneurs, with co-partnership from Dhaulagiri Adventure Pvt. Ltd. representing Nepal. A major highlight of the event was the official launch of the quarterly magazine From the Himalayas to the Ocean, which aims to strengthen Nepal-



Emphasised collaboration, cultural engagement, and strengthening international partnerships.

- Ian Green



...In a world often too busy to pause, this summit was a moment of stillness and meaning, a gathering of those who carry both memory and vision...

- Cr. Jesmin



The forum was attended by representatives from various Nepali and Australian organisations.

- Bina Maharjan

Australia relations. The magazine features diverse content covering bilateral relations, diplomacy, culture, trade, tourism, and entrepreneurship. It also showcases inspiring stories of youth initiatives and shared achievements between the two nations.

The forum focused on promoting international business collaboration, cultural exchange, and engagement between Nepal and Australia. Speaking at the event, Walter S. Villagonzalo emphasized that such forums play an important role in fostering dialogue and cooperation among entrepreneurs from different cultural and business backgrounds.

A special felicitation segment, coordinated by Dan Ghising in collaboration with Dhaulagiri Adventure Pvt. Ltd. and Maulika Films Pvt. Ltd., honored Walter S. Villagonzalo, Deborah Dickinson, and Rajendra Maharjan for their valuable contributions.

Remarks were also delivered by former Mayor and Councillor Jennie Barrera, Bina Maharjan, and consultants Jim Grisbert, Ram Kumar Shrestha, Ian Green, and Rinu

Moktan. Speakers highlighted the importance of continued



Emphasised importance of collaboration and cultural engagement between communities.

- Deborah Dickinson

collaboration and cultural engagement. During the program, Dan Ghising also announced the upcoming Werribee Asian Festival, describing it as “not just another event—but a movement.” He further confirmed that the magazine will continue as a regular publication.

The event concluded with remarks from Councillor Jasmine Hill, who thanked all participants and emphasized Wyndham City’s identity as a vibrant multicultural community.



Platforms like this international forum create meaningful opportunities and play a vital role in connecting entrepreneurs from both countries.

- Rajendra Maharjan



We are delighted to extend our sincere greetings and best wishes to this esteemed publication on the occasion of **“Himalayas to Ocean: Bridging Nepal & Australia.”**

We highly appreciate this meaningful initiative that seeks to strengthen **mutual understanding** and open new avenues of **collaboration between Nepal and Australia**. We express our strong interest and readiness to explore opportunities for partnership and cooperation in areas of shared development, **cultural exchange, and sustainable progress**. May this publication serve as a bridge that connects communities, fosters lasting friendship, and inspires future collaboration between our nations.

Wishing you continued success and impactful achievements.

Gandaki Thapa
Chairperson/Mayor
Badigad Rural Municipality
Baglung, Nepal





Meeting with the Australian Deputy Head of Mission

Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Greg Clem stated that it is a matter of great pleasure to see the expansion of people-to-people and city-to-city relations between Australia and Nepal.

A meeting was held at the Australian Embassy. The meeting was attended by Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Greg Clem and Project Manager Ms. Durga Karki. A delegation from Godavari Municipality also

participated in the meeting, led by Mayor Mr. Gajendra Maharjan.

The meeting included important discussions on establishing relations with Wyndham City Council in Australia. The Embassy expressed its

willingness to facilitate and support future cooperation and partnerships.

Discussions were also held regarding the Baby Buddha monument to be constructed by Nepal at the Great Stupa premises located in Bendigo City Council. ♦



Ecotourism in the land of Mt. Everest

A blend of adventure and spirituality



M.B. Khadka, CAO,
Godawari Municipality, Lalitpur

Home to Mount Everest and eight of the world’s fourteen highest peaks, Nepal spans a dramatic altitudinal gradient ranging from tropical lowlands to alpine tundra within a distance of less than 200 kilometers.

Nepal, a Himalayan nation landlocked between India and China, possesses an ecological and cultural richness disproportionate to its geographical size. Home to Mount Everest and eight of the world’s fourteen highest peaks, Nepal spans a dramatic altitudinal gradient ranging from tropical lowlands to alpine tundra within a distance of less than 200 kilometers. This extraordinary biodiversity, combined with a deeply rooted spiritual worldview, positions Nepal uniquely in the global discourse on ecotourism. Unlike many destinations where

sustainable tourism is primarily policy-driven, Nepal offers a philosophical foundation for ecological stewardship embedded in ancient Eastern thought. By blending Himalayan ecology with Vedic environmental ethics—particularly the concept of Deva Rin—Nepal presents a distinctive model for ecotourism that is environmentally responsible, culturally grounded, and economically transformative.

Ecotourism is commonly defined as responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of local communities,

and involves interpretation and education. In Nepal, this definition extends beyond technical sustainability frameworks. Tourism is not merely recreational; it is experiential, often spiritual, and deeply intertwined with local livelihoods. Record says approximately 1.15 million international visitors arrived Nepal in 2024. Tourism contributes roughly 6–7 percent to Nepal’s Gross Domestic Product and supports over one million jobs. These figures demonstrate tourism’s critical role in national development, particularly in rural and mountainous regions where alternative economic opportunities are limited.

A defining characteristic of Nepal’s tourism sector is its heavy reliance on nature-based attractions. Approximately 20–23 percent of Nepal’s total land area is designated as protected areas, including national parks, conservation areas, and wildlife reserves. More than 45 percent of international visitors travel to these protected areas, highlighting the centrality of ecological landscapes in Nepal’s tourism economy. Protected sites such as Sagarmatha National Park, Annapurna Conservation Area, and Chitwan National Park function not only as





biodiversity hotspots but also as engines of local economic growth. Trekking, wildlife safaris, mountaineering, and homestay experiences generate income for guides, porters, lodge owners, farmers, transport operators, and artisans. Park entry fees and conservation permits contribute to environmental management and infrastructure maintenance.

Nepal's conservation achievements are particularly noteworthy in the realm of community forestry. Since the late twentieth century, community forest user groups have been entrusted with the management of significant portions of forest land. This decentralized governance model has contributed to increased forest cover and improved biodiversity outcomes. The integration of community participation in conservation aligns closely with ecotourism principles: local people benefit economically from protecting natural resources, thereby strengthening incentives for sustainable management. In buffer zones around national parks, revenue-sharing mechanisms ensure that a portion of tourism income supports education, healthcare, infrastructure, and alternative livelihood programs. Studies indicate that communities receiving tangible economic benefits from tourism demonstrate stronger support for wildlife conservation and habitat protection.

