

China, Nepal upgrade ties

Toward consolidation and enhanced cooperation

Kathmandu: China and Nepal agreed to upgrade their relations to a strategic partnership of cooperation featuring everlasting friendship for development and prosperity. The agreement was made and announced when Chinese President Xi Jinping met with his Nepali counterpart, Bidya Devi Bhandari. Xi said that he came to Nepal as scheduled after Bhandari warmly invited him for a visit this year when they met in Beijing in April. He also agreed that as what Bhandari has said there is only friendship and



Noting that China just celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Xi said that China will continue to deepen reform and expand opening-up so as to advance high-quality development. A stable, open and prosperous China will always be a development opportunity for Nepal and the rest of the world, the Chinese leader added. For her part, Bhandari warmly welcomed Xi's state visit to Nepal and congratulated again on the 70th anniversary of the

Continue in page 4 ...

The President of China also said that Nepal will not be land-linked hunting on more connectivity and transit hubs enabling economic transformation between the two nations.

cooperation between China and Nepal. Xi said that he saw sincere smile on the faces of the Nepali people and felt the friendship from the deep of their heart toward the Chinese people, adding that he felt once again that the China-Nepal friendship enjoys broad consensus and solid foundation in Nepal.

The two peoples have shared weal and woe, and set an example of friendly exchanges between neighboring countries, said Xi, adding that he hopes to carry forward the traditional friendship and take the bilateral relationship to a new and higher level via the visit. Xi called on the two sides to consolidate the political foundation of bilateral ties, and set the building of a community with

Patna-Kathmandu rail link likely by 2021



Kathmandu: The East Central Railway (ECR) has submitted a blueprint to the Railway Board and sought its approval to establish a direct rail link between Patna and Kathmandu in Nepal. A senior railway official said if the project

was approved by the Railway Board, it would be completed by 2021. At a meeting with members of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce in Patna recently, ECR general manager LC Trivedi said the railways has already started working on Jayanagar-Barbidas (Nepal) and Raxaul-Kathmandu rail route projects with cooperation from the Nepal government. There is already an operational rail line between Patna and Raxaul and the upcoming Raxaul-Kathmandu line will provide the connectivity between Patna and the national capital of Nepal. ECR chief public relations officer (CPRO) Rajesh Kumar said the 67km-long Jayanagar-Barbidas project,

Continue in page 4 ...

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Editorial

Nepal-China ties

At the invitation of Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Chinese President Xi Jinping concluded two-day state visit to Nepal on October 12 and 13. As the first visit by a Chinese state leader to Nepal in 23 years, it will mark a major breakthrough in bilateral relations.

The visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping is historic in many respects. First, the Chinese head of state is visiting Nepal after a hiatus of 23 years. Second, China's stature in the world economy and political affairs has grown markedly during this period. China even did not feature in the list of top five economies 23 years ago. Currently, it is the second-largest economy trailing behind the United States and is set to become the most significant global economy in the coming decade. Third, Nepal and China need to agree in detail the financing modality and detailed plans for the implementation of the Trans Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Corridor and Nepal-China

It will be of great strategic significance and interest for the three neighbors – China, India and Nepal – to establish an economic corridor and build a community with a shared future.

Railway Project. Both projects are part of the BRI master plan.

Nepal is an inland country with only two neighbors: China and India, two rising powers with vast potential for future economic development. Situated between the two, Nepal can naturally play a role as a bridge and bond.

Nepal has a huge trade deficit with China. Nepal has not been able to benefit from China's decision to allow a large number of Nepali produce duty-free due to fragile manufacturing sector. Hence, China's supports in encouraging its companies to invest in Nepal would be a welcome move. Similarly, Nepal receives an annual grant of Chinese renminbi one billion. Given Nepal's massive trade deficit with China and the need for infrastructure development, the amount of yearly award needs to be increased at least by two folds.

It will be of great strategic significance and interest for the three neighbors – China, India and Nepal – to establish an economic corridor and build a community with a shared future. If all three work together to strengthen connectivity, the Himalayas will no longer be a barrier, but will be able to link neighbors geographically and culturally.

China, India and Nepal should give up the zero-sum mentality, replace geopolitical games with geo-economic cooperation and make full use of the geographic advantages to bring real benefits to their people.

The spring of China-Nepal cooperation has arrived. People on both sides of the Himalayas are expected to hold hands and move toward a common future.

We have not asked Nepal to be against any country -2

It is private citizens, starting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and the U.S. government, through USAID, working with Nepal's election experts to help Nepal hold its historic elections, including the one I was here to witness in 2008 and the most recent, when more than 1.7 million Nepalis voted for the first time, cementing the Nepali people's desire to exert free democratic control over their country's future.

That partnership is U.S. capital that supported a start-up firm to bring its popular ride-sharing enterprise to Kathmandu that has improved commuting options for thousands of people.

It is American technology, like the tunnel-boring machine that completed Nepal's longest tunnel project, ahead of schedule and under budget, as part of the Beri-Babai project. It is America's market, which is open to Nepali goods. It is American tourists, who come to marvel at Nepal's majestic beauty, who support small and women-owned businesses in Nepal, and to learn from Nepal's cultural and spiritual traditions.

It is American judges, prosecutors, and police officers working alongside their Nepali counterparts to help strengthen the rule of law to ensure due process so that the guilty are punished and the innocent are cleared.

