

A great dilemma for the RJP-Nepal Destination is far from being achieved

If they decide to boycott the third phase election, they will have lost all the opportunity to regain their lost power. This depends on their selection of a new course which they will have to make before the election process for the third phase is started.

Every political element gained from the two phases of the local level election, but the Rashtriya Janata Party (RJP) lost the greatest opportunity to gain back the trust of the people they claim to represent. The second phase was specially designed to facilitate the participation of the RJP by postponing the election dates not once but three times. Two Forums, one led by Bijaya Gachchhadar and the other led by Upendra Yadav, left the so-called Madhesi Morcha and actively participated in the election. Irrespective of the electoral victory by number, they have registered a political track in the mind of the people particularly in the Madhesh areas. But the RJP's decision to stay away has isolated them from the warmth of the people's support in the near future.

The two phases of local level election have had a grand success in several respects. The most glaring aspect is the enthusiasm of the people. They

had this opportunity in the gap of two decades. This time the local level had come with much greater resources and power in an extended territory. This was going to end the long frustration of having to put up with open corruption in collusion with irresponsible political mechanism and unaccountable government officials. This was the opening for the realization of the aspirations of the people to develop their surrounding through new leadership. People were not deterred by the discomfort of the scorching sun or daunting rain. The enthusiasm for participation was so high that even centenarians cast their vote. The percentage of voting exceeded all previous records. The election was celebrated as a festival.

The third phase of local level election is due on the eighteenth September, but its success is a foregone conclusion irrespective of the participation or otherwise of the RJP. The RJP have lost the potential of destabilizing the election because the people are not



likely to support them. At this stage it is not certain whether the RJP will participate in the third phase although this opportunity was deliberately created to facilitate their participation. They have watched the two phases of election, understandably with saliva in their tongue for the missed opportunity.

It is a moment of great dilemma for the RJP. They have their demands and preconditions on the one hand. If they

shun their preconditions and decide to participate, there is the danger of losing their image. On the other hand, there is the danger of widening the gulf between them and the people which is already perilously present because of their boycott of the two phases. It was a great loss in the journey of political struggle. Their destination is far from being achieved. Are they now ready to board the bus to make the journey to their avowed destination? If they decide to boycott the third phase election, they will have lost all the opportunity to regain their lost power. This depends on their selection of a new course which they will have to make before the election process for the third phase is started. It may be pertinent here to ask what achievements the local election has made. It has made some landmark success. The most

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RJP-Nepal's leaders divided over poll participation

Kathmandu: A group of RJPN leaders has insisted that the party should not take part in the local elections unless their demands related to constitution are addressed. Addressing the party's office-bearers meeting underway in the capital, leaders close to three influential RJPN leaders including Rajendra Mahato, Anil Jha and Raj Kishore Mahato maintained that the party should stick to its original decision of poll boycott if their demands are not met.

Some other leaders, notably Mahendra Raya Yadav and Sharat Singh Bhandari, are in favor of participating in the polls. They said that another poll boycott



would prove devastating for party organization. RJPN and some fringe parties in the Federal Alliance had fully boycotted the first phase of the local elections and fielded

independent candidates in some constituencies in the second phase of the local elections. Leaders advocating participation in the polls have said that another boycott will push the party toward political oblivion. They said that the party should contest the polls while simultaneously pushing its agendas. RJPN leaders present in the meeting said that party coordinator Mahanta Thakur's stance is likely to be decisive on poll participation. "He (Thakur) has not yet clarified where he stands on the issue of poll participation. He has expressed support to both camps," said a leader.



Editorial

Key problems of Madhesh

There are several problems. Before answering, let just dispel this ridiculous myth and revisionist history that's been presented by some regarding Madhesh. Madhesh as it is constituted now from

Discrimination, lack of proportional representation, discrimination within Madhesh, lack of land reform, lack of infrastructure, jobs, healthcare, education and identity crisis are some major problems of Madhesh.

Parsa to Jhapa was never an independent state. There were historical Kingdoms like Videh-Mithila, Simranganr or T i r h u t historically but even they had hilly region in it.

