

India approaches to include Sikh heritage tourism in VNY 'Nepal has a repository of Sikh heritage'

Kathmandu: To promote Sikh heritage tourism in Nepal, India has approached the government to include the Sikh heritage tourism element in the 'Visit Nepal 2020' event beginning next year. "Nepal has a repository of Sikh heritage. That's what we are trying to highlight to the Nepalese government. Promoting this element in 'Visit Nepal 2020' will be the first step to approach the Sikh diasporas," said Manjeev Singh Puri, Indian ambassador to Nepal, said.



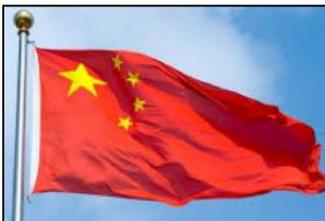
Puri and his wife Namrita Puri were a part of the first Indian 'jatha' that left to pay obeisance at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib, Pakistan via newly constructed Kartarpur Corridor on November 9. "We are already in touch with the Nepalese government and have brought to their attention that there is an extraordinary opportunity in promoting Sikh pilgrimage" he

said. He informed that in the run-up to 550 birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the Indian embassy done extensive research work, and elaborately studied Baba Nanak's connect with Nepal. Guru Nanak had travelled through Nepal as part of his Udasis (travels). Nanak Mutt in the Balaju area of Kathmandu has a peepal tree under which Baba Nanak is

believed to have meditated. Nanak Mutt is also called as 'forgotten shrine of the Sikhs'. Kathmandu also boasts a few more shrines linked to the Udasi tradition with several handwritten Saroop of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Puri said that Guru Nanak's travels in Nepal were said to also cover western Nepal, the Terai, Janakpur, areas around Kosi river and even Tengboche

Monastery in Everest region. He said including Sikh heritage in the Visit Nepal 2020 would put Nepal on the itinerary of Sikhs going all over the world in pilgrimage. "The event will help Nepal to showcase its Sikh religious places and reach out to Sikhs and tell them to visit Nepal on pilgrimage," he said. "Embassy has been fully-involved and will continue to stay in touch with the Nepalese government. In the recent past, the Nepal government released three commemorative coins to mark Baba Nanak's 550 birth anniversary and I am hopeful it will also include the Sikh heritage element in the 'Visit Nepal 2020' event, said Puri. Puri also hailed the opening of the Kartarpur corridor. He said, "It has happened in our times and we are blessed to be the part of it, both India and Pakistan have created good infrastructure including transit infrastructure.

Nepal and India could solve border issues through negotiations: China



Kathmandu: Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu on Thursday said China wished Nepal and India could solve their territory disputes on Kalapani through friendly consultations and negotiations. "The Chinese side has always respected sovereignty and

territorial integrity of the Nepali side," a statement received from the embassy read. It denied charges "noticed in some irresponsible media and individual groups" claiming China also encroached Nepali land. These charges are baseless and aim at diverting public attentions, read the statement. It said China and Nepal signed the Boundary Treaty in 1961 and the boundary has been delimited and demarcated. "Over the years, the two sides have a good cooperation in

matters such as the boundary and dry ports affairs," it said, recalling President Xi Jinping's state visit to Nepal in October. During the visit, the two sides signed the Agreement on the Boundary Management System. "China is willing to further strengthen cooperation with the Nepali side on boundary affairs to avoid interference from the outside and promote common development. Any attempt to undermine China-Nepal relations won't be achievable," read the statement.

CK Raut's party contesting by-elections

Kathmandu: CK Raut's Janamat Party has fielded its candidacy for the by-election of the chairperson of Pipara rural municipality of Mahottari district to be held on November 30. On behalf of the party, Anjali Devi Mandal registered her candidature. She has got a loudspeaker (horn) as the election symbol, according to Raut. Likewise, the party is contesting the election of the ward chair in Hariapurwa municipality-1 of Sarlahi district, the party informs. Raut carried out secessionist activities for the past few years, demanding that the Madhesh region be made a separate country. He had given up the agenda by signing an 11-point agreement with the government on March 8. After around one week, he had decided to register the party.