It is the six U.S. Marines in a U.S. military helicopter who flew a dangerous mission to help save Nepalis injured in the 2015 earthquake—and sacrificed their lives to that spirit of partnership. It is the U.S. military specialists who help Nepal build its own military capabilities to

participate in peacekeeping operations and for rapid response when natural disasters strike and Nepali lives are at risk.

Let me be clear: this partnership is good for both of our countries. When an American citizen asks me why American taxpayers spend more than \$200 million each year in Nepal when we still have so much we need to do at home, my answer is "enlightened self-interest."

Enlightened self-interest, the principle that animates so much of America's engagement around the world. We recognize that America is stronger when Nepal is stronger, that Americans are healthier when Nepalis are healthier, that America's sovereignty will be stronger if Nepal's sovereignty is stronger and resolute.

That's why our mission—and this card that I carry with me—ties America's goals to Nepal's goals. This is the friendship and partnership that has defined our relationship for more than seventy years—and has benefited both the United States and Nepal.

Given that history of partnership, given our record of achieving results, and not merely words, I admit I am sometimes disappointed by periodic suspicion about U.S. motives I hear from some corners in Nepal. You have seen it most recently in the discussions about our Indo-Pacific Strategy. We have explained that the Indo-Pacific Strategy is the name we give to U.S. policy. It describes what we Americans strive to do to protect and advance a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific Region.

Some people claim it is a secret military alliance



Randy W. Berry
US Ambassador to Nepal

or some kind of member-based organization meant to trap Nepal, though the fact is, as Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali has told Parliament and repeated to the press: Nepal has never been asked to "join" anything.

That's because there is nothing to join. Look around the region: no one has "joined" the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy. Why? Because no one has been asked to join. Much of the current discussion has focused on a single, U.S. Department of Defense report to claim that, since there is a U.S. Department of Defense report, therefore it must be a military strategy.

Whether it is multinational missions to fight piracy or more formal bilateral agreements to demonstrate resolve, the fact is that the freedoms we all enjoy depend on security to defend them, and the U.S. security presence in this region has helped provide predictability and security that has allowed the entire region to focus on economic and political development, not fighting wars with each other.

So yes, security is one pillar and the U.S. Department of Defense report talks about some of the things they are doing. It is a fancy

Continue in next Issue ...

RJP-N not to claim for Speaker

It is not impossible to hold the general convention on the scheduled date if there is will power and desire.

• **How has RJP-Nepal viewed the incident related to the then Speaker Krishna Bahadur Mahara?**

The subject of the former Speaker, Krishna Bahadur Mahara, is unfortunate for the country. The facts about this have not yet come out. The facts of the incident should come out. If a woman is a victim, she should get justice. However, it is not yet clear whether the victim is. No one can be blamed without the investigation of the incident. The accused woman has been making various statements. Sometimes she says she has been abused, sometimes not. The woman also says that she was a victim of depression. It is also wrong to murder one's character in this way. If she changes her statement, the reason is, she should come out too.

• **What do you see that the woman U-tern from her statement?**

Now the police should do a thorough investigation into why he changed her speech. If this is the case, it is unfortunate for Nepal.

• **Is there a fair investigation of this incident?**

Now the test time is also for the Communist Party of Nepal and the security agencies.

• **After Krishna Bahadur Mahara resigned from the post of Speaker, there is also a lobbying for the**

new Speaker. Is there a claim for RJP-Nepal?

RJP-Nepal is not interested for the position of Speaker and hence it will not claim for that. So far, no decision has been made by the party yet. Earlier, RJP was offered the post of Speaker, but the party refused to take over.

• **What is the preparation for the general convention of RJP-Nepal?**

The preparations for the general convention are not going to be the speed at which they should be. But, that's happening.

• **Does the general convention possible on a fixed date with such slow motion?**

We are still confused with the present preparation of general convention. We are doubtful over the general convention to be held on the fixed date. There are some complexities. The favorable environment for general convention has not formed yet due to flood in Madhesh. We were unable to deploy our leaders to villages due to floods in various parts of Madhesh districts. Now we just celebrated Dashain and Tihar is coming. Because of that, nothing is getting timely.

• **It means the general convention is not possible on Kartik 28-29?**

It is not impossible to

hold the general convention on the scheduled date if there is will power and desire.

• **Do you see leadership mood for timely general convention?**

Everyone is convinced that the convention should be done on time. Due to some problems in Madhesh, there has been a delay in the preparation of the convention. Therefore, we have not reached a conclusion that there is no convention. If we all come, we can make the convention a success.

• **It has been more than two years since the unification of RJP-Nepal but unity process has not been finalized so far, why?**

All these things conclude in the general convention. After the convention, new committees will form. Then the problems no longer exist. There is no such problem within the party.

• **Unity talk is also being discussed with the Samajwadi Party. Has the discussion of this unity slowed down in preparation for the convention?**

Naturally, having a discussion of unity with a party has some effect. There has been some relaxation in the preparation of the convention while the unity debate is underway. When it comes to unity, we should not give up our preparations for the convention. Unification is a must, should be



Rani Sharma Tiwari
Senior Vice President,
RJP-Nepal

concluded. However, it is not appropriate to halt the convention or any other activity in the name of unity.

• **What first, general convention or party unity?**

The general convention is the priority of the RJP. The convention is a program that we have decided and it is our requirement. Even after the convention, unity does not matter. The convention is our announcing event. Under that we have to convene. There is discussion for unity.

