

Article Overview

The Miteri Bridge at Rasuwagadhi is the latest key China-Nepal cross-border bridge, under construction to restore trade and connectivity after recent flood damage.

Historical Context

The Sino-Nepal Friendship Bridge, opened in 1964, was the first major official border crossing between Nepal and China, linking Kodari in Nepal with Zhangmu in China. It was a reinforced concrete arch bridge, approximately 45 meters long and 8 meters wide, and connected to the Araniko Highway leading to Kathmandu . The bridge was badly damaged in the April 2015 earthquake and replaced by a new, wider twin-pier reinforced concrete girder bridge in June 2019 .

Recent Flood Damage

In 2026, the Friendship Bridge at Rasuwagadhi was destroyed by monsoon flooding on the Bhotekoshi River, resulting in 18 people missing and halting all trade between Nepal and China at that crossing . The flood also swept away vehicles, trucks, and houses near the border, causing significant economic losses.

Reconstruction Efforts: Miteri Bridge

To restore connectivity, the Miteri Bridge is under rapid construction at Rasuwagadhi. The Chinese side is prioritizing the project, and officials have indicated that the bridge could be completed within a month, assuming no unforeseen circumstances . The reconstruction is critical, as the previous bridge's destruction caused a revenue loss of approximately 14-15 billion Nepalese rupees due to halted import and export activities .

Broader China-Nepal Infrastructure Cooperation

China and Nepal have been actively reviewing and implementing multiple infrastructure projects, including cross-border highways, power transmission lines, and bridges. Key projects include the Syaphrubesi-Rasuwagadhi Highway repair, the Chilime-Rasuwagadhi-Kerung 220 kV transmission line, and the Nepal-China Cross-border Railway (Jilong-Kathmandu) Project . These initiatives aim to enhance trade, energy cooperation, and regional connectivity, reflecting the strategic importance of Nepal as a landlocked buffer between China and India .

Significance

The reconstruction of bridges like the Miteri Bridge is vital for:

- o Restoring trade and economic activity between Nepal and China.
- o Ensuring safe and reliable transport for local communities and cross-border travelers.
- o Strengthening bilateral cooperation under China-funded infrastructure programs. In summary, the China-Nepal bridge network, historically anchored by the Friendship Bridge and now being reinforced with projects like the Miteri Bridge, plays a crucial role in trade, connectivity, and regional development, with ongoing efforts to mitigate natural disaster impacts and improve infrastructure resilience .

At least 1 fatality and nearly 30 people were reported missing as floods and landslide along the China-Nepal border

Monsoon rains have caused severe flooding in Nepal, sweeping away a key bridge connecting the country with China and leaving 20

According to the National Disaster Reduction and Management Authority, the Miteri bridge that connects Nepal and China at

A mountain river flooded by monsoon rains swept away the main bridge connecting Nepal with China on Tuesday, leaving 18 people

At least 18 people were swept away in Nepal as a flooded mountain river destroyed the main

A mountain river flooded by monsoon rains swept away the main bridge connecting Nepal with China, and 18 people

China has started construction of a temporary bridge at Rasuwagadhi-Kerung customs

Nepalese women carry the suitcases of package tourists entering China across the Sino-Nepalese Friendship Bridge. In addition,

Floods triggered by torrential rains in Nepal tore down a Himalayan mountain valley, sweeping away 18 people and

A mountain river flooded by monsoon rains swept away the main bridge connecting Nepal with China on Tuesday,

In response to Nepal's request, China has begun preparations to construct a temporary

National Temporary bridge at Rasuwagadhi will be ready before Dashain, officials say China

Nepalis have complained that China's breaches of the border threaten their

With the Miteri Bridge still under repairs after being swept away in July and China

Bhotekoshi River has been swept away the Bailey bridge connecting Nepal's Tatopani border with China, effectively

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