



**नेपाली राजदूतावास
नयाँ दिल्ली
EMBASSY OF NEPAL
New Delhi**

Press Release

The 12th meeting of Nepal-India Joint Working Group (JWG) on Border Management was held on 15-16 June 2022 in New Delhi, India. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Fanindra Mani Pokharel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Ashish Kumar, Joint Secretary (Border Management), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

In the meeting, both sides agreed for effective coordination and information sharing among the concerned agencies of both countries to combat trans-border crimes, including fake currencies, smuggling of arms/ammunitions and trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances, trafficking of persons, among others. In addition, the two sides also emphasized on the need for an early completion of the border infrastructure projects like ICPs, roads, motorable bridges, and rail links. Also, the meeting deliberated on the capacity building of law enforcement agencies and immigration officials on the basis of the need and requirements identified by Nepal.

Discussions were also held on the issues of encroachment on no-man's land and missing of boundary pillars. Both sides agreed on the need for clearing encroachment of no-man's land and addressing the issues of missing and damaged boundary pillars with priority. Further, the issues related to cross-border vehicular movement, cooperation on disaster management, inundation problem arising due to border infrastructures including bunds and roads built near the border areas were discussed. The two sides also agreed to enhance screening at the ports/points of entry and exit, as well as for sharing of real time information between the immigration authorities of two countries.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of decisions taken during the 11th meeting of the JWG, held in Pokhara, Nepal in 2015. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the JWG within a year in Nepal at a mutually convenient date.

JWG is a crucial bilateral engagement mechanism that deliberates on important issues related to border management and matters such as encroachment of 'no man's land', damages to boundary pillars (BPs), setting up of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs), Mutual Legal Assistance & Extradition arrangements, curbing illicit trafficking of persons, narcotic drugs & fake currencies, amongst others.

Separately, the leader of the Nepali delegation Mr. Pokharel also held separate meetings on 15 June with Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Home Secretary, as well as with Dr. Dharmendra Singh Gangwar, Secretary, Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Embassy of Nepal
New Delhi
17 June 2022