Recently before Prithvi Narayan S h a h ' s unification, Madhesh was part of several Sen kingdoms of Makwanpur, Bijaypur and C h a u d a n i among others, and after unification they became part of united Nepal. Madhesh was never gifted by the British. It has been part of Nepal on and off for centuries

and the fact that Kings of Kathmandu even used Mithila as their language once upon a time proves it.

After Jang Bahadur Rana helped British crush Indian rebellion in 1857, British provided Nepal with four districts Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur and all these districts have called new state. So, Madhesh is a part of Nepal and it is a diverse territory with various groups including Madhesis but also Terai janajatis, Tharus and people from Hills. Now, regarding problems, discrimination, lack of proportional representation, discrimination within Madhesh, lack of land reform, lack of infrastructure, jobs, healthcare, education and identity crisis are some key problems of Madhesh. The societal and communal divide we are seeing between Madhesis and pahadis is very sad. Nepal can never develop as long as this divide exists and I hope we can bridge our differences, respect each other and live together as Nepalis.

In the Heart of Madhesh Movement-5

By Peter Gill

Although there has been little continuity in governments over the past ten years, with the prime ministership shifting 10 times between the Maoists, Congress, and UML, a consistent pattern has emerged in dealing with the Madhesis' demands – to delay action on them. “This Prachanda, Sher Bahadur Deuba, or KP Sharma Oli, these are the faces you see again and again as Prime Minister or party president,” says Sudha Dev, the editor of a local a l l - f e m a l e - r u n newspaper. “What they do, is they play internal politics. They say they'll help the Madhes, but then once they become Prime Minister they say, oh, he isn't letting me, the opposition. What can I do alone?” Pitambar Yadav, a historian at the local university campus, says that the long delays by the government in addressing Madhesi demands have led to splits in the movement. “If all the leaders sat together and raised their voice in unison, the government would be forced to listen”, he laments.

The time of greatest Madhesi political unity came in 2008, when an alliance of three major Madhesi parties – Sadbhavana, the Madhesi Janaadhikar Forum (MJF), and Tarai Madhes Loktantrik Party (TMLP) – rode the wave of energy generated by the popular protests of 2007 and won 84 seats, becoming the fourth largest party in parliament. However, the coalition soon fell apart over disagreements over how to handle a coalition with the Maoists, the largest party in the

assembly. The first constituent assembly failed to ratify a constitution, and by the time of the second constituent assembly elections in 2013, the Madhesi parties had split into dozens of groups.

As Prashant Jha carefully details in his book, Battles of the New Republic, multiple factors caused the splits. Initially, India played a major role in dividing the Madhesis parties in order to weaken the Maoists, who they feared would subvert democracy and seek closer ties with China. But egotism of leaders also caused parties to divide, and then subdivide again.

This egotism has frustrated many people in Rajbiraj. Bhola Mandal, 42, a local vegetable vendor and a vocal proponent of the Madhes movement, puts it succinctly: “Which party do we call the Madhesi party now?”

In addition, long-standing divisions within Madhesi society helped weaken the movement. Similar to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, rivalries exist between middle-cast Yadavs, high castes, and Dalits. Furthermore, Tharus – the indigenous group that also calls the Terai home – resented being subsumed under the identity “Madhesi”, as did some Muslims.

So, many Madhesis were optimistic when the Sadbhavana Party, TMLP, and several other parties announced the joint formation of the RJPN, to be led by the august Mahantha Thakur, in May this year. However, the MJF refused to join the RJPN's boycott and is fielding candidates in the elections – an act of betrayal in the eyes of

many RJPN supporters.

On June 15, the RJPN was dealt another blow when the Congress-Maoist coalition government announced that polls would be delayed until September, but only in Province 2. The party maintains its call for a boycott of the June 28 polls throughout the Terai, but RJPN leaders from outside of Province 2 have started to defect to other parties or registered as independents. In addition, the government has arrested a number of RJPN leaders. This has put the strength of the fledgling RJPN to the test. To some, it appears that RJPN is doomed to the same fate as the Madhesi party alliance of 2008. Meanwhile, the fate of the constitutional amendment remains uncertain.