Editorial

Complexity of politics

The virtue of politics is reflects the nation's vision, hope and decision for all sectors of life. It is a domain of freedom, an act of free will for peace, not truth which is the job of scientists. Law-based freedom lends essence to rights for the empowerment of people in speech and action. In Nepal, rights pervade justice, equality, dignity, prosperity, happiness, identity, peace and human rights vital to subordinate selfish human nature. Nepali politics has inflated the scope of social contract and rules of the game beyond winner-takes-all but remains weak in coordinating leaders in the middle way. Paradoxically, the concept of duty, the basis of Nepali state and society, is becoming alien to leaders and people.

Bound by pre-scientific tradition, the freedom of ancients was embedded in group rights. The state of nature required them to live in a group for security and safety before entering into the pursuit of nirvana, a fully freed life. As people shed fetters of tradition and lineage clutch, their search for modernity entitled them with individual and human rights. The bulge of rights in Nepali Constitution has

Nepali Constitution has enfranchised women, Dalits, Madhesi, Janajatis, tribal and minorities with a new identity of equal citizens.

enfranchised women, Dalits, Madhesi, Janajatis, tribal and minorities with a new identity of equal citizens. Still, rival claims by political parties, leadership, institutions and constitution have troublesome links to informal politics in need of fair adjudication.

Similarly, partisan politics that focused on factional leaders too failed to offer public goods in an impersonal manner, their parties' electoral promise of the happiness of the mass notwithstanding. The narrative of political decay in Nepal points how different organs of the polity mired down each other and bred discontent. It has triggered social struggles as a change agent of its political culture sustained by the scale and scope of politics by parties' merger and acquisitions, not competition on public policies. Nepali leaders, therefore, need to be governed by rajdharma and their success rests on adapting to the changing public opinion, right public policy and welfare project of politics. In Nepal, bloated size and cost of leaders who do not perform their duty either in policy making, political education, expand economic base of the state, formulate proper law for the regulation of various actors, representation of citizens and defence of the autonomy of politics have corroded its efficacy. The erosion of ideology of Nepali parties has fortified the leadership cult and cut the virtue of solidarity addicting them to culture-bound syndrome of family-friendly politics and patronage. Leader-driven factions have increased the loyalty of cadres to them, not to the parties.

At a time of rapid ecological, technological and economic transformations, Nepali politics as an art needs to be creative to invent context-sensitive knowledge, keep pace with changes and settle the problems of values, actors, institutions and issues so that politics becomes useful. The true measure of good politics lies in the capacity of Nepali leaders to deliver decent standards of living for all people and provide collective presence against all odds.

Nepal upset as India's new map depicts disputed Kalapani as part of Uttarakhand

Nayanima Basu

After Pakistan, now Nepal is upset with India over the new map that the government released last Saturday, because it depicts the disputed Kalapani area within the state of Uttarakhand.

There has been a spate of protests in Nepal on this issue, and the country's government issued a strong statement Wednesday, saying India cannot claim this area as its own.

"Nepal government is committed to protecting its international border and any border-related issue relating to the two friendly countries need to be resolved through diplomatic channel on the basis of historical documents and evidence," Nepal's foreign ministry said.

Responding to the statement, Raveesh Kumar, spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs told the press Thursday: "Our map accurately depicts the sovereign territory of India. The new map has in no manner revised our boundary with Nepal. The boundary delineation exercise with Nepal is ongoing under the existing mechanism."

What is the dispute? Both India and Nepal claim Kalapani as an integral part of their territories — India as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district, and Nepal as part of the Darchula district. The region has been manned by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police since 1962.

The river Mahakali runs through the Kalapani region, with its source being at the heart of the dispute between the countries. But there is no agreed-upon demarcation of the boundary in the region, which stretches up to the border with China.

The Kalapani dispute was discussed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to Nepal in 2014, when the issue was taken up after almost seven years. Chinese influence?

Kumar also said that India reiterates its "commitment to find(ing) a solution through dialogue in the spirit of our

close and friendly bilateral relations", adding that both countries "should guard against vested interests trying to create differences between our two countries", a possible reference to China.

At the time of the Doklam stand-off, a Chinese government spokesperson had referred to the Kalapani dispute and India's unsettled

(which runs through the Kalapani region) originates. Although the two countries have pledged to resolve the dispute diplomatically, talks had stalled until Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to Nepal in 2014, when he addressed the issue for the first time in seven years. Kalapani is one of only two disputed pieces of land between India and Nepal,

As Nepal insists on resolving border issues through diplomatic channels, India says new map hasn't revised the boundary and delineation exercise will go on.

disputes over tri-junction areas.