• **Socialist Party is in government, does it is matter of hindrance for unity?**

Party unity and government are separate issues. Being a part of government of Socialist Party, it

does not mean that RJP should also go to government. After coming out of government, we had put the condition of unity before the Socialist Party.

• **Should Madhesh Province declare?**

Of course, Madhesh Province will be the name of Province 2 because the Congress and NCP MPs are also convincing for Madhesh Province. Leaders who are in the center may not understand, but the lawmakers here understand the sentiment of the Madhesi people. Considering the sentiments of the Madhesi people, the Congress and NCP must accept Madhesh Province.

China, Nepal ...

founding of the PRC, saying that Nepal is willing to learn from China's successful experience of development.

Bhandari said she believes that the Chinese people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, will realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, which will definitely bring benefits to Nepal, and help promote regional peace, development and prosperity.

Noting that Xi is the first Chinese president to visit Nepal in 23 years, Bhandari said the visit is of historic significance, adding that the two countries' announcement of establishing a strategic partnership of cooperation will consolidate the two countries' traditional friendship, enrich the contents

of bilateral ties and usher in a new era for the Nepal-China relationship.

Nepal, she said, respects China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and will never allow any anti-China force to engage in anti-China activities in Nepal, adding that Nepal is willing to actively participate in the Belt and Road Initiative and the building of a trans-Himalayan connectivity network.

Nepal is the second leg of Xi's two-country trip, which also took him to the southern Indian city of Chennai for an informal meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Relations at new height

Nepal-China relations have taken a stride toward consolidation and enhanced cooperation between the two. The highest level state visit after 23 years is being seen as

pragmatic which led to a successful conclusion.

President Xi was given a grand welcome and he thanked the people of Nepal for their hospitality during his state banquet speech held in Soaltee Crown Plaza Hotel in Kathmandu. The hotel was also the main venue for the signing ceremony and official parleys between various leaders who the Chinese premier had a one-to-one discussion with.

A total of 17 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed in the presence of both the President of China Xi Jinping and Prime Minister K.P.Sharma Oli. The agreements were exchanged by the Foreign Ministers Pradeep Gyawali for Nepal and Wang Yi from China. The MoU covers a wide array of investment and cooperation in the field of health, education, water supply, climate mitigation,

connectivity, exports, transit, and establishing sister-city relations. Nepal has assured China of supporting its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its one-China policy. President Xi has also assured to support for VisitNepal2020.

Further, this visit has enabled closer ties between the two nations, and both are hopeful for a progressive future. Earlier the President of China also said that Nepal will not be land-linked hinting on more connectivity and transit hubs enabling economic transformation between the two nations.

The visit of the Chinese premier has heightened Nepal-China relations, bilateral cooperation, strengthened mechanism of trust and increased partnership for mutually beneficial projects. China is keen and has expressed its desire for the personal growth and development of the people of Nepal.

Nepal, India power trade talk today



Kathmandu: Officials of the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation and state-owned Nepal Electricity Authority have flown to Delhi to attend the Seventh Joint Steering Committee and Joint Working Group meeting on Nepal-India Cooperation in the Power Sector.

The two-day meeting which will begin on Monday is expected to resolve issues related to financing and implementation modality of the second high capacity cross-border transmission line and energy banking mechanism between the two South Asian neighbours, among others.

The meeting is taking place a month after the Nepali and Indian energy ministers expressed optimism over both sides coming to terms on the development modality of the proposed 400 kV New Butwal-Gorakhpur transmission line

project, a major component of a \$630 million pact between Nepal and Millennium Challenge Corporation of the United States.

The meeting will review suggestions from power utility officials that the power line could be built by making an equal equity investment in a similar development model of the existing Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur transmission line.

"Bilateral understandings on the development modality related to funding and implementing agency are on the verge of being finalised," said the Nepal Electricity Authority.

As per the power utility's estimate, Nepal will have a surplus of around 8,000 megawatts by 2025 as the country's generation capacity is expected to reach 10,924 megawatts while peak demand is likely to amount to 2,981 megawatts.

Patna-Kathmandu ...

which is funded by the ministry of external affairs, is being implemented by Indian Railway Construction Company (Ircn).

"Ircn has so far laid new rakes up to 34km between Jaynagar and Kurtha in Nepal. The project entails an expenditure of Rs 787 crore," the CPRO added. The railways has also decided to lay new lines at a stretch of around 136km between Raxaul and Kathmandu, connecting Birganj, Nijgadh, Shikharpur and Sisneri. An MoU in this regard was signed between India and Nepal in the presence of PM Narendra Modi on August 31 last year.

"The proposed rail line will be constructed without causing adverse impact to forests and wildlife," Rajesh said, adding that the project would be executed with an estimated expenditure of Rs 16,550 crore. The CPRO said the Raxaul-Kathmandu rail line will have 13 stoppages, including Raxaul, Birganj, Bagahi, Pipara, Dhumarwana, Kakadi, Nijgarh, Chandrapur, Dhiyal, Shikharpur, Sisneri, Sathikhel and Kathmandu.

"The entire stretch will be dotted with 32 rail overbridges and 39 tunnels," he added. According to sources, Indian Railways was eyeing this project in view of China's offer to Nepal government regarding establishment of rail network in Nepal. India's MES played an important role in getting the projects signed between Indian Railways and the Nepal government. Sources said the new rail projects would strengthen trade and business ties between India and Nepal.