Asked what he believes will happen if the amendment is not passed, Shiv Hari Bhattarai, the journalist, says, “If we can't get this feeling of ownership, where everyone says that this is our constitution, this is our country, this is our national flag, then the separatists will gain strength. Jai Krishna Goit, or C.K. Raut, what they are saying, that will become more powerful.”

Pitambar Yadav, the historian, agrees. “I don't agree with C.K. Raut – I don't think that we need independence. But if the government continues to suppress like this, one day, because of lack of alternatives people will go that way.”

CONTINUE IN NEXT ISSUE...

Peter Gill is an American journalist based in Nepal.

Boycotting polls party's official line

The RJP-Nepal is another name of struggle. We have not tired with the agitation. The party is still in movement. The shape and form of agitation has been changed now. In the rainy season it is difficult to continue the movement. So some felt that Madhes movement has not ended which is wrong interpretation.

The RJP-Nepal is divided whether to participate in the third round of local polls or not. What is the fact?

In the political life of every party it is necessary to hear every voice of leaders and cadres. In fact, it is not necessary all leaders have same views.

In the recently held office bearers' meeting of the party, several leaders expressed their views and it was helpful for the party to make a concrete decision based on these views.

But on the issue of participation in election, most of the leaders suggested to use it also as movement. So it does not mean that the party is divided over the issue. The dissenting voice is natural and the party has taken it positively.

Still, it is official line of the party is not to take part in the election unless its minimum demand is addressed.

The local level election is based under the new constitution and as we are against the constitution so how we accept the election?

If party is clear on its line against the election so why differing views were floated?

From very early, the party's position was very clear. Before holding the first phase of local level election, we clarified not to go to the election unless the constitution is amended. But the government postponed the local election time and again with a commitment to amend the constitution which is our bottom line to join the election process. But the government failed to apply its commitment into practice. Before and after the second phase of local election the newly formed government under Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba, he also

followed the path of commitments to address our demands. There was the possibility to amend the constitution even after holding the second phase of election but failed due to conspiracy of Rastriya Prajatantra Party.

Under such circumstances, some of leaders are hopeful about amendment in the constitution and thus they suggested the leadership to join the election. But one thing is considerable that they are not fully supported the election even they asked to go for it.

The government is deaf and ignoring the Madhesh. The government is not honest toward Madhesh.

Should the party discard democratic practice?

No, it's absolutely wrong. We are democratic force and trust on democratic practice. We have time and again asked that we want to be a part of the election but the major political forces have intentionally isolated us. The state is cheating Madheshi people on the name of election.

The government is saying it is ready to address the demands and also creating a favorable environment for that. So RJP-Nepal would surrender or again go for agitation?

The RJP-Nepal is another name of struggle. We have not tired with the agitation. The party is still in movement. The shape and form of agitation has been changed now. In the rainy season it is difficult to continue the movement. So some felt that Madhes movement has not ended which is wrong interpretation. So it does not mean the party has surrendered.

If the constitution is not amended, what is the next step of party?

The issue of constitution amendment is related its implementation. So the implementation is not possible without its amendment. If the major parties want to the full fledge implementation of constitution, they have no alternatives to amend it. Suppose, the constitution is not amended, Madhesh will never accept it and fight for another constitution. If necessary, Madhesh could write its own constitution.

OK, some leaders of your party have differing views on the election. Is it official decision not to take part in the election?



Rakesh Mishra
Leader, RJP-Nepal

Yes, it is official decision of the party not to participate in the election unless the constitution is amended. The party is firm on it. The party must accept and welcome the differing views as it is democratic practice but the position will not be changed.

But the party top leaders are facing huge pressure from second rung of leaders for the election?

There is no pressure on the leadership. All should accept the party's official decision.

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Prime Minister Deuba to visit India from August 23



Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba

Kathmandu: Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is scheduled to visit India on his first official trip overseas from August 23. Deuba's five-day state visit will come at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The detail itinerary and agenda of the visit and the size of the delegation are yet to be finalized. Deuba's visit will focus on implementing the past accords that were signed during his visits to India in 1996, 2002 and 2004 as prime minister.