Despite these achievements, Nepal faces substantial challenges in ensuring that tourism growth remains sustainable. The concentration of visitors in fragile

Nepal's ecotourism integrates Himalayan biodiversity, community forestry, and protected areas, making nature-based tourism a key driver of sustainable national economic development.

high-altitude regions, particularly around Mount Everest, has generated environmental pressures including waste accumulation, trail erosion, and glacier ecosystem disturbance.

Climate change further compounds these vulnerabilities, as rising temperatures accelerate glacial retreat and increase the risk of natural hazards. Additionally, Nepal's average per-tourist spending remains relatively low compared to competing destinations in South and Southeast Asia. These realities underscore the need to shift from a volume-driven tourism model toward a value-based ecotourism strategy emphasizing quality, environmental integrity, and meaningful community engagement.

At this juncture, Nepal's philosophical heritage offers a powerful conceptual resource. The Rig Veda, one of the world's oldest sacred texts, articulates the doctrine of the three debts (Rina) that every human being carries: Deva Rin (debt to the divine or natural forces), Rishi Rin (debt to sages and knowledge), and Pitri Rin (debt to ancestors). Deva Rin is particularly relevant to contemporary ecological

discourse. It emphasizes reverence and responsibility toward the five elemental forces—earth (Prithvi), water (Jal), fire (Agni), air (Vayu), and sky (Akash)—that sustain life. Within this worldview, nature is not a commodity but a sacred trust. Human beings are custodians rather than owners of the environment.

In Nepal, this philosophy is not abstract theology but lived practice. Rivers are worshipped, mountains are revered as deities, forests are protected as sacred spaces, and seasonal rituals honor natural cycles. The Himalayas themselves are regarded as abodes of divine presence. Mount Everest, known locally as Sagarmatha and Chomolungma, symbolizes both physical grandeur and spiritual transcendence. This cultural reverence for landscape can serve as an ethical foundation for ecotourism policy. By framing environmental conservation not only as economic necessity but also as moral duty, Nepal can cultivate a tourism ethos grounded in respect and reciprocity.

Integrating Vedic ecological ethics with modern sustainability frameworks could enhance Nepal's global positioning as a transformative travel destination. Ecotourism experiences that incorporate environmental education, cultural interpretation, and spiritual reflection can deepen visitor engagement. For example, trekking programs may include community dialogues on forest stewardship; wildlife tours may highlight local conservation governance; and pilgrimage circuits may emphasize ecological responsibility alongside spiritual



practice. Such integrative approaches encourage tourists to view themselves as temporary guardians of the landscapes they traverse.

For international partners, including countries such as Australia with strong environmental awareness and outdoor recreation culture, Nepal offers opportunities for collaborative engagement. Academic research partnerships, climate adaptation projects, biodiversity monitoring initiatives, and sustainable infrastructure investments can strengthen Nepal’s ecotourism framework while contributing to global conservation goals. A shared commitment to ecological resilience and community empowerment can transform tourism from transactional exchange into long-term partnership.

Looking forward, Nepal’s ecotourism strategy must prioritize several key areas. First, adopting a “quality over quantity” approach would reduce environmental strain while increasing per-visitor economic value. Second, strengthening local governance and equitable revenue-sharing mechanisms will ensure that communities remain central beneficiaries of tourism development. Third, investing in waste management, renewable energy, and climate-resilient infrastructure will safeguard fragile ecosystems. Finally, embedding philosophical narratives such as Deva Rin into interpretive

programming can distinguish Nepal in an increasingly competitive global tourism market.

In conclusion, Nepal’s ecotourism potential lies not solely in its spectacular mountains, dense forests, and charismatic wildlife, but in the profound synergy between ecology and spirituality. The Himalayas offer breathtaking natural beauty; community conservation models demonstrate practical sustainability; and Vedic philosophy provides ethical depth. Together, these elements form a holistic framework in which environmental protection, cultural heritage, and economic development reinforce one another. In an era marked

Rooted in Vedic philosophy of Deva Rin, Nepal’s tourism uniquely blends spiritual ecology and conservation ethics, promoting nature as sacred responsibility.

by climate uncertainty and ecological degradation, Nepal’s fusion of ancient wisdom and modern conservation offers a compelling vision. Ecotourism, when guided by the strength of spiritual belief, becomes more than responsible travel—it becomes a collective act of honoring and repaying humanity’s debt to nature. ♦

Honoring Mr. Graeme Kent (OAM), Director of Aussie Action Abroad in Australia

Godawari Municipality, 2026

Godawari Municipality has formally honored Mr. Graeme Kent (OAM), Director of Aussie Action Abroad in Australia, by presenting him with a Certificate of Appreciation.

In recognition of his continuous support, dedication, and contributions over more than two decades in Nepal—particularly



in community partnership programs in the areas of housing, education, and health—the municipality has expressed its heartfelt gratitude and respect to him. ♦

Made in Nepal Expo 2026 in Godawari Municipality

The formal program held under Made in Nepal Expo 2026 in Godawari Municipality, Lalitpur has been successfully completed.



The primary objective of the program was promoting Nepali products in Australia.

A review program regarding the friendship-city relationship between Godawari Municipality and Wyndham City Council of Australia was also conducted. During the event, Mayor Gajendra Maharjan and Deputy Mayor Muna Adhikari welcomed Greg Clem, Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian Embassy.



At a special program held in the administrative building, Chief Administrative Officer Man Bahadur Khadka delivered a presentation introducing the municipality and its various initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, Greg Clem stated that high priority has been given to initiatives that connect Australia and Nepal, highlighting broad potential in tourism, commerce, and education sectors. He also expressed special interest in the “Made in Nepal” campaign. As part of the program, a VIP tree plantation was carried out by Greg Clem at the Botanical Garden in Godawari.





Werribee Business & Tourism Association Incorporated:

A Strong Foundation for Local Development



Deborah Dickinson
President – Werribee Business & Tourism Association Incorporated, Australia

In recent times, the organization has also expanded its international relations, engaging in collaborative programs with Nepal and various Asia-Pacific countries.

These initiatives have played an important role in strengthening mutual cooperation, exchanging experiences, and enhancing regional development.



Werribee Business & Tourism Association Incorporated (WBTA), based in Werribee, is an influential non-profit organization that plays a vital role in strengthening local businesses and the tourism sector. Established in 2015, the association brings together business owners, entrepreneurs & tourism stakeholders onto a common platform, promoting collaboration, coordination, and collective growth.

The main objective of WBTA is to protect the interests of local businesses, effectively represent their voices to government bodies, and develop

Werribee as an attractive destination for both business and tourism. The organization conducts various training sessions, workshops, networking events, and promotional campaigns to provide members with opportunities for business expansion and innovation. Initiatives such as “Go Local Werribee” encourage the use of local products and services, helping to boost the regional economy.