Yadav stresses on unity between SP and RJP-Nepal

Saptari: Chairman of Socialist Party Nepal, Upendra Yadav stressed on the unity between his party and Rastriya Janata Party Nepal.

At a festive greetings exchange programme, chair Yadav, also Deputy Prime Minister said that there was no alternate to materialising the party unification.

He, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, claimed that his party was only the alternate force in the country.



Former justice Yadav passes away

Kathmandu: Supreme Court's former justice Awadhesh Kumar Yadav passed away at the age of 72.

Former justice Yadav died in course of treatment at Nobel Medical College, Biratnagar. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, three sons and grand children. Yadav was first appointed as an Additional Judge for Appellate Court Dipayal in 1991. Later he was appointed Chief Judge for Appellate Court Tulsipur in 2006. He had served as a Justice at the Supreme Court between 2008 and 2012. Earlier, he had worked as a lawyer for 20 years. Besides, he had taught International Law and other subjects as a lecturer at MBM Campus Rajbiraj for 10 years.

Nepal and China sign 20 agreements and MoUs

Kathmandu: Nepal and China have signed and exchanged various agreements and memorandum of understandings (MoUs) during the State Visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The agreements include boundary management system, establishment of sister city relationship, and establishment of Confucius Institute at Tribhuvan University; while the MoU ranges from exchanges and cooperation on governance capacity building, treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal activities, and Sagarmatha protection cooperation and others.

As per the press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the complete list of the instruments signed and exchanged between Nepal and China are as follows –

1. Agreement between the Governments of Nepal and the People's Republic of China on the Boundary Management System
2. MoU between the Governments of Nepal and the People's Republic of China on the Exchanges and Cooperation on Governance Capacity Building
3. Treaty between Nepal and the People's Republic of China on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters
4. MoU on Mount Sagarmatha/Zhumulangma Protection Cooperation between Nepal and China
5. MoU on Promoting Key Projects of Investment and Cooperation on Productive Capacity between the National Planning Commission of Nepal and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China
6. Exchange of Note for Setting up a Consulate General of Nepal in Chengdu
7. MoU between the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport of Nepal and the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China on Feasibility Study of China-



Nepal Cross-Border Railway Project

8. Agreement between Kathmandu Metropolitan City of Nepal and Nanjing City of the People's Republic of China on the Establishment of Sister-City Relationship
9. Agreement between Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City of Nepal and Xi'an City of the People's Republic of China on the Establishment of Sister-City Relationship
10. MoU on Cooperation on Traditional Medicine between the Ministry of Health and Population of the Government of Nepal and the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of the People's Republic of China

11. MoU between the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal and the Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China Regarding Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response
12. MoU on Cooperation between the Supreme People's Procurator of the People's Republic of China and Office of the Attorney General of Nepal
13. Agreement between Tribhuvan University of Nepal and Confucius Institute Headquarters of China on the Establishment of Confucius Institute at Tribhuvan University
14. Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Citrus Fruits from Nepal to China

- between Department of Agriculture of the Government of Nepal and General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China
15. MoU between the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies of the Government of Nepal and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China on the Establishment of Joint Working Group on Trade
16. Delivery and Acceptance Certificate for the China-Aid Earthquake Monitoring Network Project in Nepal
17. MoU on Establishment of Investment Cooperation Working Group between the Ministry of Finance of Nepal and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China
18. MoU between the Ministry of Finance of Nepal and China International Development Cooperation Agency on Tunnels Construction Cooperation
19. Exchange of Letter for Border Security Equipment and Office Equipment
20. Minutes of Meeting for Feasibility Investigation of China-Aid Municipal Water Supply Improvement Project in Kathmandu Valley of Nepal.

CM Raut sees need of transforming police service with time

Janakpurdhham: State 2 chief minister Lalbabu Raut stressed on the need of transforming the police service as per the demand of time.

In his address to a ceremony organised at Janakpurdhham by the state 2 police office on the occasion of the 64th Police Day, the chief minister said that existing working style would not bring peace and security. He underlined the need of ending the culture of proving incident guilty and reflecting the motto of service with smile in behavior.

As he said, it was need of the hour to unlearn weaknesses



of the past to establish the fact 'police is our friend'. He highlighted the need of

honesty and responsibility among police by giving up status

quo mentality.

The state government is serious about enriching the police administration with technology and resources as per the spirit of federalism.

State minister for international affairs and law Gyanendra Kumar Yadav echoed the need of a new police act in line with the federal setup.

The government is serious about capacity enhancement and career development of police. On the occasion, Deputy Inspector of Police Pradyumna Kumar Karki apprised the gathering of police activities.

Joint statement between Nepal and China

Kathmandu : At the invitation of Rt. Hon. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, paid a state visit to Nepal from 12 to 13 October 2019.

During the visit, President Xi met with President Bhandari, held talks with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and attended the welcoming banquet by President Bhandari. In a warm and cordial atmosphere, leaders of the two countries reached broad understanding through in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relationship and regional and international issues of common concern. The two sides expressed satisfaction over the fact that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1955, Nepal-China relationship has withstood changes of the international situation and has been growing in a consistent, steady and healthy manner, which sets a model of peaceful coexistence between the two countries of different size. Both sides recognized that the bilateral relationship between the two countries is characterized by equality, harmonious coexistence, ever-lasting friendship and comprehensive cooperation.

