



# Madheshi Association in America (MAA)

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Date: 4/30/2020

## Press Release

Dear all,

Madheshi Association in America (MAA) is organizing second virtual panel discussion program on COVID-19 pandemic which will be focused on COVID-19's impact on social, economic and mental health, and supports. The program will be live and broadcasted through MAA Facebook page at 11:30am EST on Saturday, May 2, 2020. We would like to request everyone to watch and participate in the program. It will be a very informative program. Please see below for the speakers who will be in the panel discussion.

- 1) Mr. Amit P. Shah, BPH (Moderator, COVID-19 survivor)
- 2) Mr. Pushpa Raj Bhattarai, Consul General of Nepal (Speaker)
- 3) Mr. Harry Bhandari, Member of Maryland House of Delegates (Speaker)
- 4) Mr. Ram Naresh Pandey, Medical Researcher/ MAA President (Speaker)
- 5) Dr. Bisundev Mahato, MD (Speaker)

**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**  
Social / Economic / Mental Health Impacts & Support

**PANELISTS**

Mr. Pushpa Raj Bhattarai  
Consul General of Nepal  
New York, USA

Mr. Harry Bhandari  
Member of Maryland  
House of Delegates

Mr. Ram Naresh Pandey  
Medical Researcher / MAA President

Dr. Bisundev Mahato, MD  
Harvard Medical Graduate /  
Res. Psychiatrist, ORMC

**Moderated By:**  
Amit P. Shah, BPH  
COVID-19 Survivor

11.30 Am EST Saturday, May 2, 2020

**LIVE** <https://www.facebook.com/maamadhesh/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/314097028657417/?ref=share>  
Several US based Nepali Media will live broadcast this webinar.

Organized by: Madheshi Association in America (MAA) / [www.maamadhesh.org](http://www.maamadhesh.org)  
Media / Tech Support: Mohammad Rafid / Sangit Rauniyar / Navin Sah / Raj Sarraf

Facebook link to watch live: <https://www.facebook.com/maamadhesh/>  
Please see below for brief information about the moderator and panelists.

## **Moderated By: Mr. Amit Shah, BPH / COVID-19 Survivor**

A public health professional and well known Nepalese American social entrepreneur, Mr. Amit Shah (AP Shah), who lives in New York is a COVID-19 Survivor. Further, Mr. Shah is a very young, energetic and approachable community organizer and have been associated with different community organizations as well. Currently, Mr. Shah is working as Director of Asian American Business Affair of Greater New York Chamber of Commerce which is one of the largest Chamber serving 30,000 plus business in Greater New York, USA.



# Madheshi Association in America (MAA)

## Distinguished Panelists:

### **Mr. Pushpa Raj Bhattarai, Consul General of Nepal, NY, USA**

Joined Foreign Ministry in March 1996. Served in various diplomatic posts abroad: The Permanent Mission of Nepal, Geneva, Switzerland from 1999 to 2003. Nepali Embassy in Saudi Arabia from 2006 to 2009. Nepali Embassy in Kuwait from 2010 to 2013. Currently working as, Consulate General of Nepal in New York from May 2016.

### **Mr. Harry Bhandari, Member of Maryland House of Delegates**

First Nepalese American state legislator in the U.S. He is a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, representing the 8th district since 2019. He is also the Maryland Democratic State Central Committee member. He is also former national secretary of Young Democrats of America, Minority Caucus. Recently, he was covered in the national EDUCATION WEEK for his bill that became the law in the state of Maryland.

### **Mr. Ram Naresh Pandey, Medical Researcher / MAA President**

Doing Research in Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center as a Senior Research Assistant from 2009 to investigate mechanism of cancer and pulmonary hypertension of specific proteins to develop drugs against cancer, pulmonary hypertension, and protection against the blindness of diabetic persons. He is currently serving as president of MAA central committee.

### **Dr. Bisundev Mahato, MD**

Harvard Medical School graduate, Dr. Mahato is currently a second-year psychiatry resident at Orange Regional Medical Center (ORMC), NY. He serves there as the Associate Academic Chief Resident, in path to serve as the Academic Chief Resident next year.

Dr. Mahato's academic journey in the U.S. started at Brown University. Later he transferred to and graduated with an undergraduate degree in Economics from Harvard. Following that he worked as economics consultant, before joining Commonwealth Fund and the Department of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University as a Senior Economics Programmer. He also served as a teaching fellow at Columbia's Executive MPH program, co-teaching a course in health economics. Dr. Mahato attended Harvard medical school and graduated in 2015. Dr. Mahato has active California medical license. Prior to starting his psychiatry residency, he worked as a general physician there.

Thanks,  
Sangit Rauniyar  
General Secretary, MAA  
Ph:(682) 583-8150  
[www.maamadhesh.org](http://www.maamadhesh.org)

*MAA is a non-profit and non-political organization of Nepalese Madheshis in the USA which promotes the identity and culture of Madheshis, and facilitates as a platform to network among Madheshis in the USA. It also coordinates with other Nepalese & Non-Nepalese organizations in the USA and abroad to work for the communities.*

Webpage: [www.maamadhesh.org](http://www.maamadhesh.org), Email: [info@maamadhesh.org](mailto:info@maamadhesh.org), Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/maamadhesh/>