A significant part of the organization’s success can be attributed to its leadership. Currently, WBTA is led by its President, Deborah Dickinson, an experienced business coach and a dedicated community leader. Under her leadership, the association has made

notable progress in enhancing collaboration among businesses, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and creating new opportunities for growth.

Deborah Dickinson is known for her inclusive and visionary leadership style. She has taken initiatives that address the real challenges faced by businesses, focusing on practical and sustainable solutions. In particular, she has emphasized digital transformation, the promotion of local entrepreneurship, and strengthening connections within the community. Her active involvement has made WBTA more effective and results-driven.

In recent times, the organization has also expanded its international relations, engaging in collaborative programs with Nepal and various Asia-Pacific countries.

These initiatives have played an important role in strengthening mutual cooperation, exchanging experiences, and enhancing regional development.

In conclusion, WBTA is not just a business organization but also a key pillar contributing to the overall development of the local community. With the capable leadership of Deborah Dickinson, the association is expected to achieve even greater success in the future, further strengthening Werribee’s economic and tourism potential. ♦



A Journey Beyond Tourism

Christina Chia

International Ambassador - Nepal & Australia
Driving tourism, cultural and business connections between Nepal and Australia

Travel is a journey of the soul. Travel has always been something that truly sparkles my joy. Over the years, it has shaped not just where I go but how I see the world and my place within it.

In 2025, my husband and I had the privilege of travelling to Nepal and trekking to Mount Everest Base Camp. The climb was hard, not going to lie. There were moments where every step felt like work, where the air got thinner and the pace slowed right down. But we were very grateful to be trekking alongside experienced incredible guides who looked after us every step of the way. That made all the difference.



What stayed with me wasn't just the climb. It was everything around it... the vastness of the Himalayan mountains, the crisp mountain air that felt so clean and energising and the quiet moments along the way where you just stop and take it all in.

We experienced so much of Nepal along the journey - the culture, the food, the people. There is a humility and warmth that you feel immediately.

There were moments of silence, moments of hard work, and moments where you realise how small you are in something so vast. And I think that's what I've always loved about travel. It shifts you, in ways you don't always expect.

Nepal is a country that stays with you. In a world that feels increasingly fast and uncertain, Nepal offers something rare ... it brings you back to yourself.

As someone who believes strongly in building meaningful connections between Nepal and Australia, I see tourism as more than just a "travel destination".



It is a bridge and a way to connect cultures, support communities and create shared understanding.

The future of tourism in Nepal lies not in scale but in intention. In choosing responsible travel and working with trusted tour operators and local guides who understand the land, respect the culture and create experiences that are personal and real. These are the journeys that stay with you long after you return home.

Nepal is not about ticking off a destination or a place you simply visit. It is a place that stays with you. And for those seeking more than a destination - for those seeking meaning, connection and authenticity - Nepal offers exactly that. ♦



The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion

Rising from the bushland of Myers Flat just outside Bendigo, Victoria, the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion is one of the most ambitious and spiritually significant monuments ever built in the Western world. Inspired by the 15th-century Great Stupa of Gyantse in Tibet, the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion was envisioned not simply as an architectural landmark, but as a living instrument for peace.

The origins of the project trace back to 1981, when Lama Thubten Yeshe visited Bendigo and gave a

master plan for what he described as a future “Dharma city.” His vision included a retreat centre, monastery, lay community and at its heart a Great Stupa dedicated to universal compassion. What seemed at the time an immense undertaking has gradually become reality through steady effort, faith and community support.

Built according to traditional Tibetan design principles, the Stupa symbolises the enlightened mind of the Buddha. Its vast square base represents stability and ethical foundation; the rounded dome reflects limitless

wisdom and compassion; the spire rising skyward symbolises the stages of spiritual realisation. It is not merely symbolic architecture, it is a three-dimensional expression of the path to awakening.

In 1996, His Holiness the Dalai Lama bestowed his blessing and the name “Great Stupa of Universal Compassion.” In 2007, he returned to give the first teaching inside the Stupa to an audience of 2,000 people, describing it as significant for Buddhist spirituality and Tibetan culture and encouraging it to

become a centre for interfaith and science dialogue.

Today, the Great Stupa houses sacred relics of the Buddha and other highly realised masters, making it an important pilgrimage destination. Visitors from around Australia and internationally travel to experience the calm and inspiration that many describe upon arrival.

The surrounding Peace Park expresses the Stupa's commitment to interfaith harmony and shared human values. Designed as a space where traditions meet in mutual respect, the Peace Park includes symbolic plantings, sculptures and contemplative spaces that honour diverse spiritual paths. It has hosted interfaith gatherings, community commemorations and cultural events that bring together leaders and members of many faiths.

Significantly, the site is also home to the first Nepalese temple in Victoria further strengthening the Stupa's role as a centre of multicultural and cross-cultural connection. This living interfaith environment reflects the broader intention that the Stupa serve not only Buddhists, but all who value peace and dialogue.

The Great Stupa is the largest stupa in the Western world, a remarkable achievement born not from institutional wealth, but from devotion, generosity and long-term commitment.

While monumental in scale, the Great Stupa's deeper purpose is subtle yet transformative. As articulated by its founder, the creation of large holy objects in the West reshapes what society perceives as important. Modern urban landscapes are dominated by



symbols of commerce, sport and consumption. The Great Stupa stands as a visible reminder that spirituality, compassion and peace are equally central to human life.

The interior of the Stupa reflects this intention. Intricate Tibetan artwork and sacred iconography surround visitors, while the Kalachakra Mandala ceiling, representing the Wheel of Time and the interconnectedness of all life, offers both visual beauty and philosophical depth. The Holy Relics Exhibition allows visitors to encounter sacred objects that carry profound spiritual significance.

The master plan for the site extends far beyond a single building. Landscaped gardens, circumambulation paths stretching over a kilometre, and future developments including visitor facilities and temples from various Buddhist traditions are all designed to create a holistic spiritual environment. The visitor

journey, from reception centre to landscaped approach, to the Stupa itself is intended as a transition from the ordinary to the contemplative.

Importantly, the Great Stupa works in harmony with nearby Atisha Centre and Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery, forming a growing Buddhist precinct in regional Victoria. Together, these institutions offer teachings, retreats and community engagement that bring the Stupa to life as more than a monument, it is an active centre of learning and practice.

The Great Stupa has also become a significant contributor to regional tourism and multicultural engagement. It welcomes school groups, interfaith gatherings, cultural festivals and international visitors. At its heart, however, its message remains simple: compassion is universal, and peace begins within. ♦



Special Visit of Nepali Delegation to The Great Stupa

Bendigo (Australia) 21 Nov – A special delegation of three local government mayors from Nepal was warmly welcomed at the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion, which is under the protection of Greater Bendigo City, Australia.

