

**Source: Rising Nepal Daily, 12 July 2021**

## **Flood-Damaged Lower Modi-1 Hydel Project Begins Power Production**

*Parbat, July 12* : The Lower Modi-1 hydro power project in Parbat district that was damaged by flood on July 6 night has begun generating electricity from Sunday.

The 10-megawatt hydropower project was damaged due to floods in Sundarekhola at Dobilla in Kushma Municipality-8 and Modi River in the district, according to the United Modi Hydro Power Limited's managing director Upendra Gautam.

The 300-metre stretch of the canal in the Hydel was damaged in the disaster. Over 50 technicians and staffers of the Project worked regularly for a week to repair the flood-damaged hydropower project.

The Hydel produced 9.5 megawatt of electricity on Sunday upon the maintenance, informed Gautam adding that the scale of damaged was evaluated to come around Rs 50 million.

The power production house of the Hydel, however, did not meet the same fate as the sewerage of the Hydel, he said. Details of the damages were being collected and assessed since the water level in the Modi River was still very high.

The swollen Sundarekhola River had swept away a vehicle being used by the Mid-Hill Highway Project on the same day.

**Source: The Himalayan Times, 12 July 2021**

## **IBN, SJVNL ink MoU to develop 679MW Lower Arun Hydro Project**

The Investment Board Nepal (IBN) and India's state-owned SJVN Ltd today signed an agreement to develop the 679-megawatt Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project in the country.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by IBN Chief Executive Officer Sushil Bhatta and SJVNL Managing Director Nand Lal Sharma on behalf of their respective organisations.

Bhatta said signing of the MoU for Lower Arun HEP marked a new milestone in the bilateral ties between Nepal and India and expressed belief that green projects could aid in significantly reducing the carbon emissions that have been making the headlines for causing climate change.

Sharma said SJVNL had bagged the 679-MW Lower Arun HEP through international competitive bidding, which involved big players.

The Lower Arun HEP is located in Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur districts.

The peaking run-of-the-river project will be implemented as per build, own, operate, transfer model.

The company will conduct a detailed project study and submit the detailed project report to the IBN within two years of the MoU signing date. The entire cost of the study will be borne by the company, which will also have to submit monthly progress report to the IBN.

Estimated to cost \$1,300 million (as per the exchange rate of 2017), the project that is scheduled to be completed in four years after commencement of construction activities and is expected to generate 2,625 gigawatt hours of electricity annually.

The pact was signed today in the presence of Nepal Deputy Prime Minister Bishnu Prasad Paudel and Ambassador of India to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra. SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company (SAPDC) CEO Arun Dhiman and SAPDC Chief Financial Officer Jitendra Yadav were also present along with other senior officials from Nepal government and SJVNL.

SJVN started its journey in Nepal in 2008 by signing of the pact for implementation of 900MW Arun-III Project. The project construction activities commenced with laying of the foundation stone jointly by Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and his Indian counterpart PM Narendra Modi in 2018.

It has been reported that Arun III Hydroelectric Project has achieved significant progress in the past three years despite the COVID-19 pandemic, as construction activities of the project are going on in full swing.