

# Crossing the Divide: How a Bridge Changed Lives

The Sharada River, with its banks adorned by lush paddy fields, brings life to the Salyan district. While it has always been essential for the region, its story is one of stark contrasts. In Triveni Rural Municipality, Kavra Ram Bazaar Ward No. 1 enjoys a thriving market, a well-equipped health post, and a high school - privileges that Ward No. 2 and the neighboring villages lack. Residents of Ward No. 2 and the surrounding areas have traditionally relied on their neighboring ward for access to these essential facilities. However, the river remained a significant obstacle, especially during the monsoon months. For those living across Kavra Ram Bazaar, it transformed that same river into a force of isolation.



*A mother carrying one child on her back and helping another to cross the Sharada River*

Binu Rai, an elder woman in the community, shares her memories of the days before things changed. "The river claimed seven lives over the years," she whispers, her voice heavy with sorrow. Before the bridge was built, villagers from both sides of the river had to risk their lives to cross the turbulent water.

For the sick and expectant mothers, the journey was even more daunting, as the perilous conditions made things much worse for them. Children also faced harsh challenges. They had to take a long route to the trail bridge and cross the river, facing dangers like falling rocks and fallen trees along the way, while their parents prayed for their safe return.

Even the Khairabang temple, cherished for its historical and spiritual significance, experienced a decline in devotees during the rainy season, as the challenging journey discouraged many from making the trip.



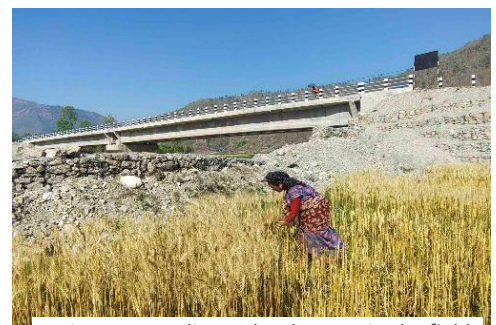
*A School bus carrying children crossing the Sharada River via bridge*

But then, hope arrived in the form of a bridge, washing away years of hardship and loss. The construction of the Sharada River Bridge had a profound impact on the lives of the locals. Completed by Narayanam-Bhagawati JV in October 2024, the intermediate lane, double-span (40m each) PSC bridge, among the longest built by the provincial government, was inaugurated by Hon'ble CM Yam Lal Kandel on 17th March 2025.

School buses now travel through the villages, providing children with a safe ride to school and freeing them from exhausting and difficult walks. Jeeps now easily transport villagers, connecting them to busy markets and distant destinations without fear of the river's fury.

The Khairabang temple blossomed once again, welcoming pilgrims even in the rainy months. Farmers, with smiles of newfound hope, brought their harvest - ginger and turmeric - to the market with ease, fostering growth and prosperity. Today, the villages echo with the sound of unity and the hope of endless opportunities.

"This bridge has changed everything," says Bina Pun, her eyes alight with joy. It wasn't only a bridge across the Sharada River; it healed hearts, connected communities, and brought a promise of brighter days for generations yet to come.



*Bina Pun tending to her harvest in the field*