During an official ceremony, the Great Stupa and Greater Bendigo City Council conferred the title of ‘Peace and Goodwill Ambassador’ to Dan Ghising, a community leader from Nepal.



According to the Proposal



Nepal side responsibilities:

- ◆ Provide necessary resources for the construction of the memorial
- ◆ Offer design, materials, cultural and architectural suggestions
- ◆ Deploy technical experts

Greater Bendigo City responsibilities:

- ◆ Provide suitable land for the memorial
- ◆ Handle site preparation, permits, infrastructure, and management
- ◆ Ensure cultural sensitivity and environmental protection



This project is expected to elevate Nepal–Australia cultural, religious, and social relations to a new level.

Attending Guests

From Greater Bendigo City:

- ◆ Mayor Cr Thomas Prince
- ◆ Deputy Mayor Cr Karen Corr
- ◆ Cr Abhishek Awasthi
- ◆ Cr Shivali Chatley

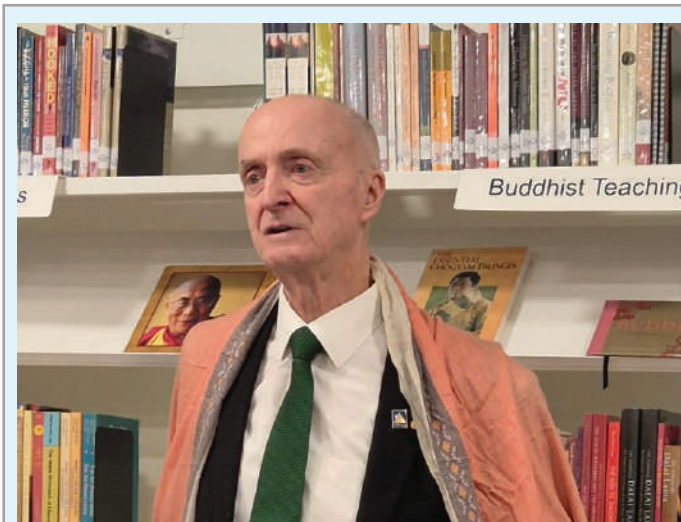
From Nepal:

- ◆ Gajendra Maharjan, Mayor, Godawari Municipality
- ◆ Gandaki Thapa Adhikari, Mayor/Chairperson, Badigad Rural Municipality
- ◆ Raju Thapa, Mayor/Chairperson, Kathekhola Rural Municipality

In addition, a large number of activists and community representatives from Australia, Nepal, and India were present at the event.



Dan Ghising Honoured as ‘Peace and Goodwill Ambassador’ and Ian Green OAM as ‘Bridge of Peace’



Similarly, Ian Green OAM, Chair of the Great Stupa, was honoured with the ‘Bridge of Peace’ award as a symbol of Nepal–Australia friendship.

Visit and Welcome Program

The Nepali delegation visited the Great Stupa complex, Peace Park, and various cultural and religious structures. A large gathering of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, council members of Greater Bendigo City, and the local Nepali community participated in the welcome program, which included cultural exchanges, formal honours, and official speeches.

Key Highlights of the Program

Presentation of the ‘Bridge of Peace’ honour to Ian Green OAM

Special recognition and gifts presented to the three Nepali mayors by Ian Green OAM

Official addresses and exchange of gifts by Greater Bendigo City leadership

Speeches and presentations by Mayor Gajendra Maharjan, Mayor Gandaki Thapa Adhikari, and Mayor Raju Thapa

Initial Agreement on Buddha Memorial Construction (Nepal–Australia MoU)

During the visit, an initial draft of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was presented between the Nepali participating mayors and the Great Stupa regarding the construction of a “Buddha Memorial.”



Bridging Continents

The Shared Vision of Wyndham City (Australia) and Godawari Municipality (Nepal)



Sameer Manandhar
Social Activist / Campaigner

Wyndham and Godawari share growth, community wellbeing, sustainability, cultural unity, education, digital governance, entrepreneurship, and cooperation in trade and knowledge exchange.

In an interconnected world, cities far apart can still share common goals. Wyndham City in Australia and Godawari Municipality in Nepal differ in scale but are united by their focus on growth, community wellbeing, and sustainability.

Both are experiencing rapid development. Wyndham is one of Australia's fastest-growing urban areas, while Godawari is emerging as an important municipality in Lalitpur. Despite infrastructure differences, both aim to build resilient and inclusive communities.

A strong sense of culture and community shapes both cities. Wyndham celebrates its multicultural population through festivals, while Godawari reflects Nepal's rich traditions through local events. In both, culture strengthens unity and identity.

Education and capacity

building are key priorities. Wyndham offers community learning programs, while Godawari is expanding access to education and skills training. This opens opportunities for academic collaboration, including student exchanges and joint programs.

There is also potential for technology and knowledge sharing. Wyndham's experience in digital governance can support Godawari's modernization, while Godawari offers insights in sustainability and community-based development.

Both cities support local businesses and entrepreneurship, creating scope for trade partnerships and exchange. A future collaboration could foster cultural exchange, academic cooperation, and innovation-helping both cities grow together. ♦



Ruby Valley Rural Municipality: A Brief Introduction

Ruby valley Rural Municipality is located in Bagmati Province, Dhading District. Located in the lap of Ganesh Himal. This rural municipality has a total area of 401.85 square kilometers. Geographically, it extends from 84° 50' east to 85° 20' east longitude and 27° 55' north to 28° 33' north latitude.

This rural municipality shares its northern border with Tibet, China, western border with Dharche Rural Municipality, Gorkha, southern border with Khaniyabas and Gangajmuna Rural Municipality and eastern border with Amachodingmo Rural Municipality Rasuwa. This rural municipality is spread from 500

meters above sea level to 7050 meters above sea level. This rural municipality is located about 130 km northwest of the capital Kathmandu.

This rural municipality is the largest rural municipality of Dhading district. It is located at the head of the Ankhu River, which flows incessantly in this village.

