



A Brief Biography of His Excellency Madhav Kumar Nepal

Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal, was born in, Gaur, Nepal's southern Rautahat district on March 6, 1953 to Mangal Kumar Upadhyaya and Durgadevi Upadhyaya. Nepal went to Sitamarhi in Bihar for studies but had to return home due to illness. He graduated in commerce from Tribhuvan University in 1973 and worked in banking services before joining politics.

Nepal joined the communist movement in 1969 as a member of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) under Pushpa Lal Shrestha, founder of the CPN. During his political career, Nepal spent two years as a political prisoner. In the democratic struggle against the one-party Panchayat System, he remained underground from 1974 to 1989. In 1978, Nepal became a founding politburo member of the Communist Party of Nepal (Marxist Leninist), which later became the United Marxist Leninist. In 1976, he was arrested under the Treason Act and imprisoned for two years.

He played an active role during the first People's Movement and he was one of the members of the commission that drafted the Nepalese constitution in 1990. In 1991 he led the opposition in the National Assembly, the upper house of the Nepalese parliament. In 1995 he became Deputy Prime Minister with foreign and defense ministries under his portfolio in the Nepalese government led by Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari.

Since 1994 he has remained one of the main leaders in Nepalese politics, including his role as the Deputy Prime Minister in the Nepalese

government during the CPN (UML) minority government in 1994-1995 as well as the leader of the Nepalese opposition in the House of Representatives from 1999 to 2002.

Nepal was arrested in 2001 during a crackdown on anti-government protest. Following the palace massacre he called for the then Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala to step down, though later joined forces with him to launch a campaign against King Gyanendra's assumption of executive powers.

With other democratic parties, he played an active role in leading the People's Movement in 2006 that overpowered absolute Monarchy and contributed to the signing of peace agreements with the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), beginning a peace process to end the deadly internal conflict that had entrenched the country for over a decade killing over 13,000 people.

Nepal was the General Secretary of the CPN (UML) until he resigned in April 2008 after remaining in that position for over a decade.

In 2009, Nepal became a member of the Constituent Assembly and was elected chairman of Constitutional Committee of the Constituent Assembly that is entrusted to draft Nepal's new constitution.



After the resignation of the then Prime Minister Prachanda, over the conflict with the president for overthrowing the Army Chief General Rookmangud Katawal, the then Nepali Congress President Late Girija Prasad Koirala had proposed Nepal's name for the post and CPN-UML Chairman Jhalanath Khanal seconded it along with representatives from 22 different parties including key Madhesi group MPRF. On May 25, 2009, he became Prime Minister of Nepal, winning the majority of votes in the Constituents Assembly Elections making him the third communist Prime Minister of Nepal. He played an active role during the first People's Movement and he was one of the members of the commission that drafted the Nepalese constitution in 1990. In 1991 he led the opposition in the National Assembly, the upper house of the Nepalese parliament.

Apart from Nepali and English, Nepal also speaks Hindi and regional dialects of Maithali and Bhojpuri. He is married to Gayatri Nepal with whom he has a daughter and a son.

He dropped his surname Upadhyaya, since it indicates caste, and he is against the caste system. ■





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1. Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal with other Heads of State/Government of SAARC Countries during the 16th SAARC Summit in Thimphu, Bhutan.

2. Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal with Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India.

3. Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and his wife Gayatri Nepal (centre) with Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani.

4. Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal in an audience with His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan.

5. Nepal's Cabinet Meeting held at the Mount Everest Base Camp, led by Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal.

6. Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and his wife Gayatri Nepal (left) with US President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle Obama.