Nepal and China take the Belt and Road Initiative as an important opportunity to deepen mutually-beneficial cooperation in all fields in a comprehensive manner, jointly pursue common prosperity and dedicate themselves to maintaining peace, stability and development in the region. The bilateral relationship between Nepal and China has entered a new phase. Both sides decided to, on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Charter of the United Nations and principles of good neighbourliness, elevate Nepal-China Comprehensive Partnership of Cooperation Featuring Ever-lasting Friendship to Strategic Partnership of Cooperation Featuring Ever-lasting Friendship for Development and Prosperity.

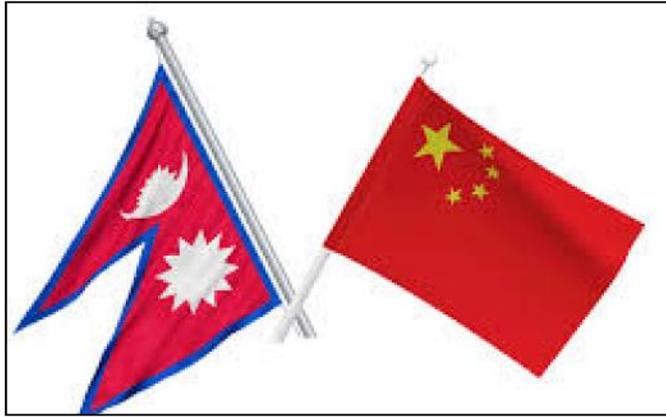
The two sides agreed to respect each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and respect and accommodate each other's concerns and core interests. The two sides will adhere to good neighboring policy and deepen overall cooperation in a win-win manner, so as to achieve mutual benefit and pursue stability and development together.

The Nepali side reiterated its firm commitment to One China policy, acknowledging that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory and Tibet affairs are China's internal affairs, and the determination on not allowing any anti-China activities on its soil. The Chinese side reiterated its firm support to Nepal in upholding the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and its firm support and respect to Nepal's social system and development path independently chosen in the light of Nepal's national conditions.

The Chinese side congratulated Nepal on the historic and epoch-making political transformation and its rapid economic and social development. It believed that the Nepali people would unite as one and keep marching towards the vision of "Samridhdha Nepal, Suhki Nepali" ("Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali"), so as to achieve political stability, social harmony and rapid economic development. The Chinese side expressed willingness to continue interacting with the Nepali side on the experience of governance.

The Nepali side congratulated on the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and expressed its admiration to China's miraculous achievement in development over the past 70 years and sincerely wished that under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the Chinese people would keep striving to realize the two centenary goals and build China a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful.

Both sides underlined that high-level contacts are of special importance to the development of bilateral relations. The two sides agreed to maintain the momentum of high-level visits, deepen political mutual trust and expand exchanges and cooperation between



government ministries, departments, legislatures and political parties at all levels. The two sides agreed to intensify implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative to enhance connectivity, encompassing such vital components as ports, roads, railways, aviation and communications within the overarching framework of trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network with a view to significantly contributing to Nepal's development agenda that includes graduating from LDC at an early date, becoming middle income country by 2030 and realizing the SDGs by the same date.

The two sides, while recalling the MoU signed between the two countries on 21 June 2018 on Cooperation in Railway Project, agreed to conduct the feasibility study as outlined in the MoU signed on 13 October 2019, which will lay an important foundation to launching the construction of the Cross-Border Railway. Both sides also reiterated their commitment to extend cooperation on Kathmandu-Pokhara-Lumbini Railway Project.

The two sides welcomed the reopening and restoration of the freight functions of the Zhangmu/Khasa port, and will optimize the functions of the Jilong/Keyrung port and open the Lizi/Nechung port at the earliest possible time and build necessary infrastructure on the Nepali side of the border. Both sides would keep implementing the Protocol concerning the Utilization of Highway in Tibet, China by Nepal for Cargo Transport and the Protocol to the Agreement on Transit Transport. On the basis of maintaining the long-term operational condition of the Araniko Highway, both sides agreed to cooperate on upgrading and reconstructing the highway on a priority basis in a step-by-step manner. The Chinese side conveyed its readiness in initiating the repair of Syaphrubesi-Rasuwadgadi Highway.

Realizing the importance of enhanced level of connectivity between the two countries, the two sides agreed to proactively cooperate on the feasibility study for the construction of tunnels along the road from Jilong/Keyrung to Kathmandu.

The Chinese side noted the request made by the Nepali side for the construction of Kimathanka-Leguwadgadi section of the Koshi Highway and agreed to consider this project in future cooperation plan and requested the Nepali side to submit a detailed proposal.

The two sides reiterated their commitment to undertake study on the possibility of cooperation, as reflected in the Joint Statement issued in Beijing on 21 June 2018, for the development of the three North-South corridors in Nepal, namely Koshi Economic Corridor, Gandaki Economic Corridor and Karnali Economic corridor in order to create jobs and improve local livelihood, and stimulate economic growth and development. The Chinese side will extend assistance for training Nepali technical human resources in the field of railway, road and tunnel engineering as well as inland waterways and shipping.

Both sides welcomed the consensus reached by the civil aviation authorities of the two countries on expanding the air rights arrangements, under the framework of which the airlines of both countries are encouraged to launch/operate more direct air services. Both sides will coordinate closely to speed up the construction of the Pokhara International Airport so that it would start operation at an early date.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the successful commercial operation of Nepal-China cross-border optical fiber cable and

agreed to further strengthen cooperation on information and communications for mutual benefit.