Ganesh Himal and Salasungu are the main tourist spots of this rural municipality. The main characteristic of the residents here is unity in religious and cultural



diversity. It is inhabited by Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians. Which reflects the universal culture. The main languages are Tamang, Nepali, Gurung, Newari and Ghale. As the main resident of this village is Tamang. People are performed Tamang's art culture, Dora, Mhendomaya songs. ♦



We extend our heartfelt best wishes to this publication for the important international initiative

“Himalayas to Ocean: Bridging Nepal & Australia”

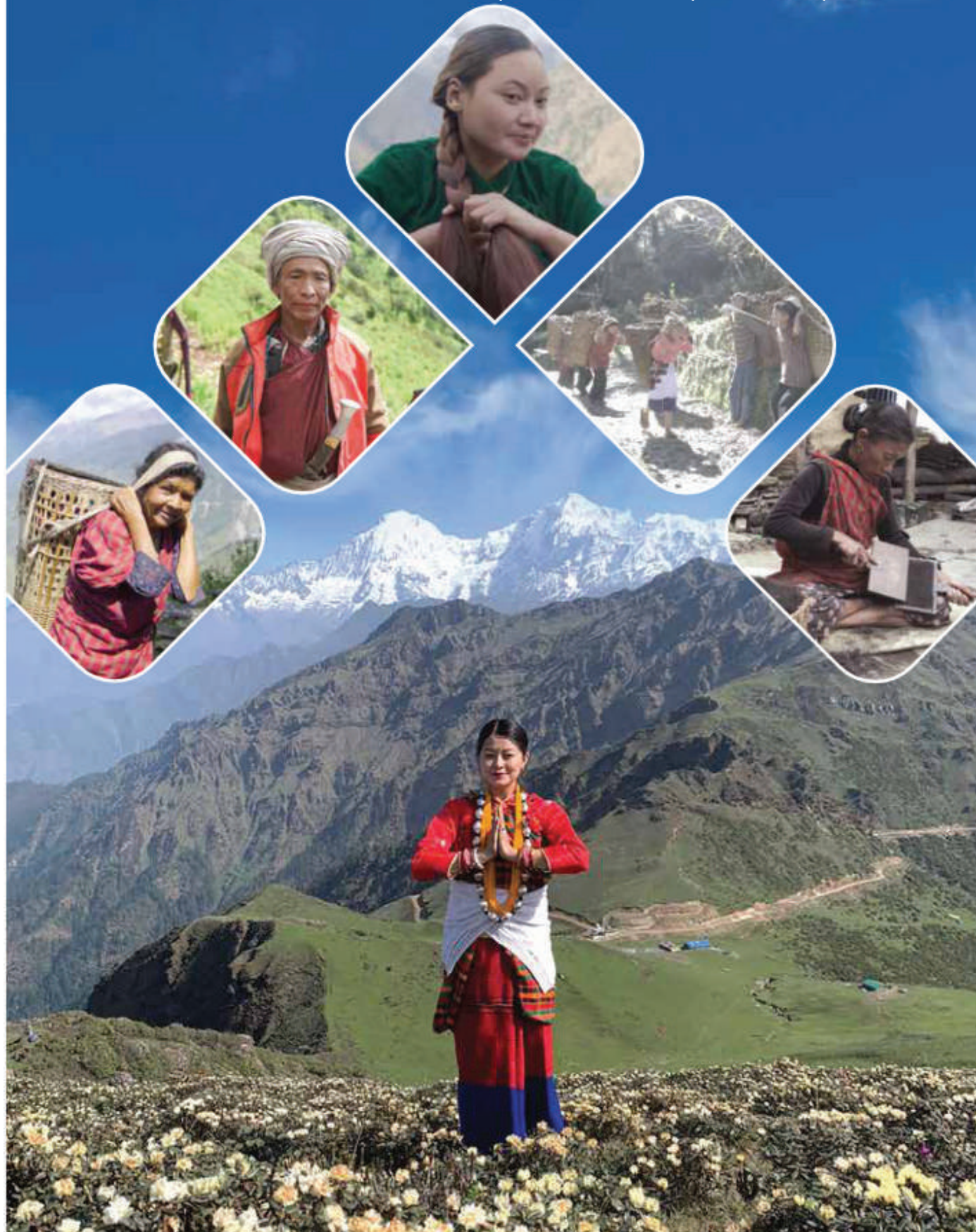
May this magazine successfully highlight the **cultural, social, and economic connections** between **Nepal** and **Australia**, and serve as a meaningful platform to strengthen **friendship, cooperation, and mutual understanding.**