"The prime minister is keen to implement the past agreements reached during his three visits to India. While dwelling on the status of the India-funded projects, the prime minister also plans to discuss the

issues, if any, that have impeded the projects," said a senior official at PM's residence. "The prime minister has also told officials that there must be some concrete outcome from the visit," added the official. The two-decade old Rs 30,000-crore binational Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and other energy and infrastructure related projects are likely to be high on the agenda during Deuba's visit, officials said.

The project aims to produce 5,000 MW of electricity. In 1996, Deuba and then Indian prime minister P V Narasimha Rao had held discussions on reviewing the 1950 Peace and Friendship Treaty and expediting the implementation of the Mahakali Treaty, including the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and its financing model, Saptakoshi High Dam, Sunkoshi Diversion, Karnali Multipurpose Project and Budhi Gandaki Hydro Electricity Project, among others. In 2002, India and Nepal had agreed for the early conclusion of the Agreement for Mutual Legal Assistance and updating the Extradition Treaty and construction of four Integrated Check-Posts along the Nepal-India border.

Both sides had called for a plan of action for the early commencement of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. But a detailed project report is yet to be completed. Besides his political engagements in New Delhi, Deuba is likely to visit Bodh Gaya in Bihar and Tirupati Balaji Temple in Andhra Pradesh after concluding his engagements in New Delhi.

Chinese vice premier arriving on Aug 14

Kathmandu: Chinese vice Premier Wang Yang, one of the point men in the Communist Party of China, is arriving on a four-day official visit to Nepal on August 14.

Wang, a vice premier, has also held some important positions in the CPC. The visit, timed close to the India trip of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, also demonstrates the willingness of the Chinese side to engage with the new government in Nepal. At a time when Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Krishna Bahadur Mahara was supposed to visit China and a request was already made from the Nepali side, the visit of Wang ahead of Deuba's India visit is meaningful, said officials.

Mahara will visit Beijing only after the PM returns from New Delhi. Following the signing of the framework agreement on the Belt and Road Initiative with China, the visit is focused on implementation of the understanding reached between Kathmandu and Beijing, expediting China-funded projects in Nepal and discussion on possible high-level visits from both sides.

Swaraj to visit Nepal for Bimstec meet

Kathmandu: External Affairs Minister of India Sushma Swaraj is arriving in Kathmandu on August 10 to participate in the Bimstec foreign ministers' two-day meeting scheduled to begin on the same day.

All member states of Bimstec—Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Bhutan—have confirmed their participation, said a senior Foreign Ministry official. India organised the BRICS-Bimstec Outreach Summit in Goa in October. Nepal is the current chair of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.

In Kathmandu, Swaraj is expected to meet senior political leaders besides the President and the prime minister. Established on June 6, 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration, Bimstec comprises seven states in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal.

A great dilemma for the RJP-N....

prominent among them is that it has earmarked the federalization in the practical sense. The seven provinces have in fact come into existence. The election was conducted on a provincial basis. Until now Nepal was performing on a unitary state basis except that high courts were raised at subnational level. But that did not meet the pre-requisite of a federal state. Appellate courts can be opened even in unitary state. But the local levels have been created now on a provincial basis. The second important achievement is that Nepal is developing on a three party model. The participation of the RJP could have made it a four party model, but they missed that opportunity. In fact, the six parties that merged to create a single party missed the opportunity of working on a collective basis. The RJP can inaugurate its collective existence if it decides to participate in the third phase election. They should learn at least from the fact that many of their active cadres decided to participate in the second phase as independent candidates leaving the RJP.

The third landmark achievement of the local election is that the country can now conduct the provincial and federal level elections with full confidence within the stipulated time frame. All apprehensions about internal and external disturbances have been systematically quailed by using three prong securities. Now, the existence of the local level elected machinery has given the people the full confidence that our democracy is a functioning reality. Nepal has lost a lot in the political instability, but now the trend has been U-turned. Now the people will start

acting like real sovereign.