The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in various fields of economy including trade, tourism, investment, capacity of production and improving people's livelihood so as to promote mutual development.

Under the framework of Nepal-China Joint Commission on Economy and Trade, the two sides will establish a working group on investment cooperation and a working group on trade led by secretary/vice minister-level officials or their designates so as to facilitate bilateral investment and trade. The Chinese side welcomed the Nepali side to participate in the National Exhibition of the Second China International Import Expo to be held in Shanghai in November 2019.

Both sides will hold comprehensive discussions with a view to strengthening trade relations between the two countries. The Chinese side will take positive measures to expand Nepal's export to China. The Chinese side will consider providing technical support for the establishment of a multifunctional laboratory in Nepal and extend necessary cooperation to make Tatopani Frontier Inspection Station at Larcha fully functional. Nepal will facilitate the Chinese banks to open their branches and other financial services in Nepal with a view to facilitating trade and investment between the two countries. Both sides will complete their internal procedures at the earliest time for the operationalization of the Protocol to the Transit Transport Agreement and try their best to implement it at an early date.

Both sides welcomed the signing of the Protocol on Phytosanitary requirements for the Export of Citrus Fruits from Nepal to China and agreed to conclude MoU on Cooperation on Import and Export of Food Safety at the earliest.

The two sides will continue cooperation on production capacity and investment according to the principles of 'dominated by enterprises, respecting business principles, adhering to market-orientation and following international common practice'.

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Cooperation between the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation of Nepal and the National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China signed on 21 June 2018, both sides will bring into full play the Joint Implementation Mechanism (JIM) on Nepal-China Cooperation in energy sector, to carry out exchanges and cooperation in the fields of hydropower, wind power, solar power, biomass energy and other kinds of new energy as well as grid systems, etc. Both sides agreed to jointly carry out Nepal-China Electric Power Cooperation Plan and complete it within one year. Both sides agreed to take this Plan as an important reference for the next step of bilateral electric power cooperation and promote its implementation.

The Nepali side extended its deep appreciation to the Chinese side for the valuable support it has been providing in Nepal's development efforts and for the timely, spontaneous and generous support extended to Nepal's reconstruction after the earthquake in 2015.

The Chinese government will continue to provide assistance to Nepal's economic and social development within its capacity with an emphasis on strengthening cooperation in the field of improving people's livelihood. The Chinese side attached great importance to the aspiration of the Nepali side to

establish a multidisciplinary Madan Bhandari University for Science and Technology as a mark of respect to People's Leader Late Madan Bhandari and will extend support at the earliest date after the Nepali side chooses a suitable site for the university. Both sides will continue their discussion on the basis of the report to be submitted by the site visit working group of the Chinese side.

The Chinese side is willing to expedite the project of improving the quality of supplied water in Kathmandu.

The Chinese side noted Nepal's proposal on Integrated Development, including resettlement of scattered population in the Himalayan Region of Nepal. The Chinese side is willing to share experiences and consider cooperating with the Nepali side on this proposal.

Recognizing that Mount Sagarmatha / Zhumulagma is an eternal symbol of the friendship between Nepal and China, the two sides will promote cooperation in different fields, including addressing climate change and protecting the environment. They will jointly announce the height of the Mount Sagarmatha/Zhumulagma and conduct scientific researches.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Boundary Management System, which will improve the level of boundary management and cooperation for both sides. They were also satisfied with signing the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and expressed hope for an early conclusion of the Treaty on Extradition. The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation between the law enforcement agencies on information exchanges, capacity building and training. In the next 3 years, China will offer 100 training opportunities to the Nepali law enforcement officers each year. With a view to promoting cooperation in security sector, the two sides will continue to strengthen cooperation in the exchange of visits of the security personnel, joint exercises and training, disaster prevention and reduction and personnel training.

The two sides agreed to promote exchanges and cooperation in education, culture, tourism, traditional medicine, media, think tanks and youth at different levels. The Chinese side will offer the Nepali side 100 Confucius Institute Scholarships. The Chinese side supports the Nepali side to hold the activity of Visit Nepal Year 2020, welcomes the Nepali side to participate in the travel marts held in China and is willing to facilitate Nepal's promotion on tourism in China. The Chinese side will hold the 9th China Festival and the 4th Kathmandu Cultural Forum in Nepal, and continue to encourage the Chinese Cultural Centre and the Confucius Institute to promote Nepal-China cultural exchanges and cooperation. The two sides welcomed that Kathmandu of Nepal and Nanjing of China and Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City of Nepal and Xi'an city of China had developed friendship-city relations.

The Chinese side consented to the establishment of Nepal's Consulate General in Chengdu, Sichuan Province of China.

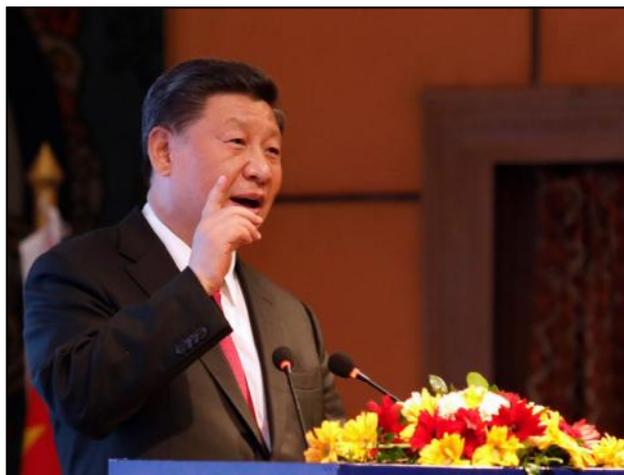
Both sides agreed to revitalize the existing mechanisms between the two countries to further strengthen relations and advance mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields.