Ram Sing Tamang
Chariperson/Mayor

Ruby Valley Rural Municipality
Dhading, Nepal



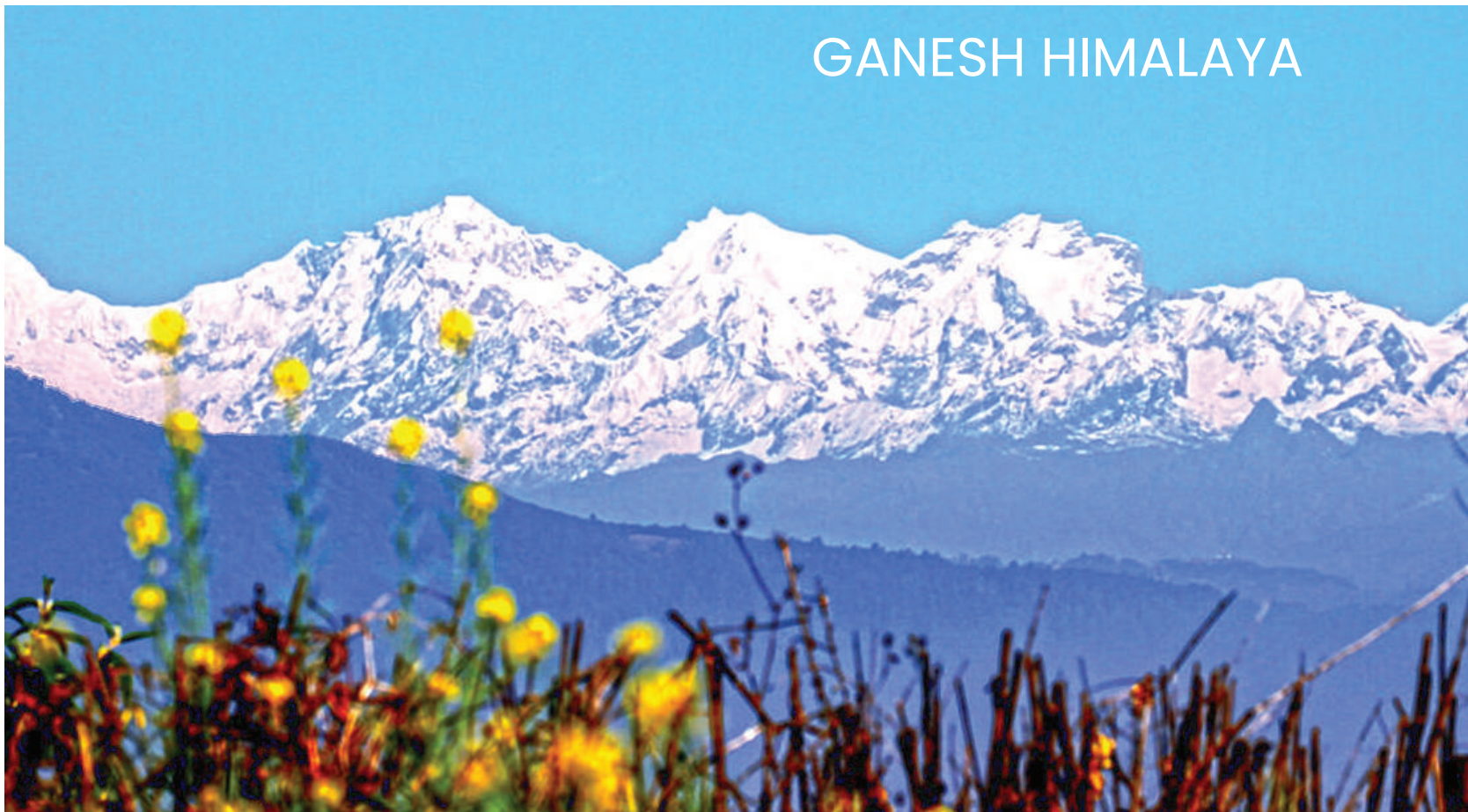
Cultural and lifestyle in Ruby Valley





Mountain Range & Itinerary

GANESH HIMALAYA



Salasungo Himal is also known as Ganesh III, Sangjing Ri, Tsalasungo, Chaglasungo or Kang Lombo. The peak of Salasungo Himal near the border of Nepal (Ruby Valley) and China. Located about 100 km northwest of Kathmandu, this mountain is the main mountain of Dhading district. Salasungo is located about 6 km south of Yangra (Ganesh I). Elder map source give an altitude of 7150m and 7110m, but the altitude of 7043m given by the Finnmap is currently the most widely accepted. This mountain is easy to climb from Ruby Valley Rural Municipality, Dhading.

First Climb

by Hideo Ogura (Japan) Pemba Chiring Sherpa and Dawa Norbu Sherpa (Nepal) 19 October 1979

THE EASIEST WAY

Rock/Snow/Ice Climbing

PARENT RANGE

Ganesh Himal, Himalaya



Strengthening Nepal's Startup Ecosystem



Er. Umesh Kumar Gupta

Executive Director, IEDI

Home to Mount Everest and eight of the world's fourteen highest peaks, Nepal spans a dramatic altitudinal gradient ranging from tropical lowlands to alpine tundra within a distance of less than 200 kilometers.

In the era of innovation, the economic prosperity of any nation is not measured merely by the utilization of resources or the number of industries. Rather, it is measured by how much importance it gives to innovation, how much priority it assigns to entrepreneurship, and how effectively it empowers its young workforce. Developed countries such as the United States, Germany, Israel, Singapore, India, and China have clearly made startups the backbone of their national development. Nepal is also one of these developing nations, where there is a significant number of youths with innovative mindsets. The country also possesses local resources and abundant potential for prosperity.

In Nepal, the concept of startups has become increasingly widespread over the last decade. Entrepreneurs have started new ventures with fresh and innovative ideas in sectors such as digital payment systems, ride-

sharing services, e-commerce, agri-technology, health services, tourism services, and energy, among others. However, the essential elements required to ensure long-term success for such entrepreneurial efforts including policy support, a legal framework, access to investment, business networks, training systems, access to technology, mentoring, coaching, and market expansion are still inadequate. Taking this into account, the Government of Nepal has approved the National Startup Enterprise Policy 2081 to create a startup-friendly environment and ensure effective implementation, while making a meaningful contribution to the national economy. This policy emphasizes providing entrepreneurs engaged in startup businesses with the necessary technology, knowledge, and skills to start their ventures, while also ensuring financial access through the provision of collateral-free subsidized loans.

Primarily, the National Startup Enterprise Policy 2081 has set the goal of achieving four main objectives, which include creating a startup ecosystem and increasing production through job creation, encouraging the establishment and operation of startup enterprises with domestic and foreign investment, promoting partnerships for the development of entrepreneurship through innovation, and providing financial incentives and enhancing access to promote startup enterprises.

For an underdeveloped country like Nepal, while searching for the path to economic prosperity, two important concepts are essentially interlinked: startups and self-employment. Both of these not only make youth self-reliant but also contribute significantly to the economic structure of the country. It is a strategy to create opportunities from villages to cities, increase production, and expand sources of

income generation. The development of startup enterprises in the country has become a new ray of hope.

In this era of innovation, many countries around the world have given policy priority to startups and entrepreneurs, considering them the backbone of economic development. Nepal is also gradually moving forward in this direction. Startups have the capacity to retain the country's youth workforce, increase productivity, create the foundation for sustainable prosperity, contribute to economic development, create employment opportunities within the country, transform innovative ideas into business frameworks, and generate new sources of income. In rural and backward areas, traditional occupations, agriculture-based production, and cultural heritage can be transformed into viable businesses. Globally, Nepal is still at an early stage of startup development. In this context, startups are not merely business initiatives but catalysts for employment generation, a means of import substitution, a tool for increasing production, and a pathway to economic self-reliance.

For the development of entrepreneurship in the country, the Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI), established on 19 Kartik 2053 B.S. under the Industrial Enterprise Development Institute Act, 2053, has been working to promote entrepreneurship in Nepal for nearly 30 years. The Institute has played a positive role through entrepreneurship development, quality management, skilled human resource development, study, research, and sustainable industrial development. Along with the development of industries and businesses, it has also been contributing to the national economy through employment generation.



The Institute has been providing Training of Trainers (ToT) for entrepreneurship development, entrepreneurship training, and counseling services, and has been implementing programs to promote startups since the fiscal year 2080/81. It is making continuous efforts to enable the large number of Nepali workers leaving the country in search of employment to become self-employed by operating small enterprises and businesses with new ideas in their own country and to become economically self-reliant.

The Government of Nepal has been continuously making efforts for the past ten years to encourage youth toward self-employment and to develop a startup culture in the country.

However, due to various reasons, significant results were not seen in the initial phase. In the last three years, the Industrial Enterprise Development Institute has successfully implemented various programs for the promotion of startups and entrepreneurship. It has provided remarkable support by offering innovative entrepreneurs collateral-free loans along with mentoring, coaching, and business promotion services, thereby creating employment opportunities.

Recently, many individuals who returned from working abroad have successfully established businesses in Nepal by starting small enterprises. Similarly, those who have been running family businesses in Nepal for generations can also achieve prosperity through innovation and expansion.