"The Indian side has also many tri-junctions. What if we use the same excuse and enter the Kalapani region between China, India and Nepal or even into the Kashmir region between India and Pakistan," the spokesperson had said.

In a move to allay Nepali fears of India seeking to appropriate its sovereign territory, Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Raveesh Kumar, issued a statement saying that there has been no revision to the Indo-Nepal boundary in the latest map of India, depicting Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh as Union territories. Kumar also asserted that bilateral talks over the disputed Kalapani territory are ongoing.

Located at an altitude of approximately 3600m, Kalapani lies at the border of Uttarakhand and Nepal's Sudurpashchim Pradesh. India considers the region to be part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district, however, Nepal has also laid claim to the land, calling it part of its Darchula district. Since the 1962 war between India and China, the region has been occupied by the Indo-Tibetan Border Forces. The source of the dispute comes from the ambiguity around where the Mahakali river

with 97 per cent of boundary discrepancies resolved since 1981. However, it was shortly after the signing of the Mahakali Treaty — an agreement to mutually cooperate in the development of the region — when the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML) began staking a claim to Kalapani. Over the years, the boundary issue has been used as a key political tool in Nepali elections, especially by political parties in the Darchula district, who have much to lose, from India sealing its border points around Kalapani.

The territory also holds strategic military significance, serving as a meeting point for India, Nepal and China. Nepal has claimed that as per the terms of the Sugauli Treaty, established between itself and the then East India Company in 1816, Kalapani is included in its sovereign territory. However, as per Article 5 of the treaty, Nepal had agreed to renounce any claim to land that lay to the west of the River Kali (now Mahakali). The first land surveys in the area were conducted in the 1860s, with further surveys conducted in the 1920s as well. In 1929, Kalapani's designation as a part of India was reconfirmed by Nepal.

Executive presidential model is prime agenda

It is not good for the country to leave the government suddenly and weaken the government.

➤ **What decisions did the meeting of the Federal Council and the Central Committee made of the Socialist Party?**

We have presented the regulations in detail by drafting the party constitution. We have followed the decisions made so far. Our party program is in the process of becoming Kathmandu.

➤ **What was the conclusion of two meetings?**

Congress was still chanting slogans of constitutional democracy, the same slogan being Communist. In fact, this country does not make this slogan prosperous. The process of socialism is essential for developing the country. So far, the government has repeatedly thought about how to survive. So far, the government is limited in how long it will take to form a government within the purview of the ruling class of the Arya Khas community.

In order to change this system and move forward in the process of developing a developing country, the executive has to be president and the people should have the right to vote for it.

The current election system is very expensive; the leader who won the election by spending billions cannot implement the practice only if I stop corruption in the country. We have come to the conclusion that there should be a fully proportionate electoral system.

➤ **The issue of government was also discussed at the Federal Council meeting? What has been your achievement since joining the government?**

The government has done pretty well, but this two-thirds government has had to go two ways. Our central council meeting reviewed the government's functioning. Council Chairman Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, in his present political report, also mentioned that the issue of peace, security and security could not be maintained properly. The political report has been prepared covering topics like how to build an organization in a party, how to operate an organization, how to form a party relationship with various parties and international countries. The Nirmala Pant case has worsened so much that the government appears to have failed to prosecute the guilty. We have seen that people's confidence in this government has diminished even as the general public is keenly watching these events that affect national politics. We are also in government and we have been criticizing the government while sitting in the government. This is only a democratic exercise. Recently, PM Oli has made some decisions within the secretariat, subject to ministerial reshuffle.

➤ **Even if the Socialist Party does not see the constitution amended, it seems that it will continue to hang in government?**

We agreed to make the government a two-thirds majority by agreeing two points. If we leave the government in the present case, two-thirds of the government breaks down. Prime Minister has been saying

that the constitution will be amended in a timely manner. It is not good for the country to leave the government suddenly and weaken the government. After a slight improvement in the health of the Prime Minister, we proceed with a solid discussion with the Prime Minister. Immediately the Samajwadi Party is not in the mood to quit the government.

➤ **But the Prime Minister has been saying that amendment will be made on the basis of need and justification.**

We do not allow that to happen. We are moving forward with equal rights of indigenous nationalities, women and Madhesi in all the constituencies passed till now. We are moving forward, even in government, pointing out the mistakes made by the government. If the constitution is the basic law of the country, it needs different laws to govern it. We are in the process of making those other laws. The constitution has set a specific time for making electricians, and now we are in the business. We have fought in the fight for federalism. Protecting this achievement, we move forward on the amendment of the constitution.