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the United Nations and other multilateral fora and to safeguard common interests of developing countries. Both sides exchanged fruitful views on promoting collaboration and strengthening cooperation in regional issues and agreed to support each other on matters of mutual interest. The two sides expressed firm commitment to the multilateral trading regime and work for a more open, inclusive and balanced economic globalization with shared benefits.

Both sides held that President Xi Jinping's State visit, on the historic occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, to Nepal marked the beginning of a new era in Nepal-China relations and served as an important milestone in the history of friendly cooperation between the two countries. The Chinese side would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the Government of Nepal and its people for their warm and friendly reception.

President Xi Jinping sincerely invited Nepali leaders to visit China again at the convenience of both sides. The two sides will stay in touch via diplomatic channels.

'China will support Nepal to turn land-locked to land-linked country'



Kathmandu: Chinese President Xi Jinping said that the feasibility study of cross-border railway between the two countries would be conducted.

Delivering a keynote speech during dinner reception hosted by President Bidya Devi Bhandari at Hotel Crown Plaza Soltee, President Xi said that China would help Nepal realize its dream to become a land-linked country.

On the occasion, Xi stated that the cordial relations between Nepal and China were centuries-old. President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, who arrived in Kathmandu on Saturday evening on a two-day State visit, said Nepal and China had nothing but friendship.

"We have model friendship in the world, and there is no issue between the two countries but

friendship," he said while speaking at the State Banquet organised by President Bidya Devi Bhandari in his honor at Soaltee Hotel.

President Xi said that he and his Nepali counterpart Bhandari had agreed to develop relations, friendship and partnership that would help in development and prosperity for many generations to come.

He assured that more reliable and easier connectivity facility between the two countries would be constructed in the near future. Maintaining that China would expedite the development of Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity infrastructure, he said, "We want to support Nepal in realising its dream to become a land-linked country from the landlocked country."

He announced that China will provide support in conducting the

feasibility study of Keyrung-Kathmandu railway, upgrading the Arniko Highway and constructing Keyrung-Kathmandu tunnel way.

President Xi expressed his commitment to further support in the post-quake reconstruction, promoting Visit Nepal Year 2020, support education sector and urban development in the country. He is happy that the leadership of both the countries together made it possible to develop and implement a new framework of friendship and plans.

"I am hopeful that there will be more cooperation between Nepal and China at multilateral platforms," he said.

According to Xi, Buddhism has become a local religion in China, and many Chinese want to visit Nepal and Lumbini, and in future there will be more religious exchanges.

He also said that China was ever ready to conserve Sagarmatha region and support Nepal's genuine demands regarding the issue of climate change.

President Xi announced a support of 3.5 billion RMB to be provided between 2020 to 2022 for uplifting the living standard of the Nepali people. President Bhandari, in her welcome remarks, appreciated China for its support in Nepal's development efforts and cooperation at the international platforms.

"Nepal and China have been standing together and extending cooperation in multilateral platform for peace, stability and development," she said.

Geographically Nepal and China are close friends while history and culture have helped in developing cordial relations, she said. "At this juncture, Nepal wants to express its commitment to taking the bilateral relations to a newer height." She reiterated Nepal's commitment to 'One China Policy' and

not allowing any force to use Nepali land against China.

President Bhandari said that the land of Lord Buddha expected Chinese support in developing Lumbini as a centre of world peace, and infrastructure improvement for cross-border connectivity.

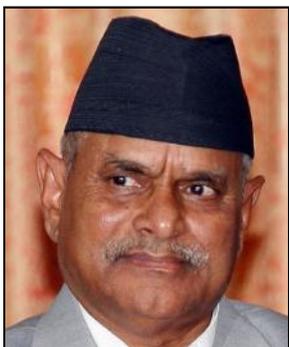
"Nepali people want to see Rasuwagadhi-Kathmandu-Lumbini railway connectivity being happened," she said.

According to her, since Nepal's internal resources are not sufficient to meet the ambition to become a middle-income country by 2030, it needs more foreign investment. The country wants Chinese investment in the productive sectors like infrastructure, energy and tourism, she said. "The government will assure security to the investment made in Nepal," President Bhandari said. She also said that Nepal expected support of the Chinese government in Visit Nepal Year 2020, conserving mountain ecology and combating the impact of climate change.

She informed President Xi that the government was holding an international forum 'Sagarmatha Sambad' and said Nepal expected high-level participation from China. Nepal is organising 'Sagarmatha Sambad' – an international dialogue, in March 2020, and the main agenda of the first summit would be climate change.

As the global warming has created alarming situation in the mountains and plains equally, and the country wants to draw the attention to the climate change impacts on Himalayas, environment and people, the first Sambad will be focused on the same theme.

Delay in amendment will give rise to more dissatisfaction: Yadav



Kathmandu: Former President Ram Baran Yadav has called for an amendment to the constitution to address the grievances of different communities. Inaugurating the first International Tamu Conference in the Capital, Yadav, the first head of state after

the country became a federal republic, urged the government and the major parties to correct the mistakes in the main law of the land. The Constitution of Nepal was promulgated on September 20, 2015, amid serious reservations expressed by the indigenous and Madhesi communities. Yadav was president at that time.