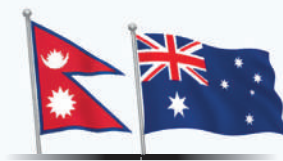
There is growing hope that if individuals acquire entrepreneurship training and skills in Nepal, there will be no need to seek employment abroad. The Institute has already provided specialized entrepreneurship training to approximately 15,000 people. The majority of those who received the training have successfully become self-employed. On average, about 45 percent of the trainees have started or expanded their own businesses. It has been observed that individuals who started businesses after the training, as well as those who received startup loans, have created employment for an average of five people each, including themselves. In the last two fiscal years, the government's policy of providing collateral-free subsidized startup loans at a 3% interest rate has further increased interest in startups.

The Industrial Enterprise Development Institute has been

implementing the Startup Enterprise Loan Program, which is a high priority of the Government of Nepal, since the fiscal year 2080/81. In FY 2080/81, a total of 1,658 proposals were received. The evaluation committee studied the proposals and shortlisted 394 proposals. After a call for proposal presentations, 335 applicants presented within the stipulated time. Based on the evaluation committee's scores and the bank's credit appraisal, 183 proposals that secured more than 50 percent weightage were recommended to Rastriya Banijya Bank for loan disbursement. By the end of FY 2080/81, 165 proposals received startup enterprise loans.

In FY 2081/82, a total of 5,158 proposals were received, of which 1,314 were shortlisted. After presentations, 1,073 applicants participated within the given time. Based on combined evaluations, 661 projects were recommended for loan disbursement, and by the end of Ashad 2082, 600 applicants had received loans.

Similarly, in FY 2082/83, 10,244 project proposals were registered, and the preliminary evaluation process is currently underway.



We extend our heartfelt best wishes to this publication for the important international initiative

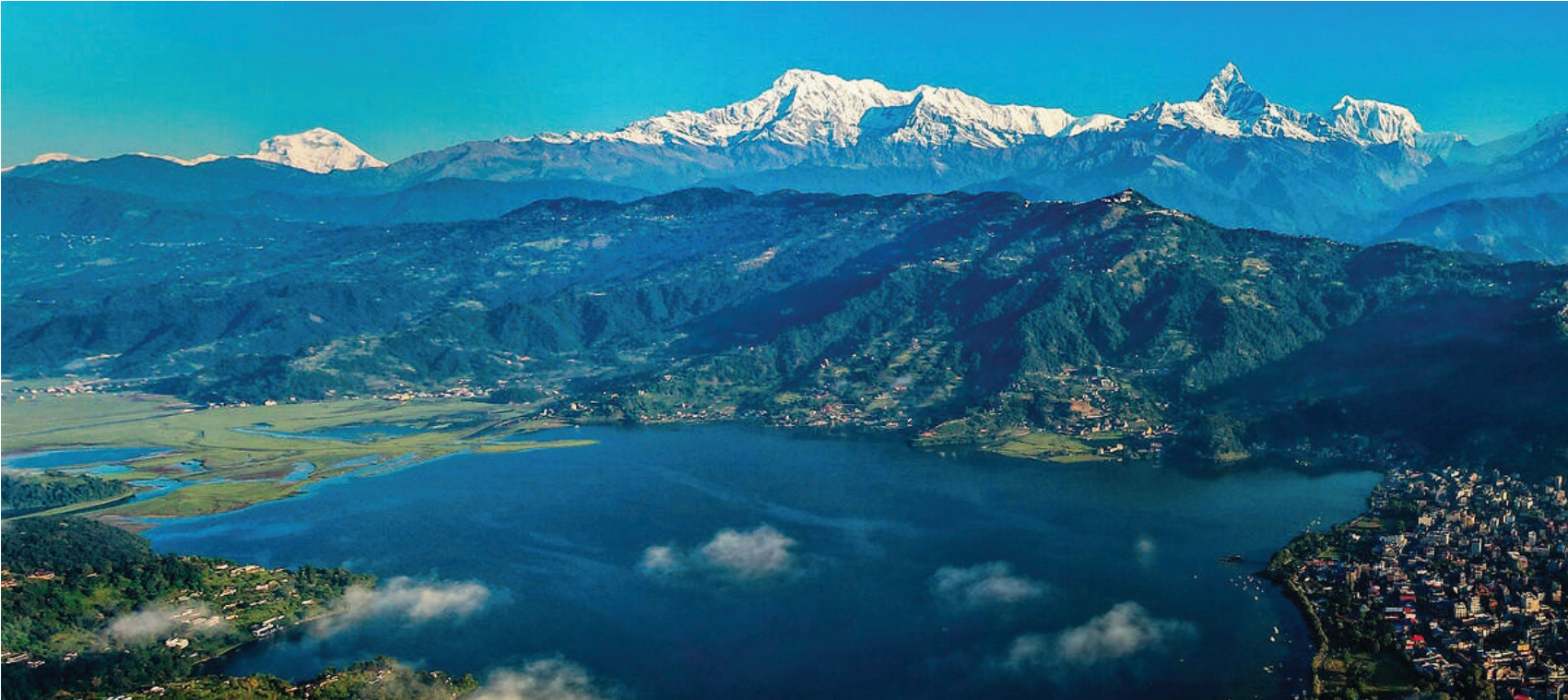
“Himalayas to Ocean: Bridging Nepal & Australia”

May this magazine successfully highlight the **cultural, social, and economic connections** between Nepal and Australia, and serve as a meaningful platform to strengthen **friendship, cooperation, and mutual understanding**.

Umesh Kumar Gupta

Executive Director,

Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI)
Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Supplies, Government of Nepal



Pokhara, the capital of ‘wellness tourism’



Kamala Giri

Tourism Entrepreneur

The word ‘Pokhara’ fills the mind with joy. Not only we Pokharelis, Pokhara is on everyone’s tongue. It is adorned in our eyes. It is beloved. What about only Nepalis, even foreigners from across the seven seas are thrilled when they hear Pokhara.

Truly, our Pokhara is a beautiful gift of nature. A confluence of nature, culture, spirituality and history. A natural health

resort! A source of energy, where wandering around makes your mind fly. Energy increases in your body.

What is not there in our Pokhara? Mountains that seem to be gazing at you without blinking your eyes, lakes where colorful fish swim, caves where bats hang, serpentine mountains, green fields, forests where birds chirp, villages that reflect intimacy, rivers, and smiling people are all our pride.

Not only is the place good, we Pokhara people are also warm-hearted. People of different castes and religions have lived together for centuries. Coexistence and harmony are our specialties. It may look small when looking at the geographical map, but Pokhara itself is vast in terms of diversity. It is smiling like a beautiful flower garden.

