

**Address by the Right Honourable Prime Minister  
Mr. K P Sharma Oli**

at the Special Ceremony of the Republic Day 2082  
2082 Jestha 15 (28 May 2025), Kathmandu

**Right Honourable President,  
Right Honourable Vice President,  
Right Honourable Chief Justice,  
Right Honourable Speaker of the House of  
Representatives, and  
Right Honourable Chairperson of the National  
Assembly,  
Honourable Deputy Prime Ministers and  
Ministers,  
Honourable Members of the Federal Parliament,  
Heads of Foreign Diplomatic Missions and  
Distinguished Guests,  
People's Representatives and Civil Servants,  
Dear brothers and sisters residing at home and  
abroad,**

Heartfelt greetings and best wishes to you all on the  
occasion of the Republic Day 2082!

Today is a special day for us. It marks the historic date –

2065 Jestha 15 – when, after years of struggle, with the sacrifices of thousands of brothers and sisters, and our collective tireless efforts, Nepal became a democratic republic. In remembrance of that historic day, today we are celebrating the Republic Day.

Republic – it's not something we were given; it's something we achieved –through the sacrifices and dedication of thousands of people. We dismantled the autocratic system ruled by the commands of the crown and established a system where the country is governed by the decisions made from the hearts of the people. This historic milestone achieved by our society is something we must never forget – and we never will.

On this occasion, I express sincere gratitude to all who contributed to establishing and strengthening the republic – our elder generation, esteemed political leaders, judicial officials, civil and security personnel, all public servants, civil society, the media and the general public. As always, I bow with deep respect and offer heartfelt tribute to the brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the people's movement. I also express my respect to all the brothers and sisters who were injured or disabled during the course of the struggle.

The harsh, dark nights before the dawn of the republic may not be in the living memory of today's younger generation. They, who freely express their views on social media – rightly or wrongly – may have only heard stories of how opinions and news were once censored, and telephones and mobile services were shut down. Back then, society was cursed to simply obey royal orders, but today it stands in a position to freely express its opinions and to judge any actions of the government.

Instead of a system where district, village, and town leaders were appointed by royal decree, today the people themselves vote inclusively, electing at least 36,057 representatives from various castes, ethnicities, and communities – from ward members to the President of the country. Due to restrictions on public media under the autocratic regime, crimes and corruption remained hidden in secrecy; however, under the republic, public oversight and transparent information systems have empowered the people to act as judges. Taking advantage of this, autocrats are now trying to portray today's transparency as corrupt by whitewashing the filth that was hidden in yesterday's darkness.

This day reminds us of our journey – the struggles, the shared goals we set, the road we walked together, and

the shared achievements accomplished together. We have come a long way from the poverty, inequality, underdevelopment and backwardness of the past. I urge our rising youth to study the indicators of development during autocracy and compare them with those achieved in the republican era. Together, by making our democratic republic more advanced, disciplined, and robust, we can guide our country on the path to progress.

The debate in our society is not about whether autocracy or the republic is better. There may still be many areas where those of us in formal and informal positions of power must improve our conduct and behavior. The challenges of poverty, unemployment and corruption facing the nation cannot be overcome by seeking an authoritarian ruler wearing a crown. Rather, in a democratic system, the solution lies in honestly electing strong political leaders who can face and address these issues. History bears witness: the monarchy ruled over the people; it did not serve them. The shift from rule to service began with the republic – it is not yet complete.

At various times in history, there were both conflicts and agreements between the autocratic monarchy and

the people. The people defeated the royal autocracy that repeatedly broke agreements made with them and established the republic. Even today, there are efforts to shift the people's power back into the hands of a privileged dynasty. But a society raised on freedom cannot claim a royal command to be greater than the people's vote. The unwarranted privilege of a dynasty that ruled disgracefully for two and a half centuries and pushed the country backward cannot outweigh the sacrifices of thousands of martyrs and the dreams of millions of Nepalis. No one can demand that the people's dreams, born in the fertile soil of freedom, be pinned to the walls of a palace.

While we must remember and reflect on history, we live in the present.

Yesterday, people could only look at Singha Durbar and Narayanhiti Palace from the outside. Today, the people walk through those gates. The republic is the rule of the people – governance by those elected by them, serving them. Yesterday, the radio broadcasted royal commands as news. Today, people's voices echo through social media.

The republic is the people's system. If there are shortcomings, they belong not to the system itself, but to those making the decisions. Only in a republic we do have the means to correct mistakes through the same democratic process. In monarchy, questions were not allowed. In a republic, no one is beyond criticism. Today, you can question the government freely. You can change the government. You can write and speak without fear. You can stand up for your rights, as long as you respect the rights of others. We are in a republic. That freedom and that accountability – *that* is our strength.

We must continue to build and strengthen the republic – not just in words, but in practice. The development momentum we have today – breaking away from autocracy – has been possible because of democracy and republicanism. The social security systems now in place were made possible by the republic. In just 17 years since its establishment, we have seen far greater progress in schools, hospitals, communications, and infrastructure than in the 250 years of the lavish monarchy. If we look beyond the 'sponsored' contents on social media circulated by the apologists of the dynasty, getting benefits of the republican system, and study the real facts, we will see its true picture.

In the republic, every citizen's dignity is protected. We have seen major improvements in education, healthcare, enterprise and employment. More needs to be done, and the government is working actively to achieve it. Good governance, transparency and accountability are the backbone of a republican system, and we are committed to strengthening them, as we are dedicated to fulfilling our national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'.

The republic does not belong to any one party. Its true owner is the people. A democratic republican system of governance is '*of the people, by the people and for the people*'. According to this principle, citizens themselves choose – from the ward level to the President – and can change their representatives. Therefore, the responsibility for good or bad also lies **in all of our hands**. When rights are matched with responsibilities, only then the republic can steer our beautiful country towards development, prosperity and good governance. Today is a day to remind ourselves: Where were our development indicators before the republic? Where are they now? Let us reflect: Where was our Human Development Index before the republic? Where is it now? How many schools and hospitals existed during

the 250 years of monarchy, and how many do we have today? How many kilometres of roads existed then, and how many now? What was the poverty rate, and how much has it decreased? How many people had access to clean drinking water and electricity then, and how many have it today? Where was the standard of living of our people then, and where is it now?

Factual answers to these questions will remind us of the achievements of the republic.

Once again, heartfelt best wishes on the Republic Day 2082!

**Thank you!**