

Unit-6**Lesson 1: Nepal, the land of Everest****A Read the following passage on Nepal.**

a Known as the Land of Everest, Nepal is one of the most charming countries in Asia. It is also known as the only Hindu Kingdom in the world. The Kingdom of Nepal is a small land of sublime beauty. It has some of the world's best and very important temples. It is a country that is rich in scenic luxury and cultural treasures.



b Nepal lies between India and the Tibetan part of China. This small country has an area of 147,181 square kilometers. Southern Nepal is tropical lowland known as the *Tarai Plain*. This part of Nepal has hot summers and warm winters. Here the temperatures reach up to 40°C in April and May and monsoon rains drench this region from June to September. The central hill-lands including the Kathmandu and Pokhara valleys have a temperate climate and are also influenced by the monsoon. North of that is the slope of the main section of the Himalayan range. This part of Nepal has some of the highest peaks of the world including Everest.



Nepal is home to nearly 29,000,000 people. The population is primarily rural. Kathmandu, the capital city, has less than one million inhabitants. Nepal's demographic features are complicated not only by dozens of ethnic groups, but by different castes. In total, there are 103 castes and ethnic groups living in this small country. The two largest of such groups are known as *Chetri* and *Bahun*. Others include *Magar*, *Tharu* and *Tamang*, *Newar*, *Muslim*, *Gurung* and *Damai*. About 48 percent of the people speak *Nepali*. Among other languages spoken are *Maithali*, *Bhojpuri*, *Tharu* and *Tamang*.

d Nepal is the holy land of Lord Pashupatinath and Gautam Buddha where the Hindus and Buddhists have lived together in harmony for centuries. The Temple of Pashupatinath is the most sacred Hindu shrine and one of the four most important cities in the world for Shiva worshippers. Lord Buddha, the light of Asia, was born in Lumbini in Nepal's southern plains, which makes this a sacred pilgrimage destination for the Buddhists as well. In fact, many Nepalese combine Hindu and Buddhist practices; many temples and shrines are shared between the two faiths, and some deities are worshipped by both Hindus and Buddhists.

e The Kathmandu Valley is the rich cultural heritage centre of Nepal. The three ancient cities of the Valley-Patan, Kathmandu and Bhaktapur- represent an epitome of harmony in urban design, elegant architecture and refined culture. These cities are famous for religious monuments unequalled in the world. The seven monument zones situated within the Valley have been named as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

f Adding dazzling colour to Nepal's vibrant culture are the many festivals that are celebrated throughout the year. *Dasain* or *dusherra* is celebrated nationwide in October. This is the most important of all Nepalese celebration and includes the biggest animal sacrifice of the year. *Tihar* is celebrated in November. Other festivals include the *Holi* and *Chaitra Daisan*. Some Hindu festivals are the 84 English For Today