➤ **The issue related the unification with RJP-Nepal did not enter in the meeting?**

The Congress and the Communists are not our likeminded parties. The Central Committee has unanimously decided to unite with the parties



Uma Shankar Argariya
Chief Whip, Socialist Party

which we have an opinion on.

Everyone has agreed on unification with RJP-Nepal. Newsletter has been published the Samajwadi Party should leave the government for unification with RJP-Nepal. We have said that we will resign from the government only on the day of unification with RJP. But even with our participation in the government, unification with RJP-Nepal does not matter.

➤ **There is a controversy that India is also covering the territory of Nepal when the new map is publicized. What is the Socialist Party's view on this?**

Our party's view is clear that we will not allow any land in our country to be erased. We have been following the demarcation since the Treaty of Sugauli. In order to maintain good relations with the neighboring countries, the existing issues should be resolved diplomatically. The

same concept was called by the Prime Minister at an all-party meeting. Baburam Bhattarai has already kept up.

It is only the awakening of hollow nationalism among the masses that there is no solution to the problem. The government will solve this problem. Burning one's effigy or burning a map does not solve the problem. The people here will suffer if they live and die. If the slogan was to try to pressure the government, it might be true, but in the present case, the illusion that India is being nationalized when it is abused is wrong. Madhesi people are defending their land without being at the bottom. It is not called nationalism here. This is a bad practice for the country, and it can ruin relations with neighboring countries.

We must move forward to solve the problem by having a good relationship with our neighbor.

Socialist Party to quit govt: Bhattarai

Kathmandu: The federal council chairman of the Samajwadi Party Nepal (SPN), Baburam Bhattarai has said his party should quit the government if the government continued to ignore calls for constitutional amendment.

He, however, pointed to the need for serious discussion with the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) before reaching to such a decision. "The party should push forward the demand for revision of the constitution in line with the two-point agreement, and the party's central working committee should move ahead with a decision to pull out from the government if the process is not taken forward," Bhattarai said in a document presented at the maiden national gathering of the party's federal council held at the Nepal Academy Hall in Kathmandu.

Bhattarai was referring to an accord between the NCP and the erstwhile



Federal Socialist Party Nepal to amend the constitution before the latter joined the government last year.

In the 25-page document, Bhattarai has lambasted the Oli government for showing total disregard to the coalition partner while taking an important decision like mass dismissal of provincial governors. The document, criticized by some

leaders of his own party for its paradoxical views, has also denounced the ruling party on numerous grounds, notably for bad governance, corruption, apathy to rights of minority groups and authoritarian tendencies. NCP remains 'devoid of ideological clarity and is headed toward the path of decay', Bhattarai has said in the document.

Bhattarai, also sharply critical of Nepali Congress, has taken positive attitude toward Bibeksheel Nepali and Rastriya Janata Party Nepal, the fourth largest party in the federal parliament with which SPN jointly runs government in Province 2.

"Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJPN) is a democratic party committed to the national identity and rights. We share a lot of similarities with the party," Bhattarai has said, stressing the need for taking the proposed merger with the party to a logical end. Interestingly, Bhattarai appears softer than Yadav on his views in relation to the RJPN. Bhattarai has also spent significant time describing his own party, its ideology, and goals. Describing the party as the only force true to the cause of the Nepali people irrespective of caste, class, religion and gender, Bhattarai has claimed that the entire county would fail if the party failed to achieve its stated goals.

Xi invites Modi to visit again

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping has invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit China again next year after two informal summits between the men in each other's countries, despite deep disagreement over the disputed Kashmir region. Xi and Modi met in southern India last month, following their first informal summit in China last year as the two sought to put their often deeply strained relationship back on track. But a little more than two weeks later, the two countries fell into a diplomatic dispute over Kashmir after India formally revoked the state's constitutional autonomy and split it into two federal territories in a bid to integrate it fully into India. Meeting in Brazil on the sidelines of



a meeting the BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - Xi told Modi he was willing to maintain close communication "to guide a better and more stable development of China-India relations."

The two should "increase political mutual trust, properly manage differences and expand practical cooperation so as to guide a better and more stable development of bilateral ties," Xi said, according to a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement released on Thursday.