The fourth achievement of the local election is that it has now opened the way for development and progress. Local leadership and people's participation are the standard indicators of local development. There will be additional support from the national or provincial levels. Local units will be equipped with adequate manpower to plan and execute development projects. Additional technical support can be mobilized from the centre. All round development is now possible. With the local people acting as watchdog, the prevailing rampant corruption will come under control.

The RJP's ex-comrade Upendra Yadav has time and again reminded the RJP that they missed a great opportunity by boycotting the election. They still have a chance of correcting their course by participating in the third phase election which is being conducted in Province No 2, the purported native place of the Madheshi people. That will give them a fresh opportunity to gain the trust of the people, especially the Madhesh based people. If they miss this opportunity by resorting to boycott, it will be their biggest blunder. They must realize that their demand for amending the constitution is not possible because of the lack of the two thirds majority support in the Parliament. They must also realize that amending the constitution is a continuing process in a democracy. We must look for the future. Or else there will be nothing left for the RJP except regretting the missed bus.

CPN Maoist for alliance with Madheshi parties



Kathmandu: Madhes-based parties have responded positively to the proposal of CPN (Maoist Centre) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal for an electoral alliance for the third phase of local level polls scheduled to be held in Province 2 on September 18.

However, leaders of the regional parties believe that Dahal wants an alliance with only the Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal, which has boycotted the first two rounds of local polls. But RJP-N leaders say they will not discuss poll preparations without their major demand for constitution amendment being addressed. In Bardibas of Mahottari, Dahal said his party

would forge electoral alliances with the Madhes-based parties in the eight Tarai districts. He even said there was still the possibility of increasing the number of local federal units in Province 2 in order to bring the RJP-N on board the election process.

According to field reports presented by the party's local leaders in Janakpur, the NC would be the major competitor of the Maoist Centre and in some places the CPN-UML at others. The third largest party in Parliament, Maoist Centre formed alliances with the NC in many places and also with the UML in some local units. According to NC leader Bimalendra

Nidhi, the ruling parties NC and Maoist Centre have also agreed to forge alliances for the District Coordination Committee polls.

Leaders of the regional parties said the proposal was positive though Dahal has yet to make a concrete move. Sanghiya Samajbadi Forum Nepal Chairman Upendra Yadav said Dahal's proposal was positive though the Maoist Centre has not proposed discussion on the idea yet. Nepal Loktantrik Forum leader Ram Janam Chaudhary said Dahal's approach was to the RJP-N but his party would also be ready to discuss the matter if the Maoist Centre comes up with a proposal.

Nepal receives American grant of Rs 51.38 billion

Kathmandu: The Government of Nepal decided to accept a grant of Rs 51.38 billion from Millennium Challenge Corporation of the United States government.

According to an agreement held between two countries, the grant must be spent within five years. Otherwise, it should be returned.

Nepal plans to invest the money in improvement of various roads and extension of electricity transmission lines. Nepal will construct a 300-kilometre 400-KV



transmission line, which will be the first of its kind in the country, according to Tulasi Sitaula, National Coordinator of Office of Millennium Challenge Nepal.

Likewise, transmission lines will also be constructed along Lapsephedi-Galchhi, Galchhi-Damauli, Galchhi-Hetaunda and Damauli-Sunawal. Various substations will be built at many other places.

Likewise, the MCC grant will be spent in five road projects. Hetaunda-Bhimphedi, Dharan-Basantapur, Kadamaha-Gaighat and Ameliya-Dhankhola roads as well as one in Taplung district will be upgraded. These roads cover a stretch of around 300 kilometres in total.

The actual works, however, would begin only after around 15 months as the government is yet to begin preparatory tasks including land acquisition, says Sitaula.

