

January 2019

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
(VOLUME I)



NO DROP IN THE
PRICE OF CRUDE OIL



BAN ON INDIAN
CURRENCY ABOVE ₹
100



RESTAURANTS TO
STOP LEVY SERVICE
CHARGE

OUTLOOK - NEPAL



Contents

Page

Monetary Updates.....	2
Regulatory Updates.....	2
Industrial Updates (GoN).....	3
Industrial Updates (Private).....	3

Monetary Updates:

Foreign aid in 5 provinces grows

According to the Development Cooperation Report, five out of seven provinces in Nepal saw their foreign aid disbursement grow in the last fiscal year 2017-18. The aid grew from \$ 261.35 million to \$ 308.76 million.

Restriction on Indian Currency

Nepal Rastra Bank on January 21, 2019 issued a circular prohibiting Nepali travellers, banks and financial institutions from holding or carrying and trading Indian bank notes higher than Rs.100. The central bank said in its circular that Indian denominations of Rs.200, Rs.500 and Rs.2,000 cannot be carried and used for trading.



Regulatory Updates:

Plugging Insider Trading

The Securities Board of Nepal is in the process of drafting the **Insider Trading Regulation** that proposes tough criminal penalties for anyone who uses access to confidential, price-sensitive information relating to securities of any company for profit in the stock-market.



Restaurants to stop levying service charge on diners

The Restaurant and Bar Association of Nepal announced on Monday that the **10 percent service charge** added to the meal bill had been made optional, drawing smiles from customers and frowns from restaurant workers. The association said the service charge would be left to the discretion of diners and no longer be mandatory.



Industrial Updates (GoN*):

Nepal Oil needs to recover huge losses

According to the state-owned oil monopoly, the price of crude oil reached \$55.95 per barrel, down from \$80 a few months ago. This steep drop in the international price has allowed the corporation to make some profits for a change, so the domestic prices have not seen any drop as it had been losing more than Rs 1 billion per month previously.



China in for Oil & Gas exploration

The government has decided to allow China to carry out exploration of natural gas and petroleum in different parts of the country, including the southern Tarai plains, beginning natural gas exploration from Dailekh and Palpa districts in the first phase.

Industrial Updates (Private):

Hotel Vivanta opens

The Vivanta Kathmandu has thrown open the doors of its new downtown hotel in Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur. Under CG Hospitality, a hospitality arm of Chaudhary Group and NE Group, the Indian Hotels Company Limited—which owns the Taj Brand—will manage the Vivanta Kathmandu.



Buddha Air preps trial with Kolkata flight

Private carrier Buddha Air announced that they will have three weekly flights on the Kathmandu-Kolkata route from April 15, 2019 as part of its early preparation to enter long-haul international markets by August 2020.



*GoN: Government of Nepal
Source: Outlook (Kathmandu Post)

For more information:**B.K. Agrawal & Co.**

Chartered Accountants
Saraswati Vatika
122, Pannahiti Marg, Sifal
Post Box: 3761
Kathmandu, Nepal.
Tel: +977-1-4-481865, 4-467694
Fax: +977-1-4-480065

Partners:

B.K. Agrawal (bkag@crowe.com.np)
P.K. Swarnkar (pramod.swarnkar@crowe.com.np)
S.M. Shrestha (suresh.shrestha@crowe.com.np)
Nitesh Todi (nitesh.todi@crowe.com.np)

About B.K. Agrawal & Co.

B.K. Agrawal & Co., a partnership firm, was established in 1984 and currently, it comprise of 97 team members including partners and serves mid-to-large companies that are privately-owned, publicly-listed and multinational entities. It has a network of specialists and highly qualified personnel in diverse fields and offers comprehensive services.

B.K. Agrawal & Co. is member of Crowe International (www.crowe.com/np). Crowe International Member Firms provide innovative business solutions in the areas of Assurance, Business Service, Consulting, Corporate Finance, Risk Consulting, Tax and Technology.

Crowe International is the 6th largest accounting and consulting firm in Asia Pacific and ranked 8th largest in the world.

www.crowe.com/np

B.K. Agrawal & Co. is a member of Crowe International, a Swiss verein (Crowe). Each member firm of Crowe is a separate and independent legal entity. B.K. Agrawal & Co. and its affiliates are not responsible or liable for any acts or omissions of Crowe or any other member of Crowe and specifically disclaim any and all responsibility or liability for acts or omissions of Crowe or any other Crowe member.