Sir, Pokhara itself is the capital of tourism. It was not just declared the capital of tourism, it has many

heritages for tourists to enjoy. There are many types of tourist activities. There is a storehouse of biological, cultural and natural diversity.

Another important thing is that there are facilities for food and accommodation from budget to star hotels. There are restaurants serving Nepali food, from dal bhaat, dhindo to foreign dishes, burgers and pizza. You can eat and drink as you wish. It is easy to access. The road network is good. The air facilities are good. Overall, it is equipped with basic tourist infrastructure.

I feel like Pokhara is becoming younger day by day. Yesterday, there were more tourists enjoying nature and culture. Today, adventure activities have been added. Paragliding, boating, caving, trekking, rafting, bungee jumping, canyoning, ziplining, etc. are making Pokhara more and more youthful. Pokhara itself is



not only an incomparable tourist center, but also a base camp for trekking and mountaineering. From here, you can go to Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, Mardi, Khopra, Punhill, Lomanthang, Kholonsasonthar, Kapuche, and many other places. Religiously, there are many heritages here, especially Hindu and Buddhist. They attract a lot of tourists.

Now it is time for us to emphasize on health tourism. The world is taking a leap forward in development. The development of technology has made daily life easier. However, people's minds are restless due to the daily rush. That is why they are in search of peace.

Pokhara is a holy land. The gods and goddesses reside on the slopes of the mountains here. When you reach there, you get their blessings. Positive vibes come. Therefore, Pokhara can be made a 'dreamland' for those seeking peace. They can be made to do yoga and meditation. Natural treatments can be done. Just walking in clean air gives peace. Forest therapy also makes you concentrate.

A healthy body and mind and mental peace are the symbols of

health. If we can accommodate tourists with basic tourist facilities in our hills, their life philosophy will change. Such a possibility exists in many places like Sarangkot, Kahunkot, Thulakot, Panchase, Pumdibhumdi, Sickles, Brumpudanda, Sundaridanda, Dhampus, Kaskikot. What is needed is the cooperation of local and provincial governments. They should make tourism-friendly policies and regulations and emphasize infrastructure development, packaging, branding and marketing.

As per Nepal's proposal, the United Nations announced April 15 as International Yoga Day. Accordingly, Health Day was celebrated for the first time in the world. The Nepal government has already declared 2027 as the Health Tourism Year. Therefore, this is the right time to brand our Pokhara as a 'wellness destination'. Tourists find happiness in Pokhara. It is becoming a resort city, but recently Pokhara has also become popular for meetings, conferences and meetings. There is a strong potential for 'MICE tourism' here. The government needs to promote

Pokhara as a MICE tourism hub worldwide.

Now we need to focus on increasing employment and income through tourism. Women and men are working hand in hand in the development of Pokhara's tourism. In the past, women were only seen in the kitchen and hotel front desks. Nowadays, we are playing a leading role in tourism activities. There is a need to further increase women's leadership. The world knows that women are a symbol of compassion. Hard work and honesty are their specialties. Therefore, work led by women is more result-oriented. With this belief, we have been actively working in the empowerment of women dedicated to tourism through various organizations including 'TEWAN'.

Recently, we have created an organization called 'Sankalp Nepal' to make a positive contribution in the fields of education, health and tourism. Together, women and men, we are taking the lead in building an egalitarian society. To make our beautiful Pokhara even more beautiful, positive thinking, ideal ideas, transparency and sustainable environment-friendly projects are needed. We are struggling for that.

Let's think deeply for a moment, Pokhara has a lot of things. We have transformed some things into tourism products by carving them well. There are many uncut diamonds here. The responsibility of carving them and introducing them to the world has fallen on our shoulders. Pokhara is benefiting from adventure products and natural beauty.



Heartfelt Greetings!



We extend our heartfelt greetings on the occasion of the establishment of the **Friendship City relationship between Godawari Municipality, Lalitpur, Nepal and Wyndham City Council, Victoria, Australia.**

We also sincerely wish that the agreement to be signed on

5 May 2026 in Wyndham City

remains long-lasting, vibrant, and impactful.

On behalf of the publisher, we **warmly congratulate** both municipalities on this important collaboration.

We believe this partnership will further strengthen

friendship, cooperation, and mutual relations between **Nepal** and **Australia.**

With heartfelt best wishes,
Publisher

Godawari Municipality Delegation Visit - Australia 2026 Strengthening Good Governance with Wyndham City Council

Delegation Members



Man Bahadur Khadka
Chief Executive Officer



Rajan Guragain
Account Department Officer



Jyoti Kumar Maharjan
Assistant to the Mayor



Rakesh Rayamajhi
Officer



Mohan Shyam Maharjan
Store Department

Official Visit Schedule

4 May 2026 (Monday)

Arrival in Australia - Interaction with Nepali community and family

5 May 2026 (Tuesday)

Industry site visit with Council officer
Luncheon and signing of the Friendship City Agreement

6 May 2026 (Wednesday)

Observation of administrative systems and sightseeing, Meeting with CEO
Visit and meeting with the University of Melbourne
Additional meetings with Council representatives

7 May 2026 (Thursday)

Participation in WYNnovation Business Expo
Zoo and beach sightseeing

8 May 2026 (Friday)

Meeting and interaction with business and trade sector
Participation in WBTA "Coffee Catch Up"
Visit Australian College of Agriculture & Horticulture
Visit Werribee Demonstration Farm

9 May 2026 (Saturday)

Participation in Lumbini International Festival, Bendigo

 Nepal



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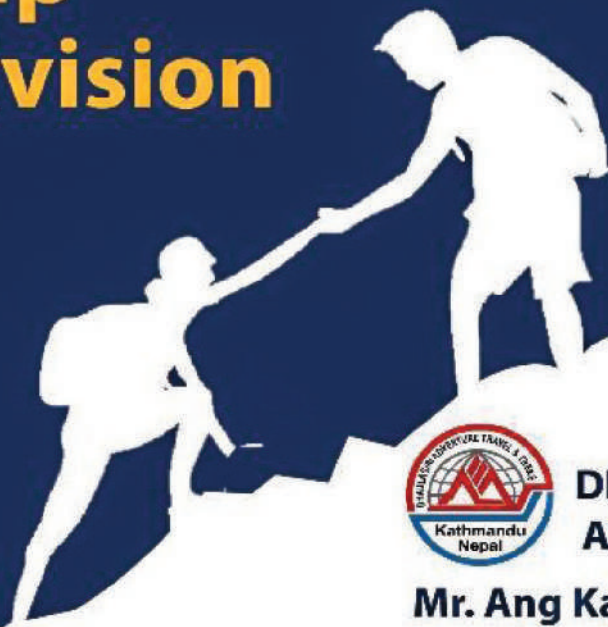
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