Nepal-China relations have stood the test of time: Chinese expert

Beijing: On the occasion of 62nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and China, the Beijing-based Embassy of Nepal organised a seminar on 'Nepali-China Relations for Peace and Prosperity in the Trans-Himalayan Region'. Presenting a paper on the seminar's theme, Hu Shisheng of China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations highlighted that the two countries settled all their outstanding issues soon after the establishment of bilateral

relations and developed exemplary relations over the years. Hu said the strong foundations of Nepal-China relations rested on the five guiding principles of peaceful co-existence and sensitiveness to each other's core national interests. According to a press release issued by the embassy, he also emphasized that both Nepal and China could make significant contributions to peace, stability and prosperity in the trans-Himalayan region.

Ambassador of Nepal to China Leela Mani Paudyal shed light on the historical background of Nepal-China relations, and said the seminar was held to commemorate the special significance of the day in the bilateral relations and understanding and appreciation of each other's aspirations and sensitivities. "The age-old and deep-rooted relations have stood the tests of time and have continued to flourish in multiple dimensions," he said. Stressing Nepal's unflinching support to 'One



China principled stand of not allowing Nepal territory to be used against China. Forty-two representatives from Chinese government agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and different universities and think tanks, participated in the seminar.

India envoy advises RJPN to participate in polls

Kathmandu: Indian envoy to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri has advised the Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJPN) to participate in the third phase of the local elections.

During a meeting held at the Indian embassy in the capital on Tuesday, Puri advised RJPN presidium to participate in the elections while continuing pressure on the government for amending the constitution. Puri's advise comes at a time when the government is struggling to pass the amendment bill owing to lack of political consensus.



RJPN leaders said that the party would decide what to do once the amendment bill is put to vote in parliament. "We told him that there has not been any change in our party's position. The government should make sincere efforts to pass the bill and address our non-political demands like withdrawal of criminal cases against our leaders and cadres," said an RJPN leader.

The leaders said their party could change its strategy if the bill fails in Parliament. Puri had reportedly inquired with RJPN leaders about their possible strategy in the event of the bill failing in Parliament. The government still lacks around three dozen votes in parliament to get the amendment endorsed. Mahantha Thakur, Rajendra Mahato, Anil Kumar Jha, Sharat Singh Bhandari and Mahendra Raya Yadav were present at the meeting held at the Indian Embassy.

Renu Dahal wins Bharatpur mayoral race



Renu Dahal

Chitwan: Renu Dahal of the CPN (Maoist Center), daughter of the party's chairman and former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, has won the election for the post of mayor of Bharatpur Metropolitan City, defeating CPN-UML's candidate Devi Gyawali by 203 votes.

Dahal, the common candidate of the ruling Maoist Center and Nepali Congress (NC), garnered 43,127 votes while Gyawali got 42,924 votes in the re-election held in Ward number 19 of the metropolis on Friday.

Likewise, Parbati Shah of Nepali Congress (NC) has been elected as deputy-mayor with 47,197 votes. Her immediate rival Divya Sharma of CPN-UML got 39,535 votes. A repoll was conducted in Bharatpur-19 after the Maoist Center representative tore some ballot papers on May 28 midnight while vote count was underway for the first phase of local level elections held on May 14.

4 children of Rauthat drown in pits dug for road work

Rauthat: Four children drowned in Rauthat district Saturday in open pits that were dug up for road construction and subsequently abandoned without filling them up. The deceased are all girls age 9 to 12.

They have been identified as Sunaina Kumari, 9, daughter of Jogendra Shahi; Sangeeta Kumari, 12, and



Sunita Kumari, 9, daughters of Ram Ekbal Shah; and Susmita Kumari, 9, daughter of Prem Narayan Shah.

The torrential rains since the past four days had filled up several open pits alongside the under-construction road section from Garuda to Pani Tanki. The incident took place when the girls jumped into the pits to bathe.

According to Inspector Keshav Regmi at Garuda Police Station, the girls were returning home from the local forest after collecting grass. They stopped along the road around noon to take a bath because of the extreme heat but they had no idea how deep the pits were.

The Department of Roads (DoR) had contracted out the road construction and there are huge pits alongside most of the road section. These look deceptively shallow when filled with rainwater and have been



claiming lives every monsoon. The whole village has been saddened by the drowning. Locals blame the DoR and contractors and accuse the authorities of gross negligence.