Madhesi parties had even boycotted the constitution drafting process during its last phase in the Constitution Assembly.

"The constitution should be amended to ensure its broader acceptance. The mistakes in the constitution should be corrected without delay," said Yadav. "The delay in the amendment will give rise to more dissatisfaction."

The two-day conference has the participation of hundreds of people

from the Gurung community residing worldwide.

Nepal marked the fourth anniversary of the constitution's promulgation last month amid reservations from different communities. The Madhesi, Tharus and the indigenous communities are particularly unhappy in the manner the provinces were constituted.

"There could be complexities in the implementation of the constitution if there is a further delay in its amendment," said Yadav.

The Rastriya Janata Party Nepal from the opposition and Samajbadi Party Nepal, which is a part of the incumbent federal government, have been demanding an amendment to the constitution. The Upendra Yadav-led Samajbadi Party joined the KP Sharma Oli-led government after forging a two-point deal on May 28 last year. The deal included the party's demand for an

amendment to the constitution based on mutual understanding among the governing parties.

However, the Samajbadi Party hasn't firmly pushed for a revision in the statute since joining the government. The Rastriya Janata Party, meanwhile, has been persistent in its demand. Leaders of the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP), including Prime Minister Oli, maintain that the constitution can be amended, only if it is necessary.

The first amendment to the constitution in January 2016 increased reservation quotas for the backward communities in government jobs. It also included a provision to delineate the constituencies based on the proportion of the population.

However, the Madhesi parties said that the amendments weren't enough to address all of their grievances.

Modi tells Xi relations are stable, differences manageable

New Delhi: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday that relations between their countries have attained stability and momentum in the past year, something that should enable them to manage their differences and avoid disputes.

The two leaders avoided the vexed Kashmir dispute from clouding their summit in the seaside temple town of Mamallapuram. Modi said both countries agreed to be sensitive to each other's concerns as they held delegation-level talks.

Modi and Xi were meeting at a time of tensions over Beijing's support for Pakistan, India's archrival, in opposing New Delhi's downgrading of Kashmir's semi-autonomy and continuing restrictions in the disputed region.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale told reporters that "this issue was not raised and discussed," but that Xi apprised Modi of Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing earlier in the week.

"India-China relations are not predicated to a single issue," Gokhale said, adding that the latest developments in Kashmir were an internal matter of India.

Without going into details, Xi said in his opening remarks at the delegation-level talks that he had taken part in candid and in-depth discussions with Modi on various issues since his arrival Friday. Gokhale said the two countries decided to set up a group at the finance ministers' level to discuss trade and investment issues, especially India facing a whopping \$63 billion trade deficit with China.

According to India's Commerce Ministry, India's exports to China amounted to \$13.33 billion in the 2018 financial year, compared with imports of \$76.38 billion.

Xi and Modi met over dinner for more



than two hours on Friday after the Indian prime minister took the Chinese president around an ancient temple and some other monuments that are part of UNESCO's world heritage sites in Mamallapuram. Besides emphasizing the expansion of trade and investment, Modi and Xi resolved to work together in facing the challenges of radicalization and terrorism, Gokhale said.

There was an acknowledgement that both India and China were "very complex and very diverse countries," and that both will work together so that radicalization and terrorism does not affect their multicultural, multiethnic and multireligious societies, Gokhale said. He did not give details.

Tensions in Kashmir, which is divided between Pakistan and India but claimed by both in its entirety, have escalated since August, when India downgraded the semi-autonomy of Indian-administered Kashmir and imposed a security and communications lockdown.

China supported Pakistan in raising India's actions at the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York. China said India should not act

unilaterally in Kashmir, a portion of which China also controls.

Xi arrived in India two days after hosting Pakistani Prime Minister Khan in Beijing.

India accuses neighboring Pakistan of arming and training insurgent groups fighting for Kashmir's independence or its merger with

Pakistan. Pakistan denies the charge. The two countries have fought two wars over the region's control since they won independence from British colonialists in 1947.

A meeting between Xi and Modi in Wuhan, China, in April 2018 was preceded by tensions caused by a 10-week standoff between their countries' armed forces on the Bhutan border.

China claims some 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) of territory in India's northeast, while India says China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory on the Aksai Chin Plateau in the western Himalayas. Officials have met at least 20 times to discuss the competing border claims without making significant progress.

India and China fought a border war in 1962.

India also is concerned about China's moves to build strategic and economic ties with its neighbors Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Maldives. Xi will visit Nepal on Saturday.

Lawmaker Aftaab Aalam arrested



Kathmandu: Member of the federal parliament Mohammed Aftaab Aalam who had been accused of 2008 bomb blast incident has been arrested by the District Police Rautahat.

According to the Police, Aalam was arrested while he was on his way to his relatives in his jeep (BR 06 PE 1202) when the police team led by Senior Superintendent of Police Nabin Karki brought the jeep under the control.

Aalam was arrested today for burning eight-already-injured alive who were secretly making a bomb, that exploded due to a technical glitch, in Aalam's house. Aalam was a member of the Constituent Assembly 2008 representing Nepali Congress in the Rautahat-2 constituency elected during the 2008 Constituent Assembly election. He was also elected the member of federal parliament representing Rautahat-2 from Nepali Congress in December 2017.



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*सर्वाधिक ब्याज दर सिमित ।

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