

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala: A brief profile

Rt. Hon'ble Sushil Koirala, is the 37th Prime Minister of Nepal, elected by more than two thirds majority of the Parliament on February 10, 2014.

Mr. Koirala was born on 12 August 1939 in Biratnagar to father Bodha Prasad Koirala and mother Kumudini Devi Koirala. His political career spans over six decades. Inspired by the ideology of the legendary leader B. P. Koirala's "*Nationalism, Democracy, and Socialism*," he took an early plunge into democratic movement in 1954, and obtained the membership of the Nepali Congress (NC) Party the same year. He actively participated in *Bhadra Abagya Aandalon*, (Civil Disobedience Movement) launched in 1958 by NC. He devoted himself for the success of the first ever general elections to the Parliament of Nepal held in 1959 that scored a landslide with more than two thirds of the seats in Lower House of Parliament and established the NC as the trailblazer of democracy, freedom and development in the country.

Mr. Koirala has been the victim of political repression following the *coup d'etat* staged by the King against the elected government in 1960. He was forced to live in exile for nearly two decades. While in exile, he was an editor of the *Tarun* Magazine, a thought provoking mouthpiece of Nepali Congress Party published from Varanasi, India. Following the declaration of national referendum in May 1979 by King Birendra to decide on the question of political system for Nepal, he followed BP Koirala and returned to Nepal. The referendum results favoured retaining the King led Partyless Panchayat system amid widespread charges of vote rigging. Because of his democratic commitments, he was jailed repeatedly for over 7 years. He remained at the forefronts of all democratic movements launched by NC against the tyrannical rule in Nepal starting from the 104-year long Rana oligarchy. He actively provided leadership during democratic movements against the Kings' autocratic regimes including the *Satyagraha*, (peaceful civic disobedience movement) in 1985, and *Jana Andolan* (popular People's Movement) of 1990 that turned absolute monarchy into constitutional.

Mr. Koirala became a member of the Congress Working Committee - (party highest functionary) in 1989, and the Chief of the International Relations Department of the NC Party in 1990. Koirala was first elected to the House of Representatives from Banke -3 in 1991 general election that was held after the abolition of the partyless Panchayat system. He was subsequently elected to the House in 1999 from the same constituency. He worked actively in various parliamentary committees including Foreign Relations and Human Right Committee.

Mr. Koirala became the General Secretary of NC Party in 1996 and subsequently the Vice President of the Party in 1998. He was at the forefront during the *Jana Andolan II* that started after the King imposed direct rule and imprisoned party leaders including Koirala on February 1, 2005. This movement was supported by other Six Political Parties, popularly known as Seven Party Alliance (SPA). It compelled the King to reinstate the dissolved House of Representatives. After *Jana Andolan II*, Mr. Koirala assumed the responsibilities of the Acting President of the NC Party in 2008. He was elected to the same position in September 2010 by the General Convention of the Party.

Koirala has been the *Founder President* of the Democratic Thought Society/ Centre for Consolidation of Democracy, *Founder President*: BP Koirala Memorial Trust and a *Patron* of the B.P. Koirala Memorial Museum, Sundarimal Kathmandu. He has a book (edited): *Democracy Indispensable for Development: BP Koirala*, published by Sandaju Publications, from Varanasi, India, in 1983.

Mr. Koirala represented the Nepali Congress Party in several international conference and Seminars, attended the Labor Party Conference, Sheffield, UK, in 1984, and participated in Socialist International Conference in New York 1996. He was leader of the delegation to the Asia-Pacific Meeting of Socialist International (SI) in Japan in 1996, and the Socialist International XIV Convention Paris, France in 1996. He was the leader of the first and third International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2002, and Beijing, China in 2004. Koirala was a member of delegation to the 6th SAARC Summit held in Colombo Sri Lanka.

Mr. Koirala is well regarded for his frugality and simple life, honesty, commitment and dedication. His only goal in life and the commitment is to make *Nepal a peaceful and prosperous country within an overall framework of democratic polity, and bring smile and happiness in the face of Nepali People*. He seeks to realize his vision through proper utilization of natural resources of Nepal including the development of water resources, agriculture, and tourism potentials in the country. He considers quality education, human resource development and involvement of people in development process as the key for democratic and prosperous Nepal.

Mr. Koirala was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Banke-3 and Chitwan -4 with overwhelming majority of votes in November 2013 Constituent Assembly elections. He was elected to be the Leader of Parliamentary Party of Nepali Congress, and subsequently the Prime Minister of Nepal on February 10, 2014 by more than two thirds majority of the Parliament.

Mr. Koirala has struggled throughout his life for the institutionalization of democratic pluralism in Nepal. His determination and dedication to democracy and development are firmly embedded in his firm belief that democracy is indispensable for sustainable, equitable and inclusive development. He sees the growing gaps between the haves and have-nots as the biggest threat to peace, stability, democracy, and development. He is firmly committed to the defense of human dignity under all circumstances, and to justice and humanity. Mr. Koirala's top priority is to have a democratic constitution promulgated through the elected Constituent Assembly, conclude the peace process, end the protracted political transition in the country and put the country on the path of democracy and development.

Mr. Koirala is unmarried and has no property of his own.

April 2014.