Durga Construction Service of Gaur-6 took on the road contract in May. They constructed the road but did not fill the pits they had dug up. Police have called in company proprietor Prahald Shah for investigations. However, he said he has fulfilled his contract and rejected any blame.

International

Venkaiah Naidu 13th Vice-President of India

New Delhi: The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate and former Union minister M Venkaiah Naidu has been elected as the 13th Vice-President of India on Saturday. Naidu defeated the opposition United Progressive Alliance (UPA)



Venkaiah Naidu

candidate and former diplomat Gopalkrishna Gandhi by a margin of 272 votes. Gandhi is also grandson of Mahatma Gandhi.

Naidu secured 516 votes as against 244 got by Gandhi. In all 771 out of 785 MPs cast their votes. Votes of 11 MPs were declared invalid. Fourteen MPs of different political parties did not vote for varied reasons. Three hundred and eight one votes were needed to win.

Naidu will take the oath of office on August 11. The term of incumbent vice president Hamid Ansari, who held the position for two consecutive terms, ends on August 10.

By virtue of being vice president, Naidu also becomes ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha. His position's term is set at five years and he can technically be re-elected as vice president any number of times.

In the 2007 Vice-Presidential poll, incumbent Hamid Ansari had secured 456 votes, while Najma Heptullah bagged 222 votes and Rashid Masood 075 votes. During the 2012 polls, Ansari had secured 490 to NDA nominee Jaswant Singh's 238 votes. Born to a humble agricultural family in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh, 68-year-old Naidu was interested in politics since childhood and joined ABVP in 1973. After completing his graduation, Naidu pursued his law from Andhra University in Visakhapatnam. Naidu first entered in the mainstream politics with 'Jai Andhra Movement' of 1972, and later joined BJP in 1980. He became famous with the common people because of his outspoken skill and ability to work at the ground level.

He won the assembly election twice in 1978 and 1983 from Udayagiri constituency, and became the Rajya Sabha MP thrice in 1998, 2004 and 2010. He served as a cabinet minister both under the Vajpayee-led government and Modi government. He served as a Minister of Urban Development, and also as a Parliamentary Affairs Minister under Modi government. He was elected as the national President of BJP in 2002. In his tenure, he had launched 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyan' where the party leaders reached out to the villagers at every corner of the country and also launched 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana'.

Madheshvani Radio Program (Sunday to Friday)

Devoted towards the National Integration, Nationality and Madheshbad

F.M	MHZ	Place	Time
Radio Rajdhani	100.6	Kathmandu	10:40 P.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Sunrise	90.2	Jhapa (Birtamod)	6:30 P.M (Excluded Saturday)
Red F.M	101	Morang (Biratnagar)	9:30 P.M Re- Broadcast 9:30 A.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Rubaru F.M	104.5	Banke	8:15 P.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Rudraksha	98.8	Mahottari (Jaleswor)	8:15 P.M (Excluded Saturday)
Popular F.M.	95.2	Sunsari (Inaruwa)	9:00 P.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Jay Madhesh	93.5	Saptari (Dharampur)	5.20 P.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Janakpur	97	Dhanusha (Janakpurdham)	5.30 P.M (Excluded Saturday)
Swarnim F.M	96.3	Sarlahi (Malangawa)	8.25 P.M (Excluded Saturday)
Rautahat F.M	90.8	Rautahat (Gaur)	6.30 P.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Saugat	88.1	Siraha (Lahan)	7.30 A.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Dhadkan	89.6	Siraha	9:30 P.M Re- Broadcast 9:30 A.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Birgunj	99	Birgunj (Parsa)	9.15 P.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Safalta	103.4	Kaski (Pokhara)	7.15 P.M (Excluded Friday and Saturday)
Radio Madhesh	89.3	Sarlahi (Malangawa)	9.15 A.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Madhesh Janaawaja	98.6	Rautahat	7.30 AM (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Madhesh Masala	106.4	Rautahat	7:30 P.M Re- Broadcast 7:30 A.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Aakashganga	107.6	Siraha	9:30 P.M Re- Broadcast 9:30 A.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Baadal	89	Bara	9:30 P.M Re- Broadcast 9:00 A.M (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Tilaurakot	107.6	Kapilbastu	7.30 PM (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Madi	107.6	Chitwan (Madi)	Every Wednesday 5.30 PM to 6 PM
Radio Samarthyia	92.1	Kawasoti (Navalparasi)	7.00 PM (Excluded Saturday)
Radio Sahalesh	88.8	Siraha	6:30 PM Re-Broadcast 7:30 A.M (Excluded Saturday)

What is in Thakur's political document?



Mahantha Thakur

Kathmandu: Coordinator of Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal presidium Mahantha Thakur has stated in a political document that his party's stance not to take part in local polls until its demands were met was intact.

Presenting a two-page political document to the party's office bearers' meeting, Thakur said the party's decision not to take part in election till the passage of the constitution amendment bill and fulfilment of other demands remained intact. Thakur said the unity of six Madhesi parties in creating RJP-N was the unity of Madhesis and all oppressed groups and that unity had provided impetus to achieving the goals of empowerment and equality.

"This unity is not just the unity of six parties but also the unity of the dreams of martyrs," read the document, "This unity has responded to those who said Madhesis cannot unite."

He stated that unity among Madhesi parties had injected optimism and confidence in the Madhes. In an oblique reference to Upendra Yadav-led Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal, Thakur said that one constituent of the United Democratic Madhesi Front not only rejected the offer of unity but also remarked against the RJP-N. "One party, which became a victim of the ruling class' conspiracy, participated in elections in an attempt to weaken the movement

of the oppressed groups whose participation in election without ensuring amendment to the constitution, undermined the sacrifices of martyrs and sentiments of hundreds of people who were injured in protests and the Madhesi people," read the document.

He said the state had succeeded in dividing the agitating forces in two factions. Thakur said the FSF-N which abandoned the agenda to take part in election could win only a very

few seats in the second round of local elections. "Our movement weakened but our agendas remained solid as rock and our struggle continued," Thakur said in the political document.

Thakur presented seven demands saying that the government must implement the three-point agreement signed with the RJP-N. Thakur stated that provincial boundaries should be revised along the lines of the report submitted by the erstwhile State Restructuring Commission and the number of local levels should be created in Madhes in proportion to the population of the region. Thakur further stated that there should be provision for proportional inclusion in all organs of the state and multi-language policy should be ensured. Thakur further stated that compensation should be provided to the families of martyrs and provision should be made to help the injured people earn their livelihood. He said the state should waive tax and loan interest for the agitation period when agitating forces had resorted to move.

Thakur stated in his document that the government should provide enough relief to flood victims and should also announce special packages for drought affected farmers of Madhes. He said in his document that the government should drop false cases filed against cadres of armed outfits.

Nepal enjoys friendly ties with SAARC members: DPM Mahara

Kathmandu: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara said Nepal enjoyed warm and friendly relations with all SAARC member states.

During an interaction with a delegation from National Defence Academy of Bangladesh at the foreign ministry, Mahara said Nepal, as a member of the UN and an active member of the Non-Aligned Movement, had framed its foreign policy based on UN Charter, panchasheel and international law.



According to him, prosperity in the region could be achieved by working through SAARC. DPM Mahara said was of the view that Nepal and Bangladesh could work together as both faced similar challenges, according to his press coordinator Hari Lamichhane.

Indian Ambassador calls on UML Chair Oli



Kathmandu: Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri called on CPN-UML Chairman KP Sharma Oli at the latter's residence in Balkot.

During the meeting, matters relating to improving bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed, according to leader Oli's private secretary Anish Dahal. Nepal and India enjoy cordial relations at the political level and at the people-to-people level, leader Oli said on the occasion.

Ambassador Singh on the occasion congratulated the UML chair for his party's win in the recent local level elections, and invited him as the Special Guest for the 70th Independence Day celebrations of India to be held at the Embassy of India in Kathmandu.