"2020 will be here soon, and I hope China-India relations will achieve new and greater development in the new year," the statement quoted Xi as saying. "I welcome you to come to China for another meeting next year." China's statement made no mention of Kashmir.

Rs 3.10 billion support from India



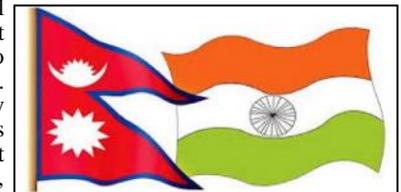
Kathmandu: EXIM Bank of India, on behalf of the government of India, released Rs 3.10 billion (approximately \$27.9 million) to the Nepal government from concessional line of credit towards reimbursement of third tranche of housing reconstruction in Nuwakot and Gorkha districts.

India has pledged \$50 million from line of credit to support reconstruction of 50,000 private houses in Nuwakot and Gorkha districts in Nepal, as per a media release issued by the Embassy of India. In addition, India committed \$100 million as grant for supporting these houses. So far, India has reimbursed Rs 6.96 billion (approximately \$69.6 million) towards reimbursement of first and second tranches to home owners. The support by the Indian government also includes provision of socio-technical facilitation to the home owners to encourage them to rebuild their homes as per Nepal government's earthquake resilient norms.

Nepal and India to discuss border security

Kathmandu: Officials of Nepal and India are scheduled to meet in Pokhara next week to discuss border security issues. Discussions on the recently published map and the disputes caused by it, however, have not been listed on the agenda, informs officials at the Ministry of Home Affairs. "We will discuss issues such as cross-border crimes and joint patrolling. Discussions on border disputes have not been planned yet."

The bilateral meeting is scheduled to take place from Wednesday to Friday next week. Nepal will be represented by senior Armed Police Force officials whereas India by officials of Seema Suraksha Bal.



APF chief Shailendra Basnet had drafted the agenda and submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry has already forwarded the agenda to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The neighbours have agreed to conduct such meetings every year, but only three were held in the past seven years. The last meeting was held in August 2016 in India.

Number of Bangladeshi tourists expected to increase with President Hamid's visit

Kathmandu: The number of Bangladeshi visitors is expected to increase in this touristic city with the visit of President of the friendly country Bangladesh, Mohammad Abdul Hamid.

The Bangladesh President, who arrived on a four-day official goodwill visit to Nepal at the invitation of President Bidya Devi Bhandari, went on a sight-seeing tour around Pokhara and also had a boat excursion on the Phewa Lake, the main tourist attraction of the city. He reached Rupakot Resort at Rupakot rural municipality and observed the beautiful sight of the Himalayas to the north and the lakes in Pokhara.

The spectacular views along the way from Pokhara up to Rupakot not only very much attracted the visiting dignitary's fancy but it has also increased the possibility of more Bangladeshi tourists and the VVIP guests of other countries arriving in this tourism city. Based on the experience of surge in Indian tourists in Muktinath following Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pilgrimage visit to this holy site last year, it is believed that President Hamid's visit will also spur more Bangladeshis to visit Nepal and Pokhara in particular. Bangladesh is one among the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) with big population.

Going by the statistics made available by Nepal Tourism



Board (NTB) the number of Bangladeshi visitors however is very small. The tourist arrival data over the last few years shows that 23,440 tourists came from Bangladesh in 2016. Similarly, 29,060 Bangladeshi tourists visited Pokhara in 2017. Likewise, 26,355 Bangladeshi tourists visited in 2018 and 19,279 Bangladeshi visitors came for visit until October 2019, Manager of NTB Pokhara office, Surya Thapaliya, said. He said President Hamid's visit is expected to lead to an increase in tourist arrival from Bangladesh. President of Pokhara Tourism Council, Chiranjibi Pokharel believed that the Bangladesh President's visit to Pokhara will leave a positive impact in the local tourism market. "Lately visit culture is growing in Bangladesh. The Pokhara visit by the Bangladeshi President is expected to be helpful in the promotion of tourism sector here as it is likely to encourage the Bangladesh large population to visit Nepal," he said, adding that the visit of the Head-of-the-State of a foreign nation

would obviously leave a good impact on tourism sector. More, the visit is expected to contribute to connecting Bangladesh and Nepal in terms of tourism. Tourism entrepreneur and Hotel Asia, Lakeside's operator Dharma Panthi said that in recent years, Pokhara played host to distinguished guests and his realization is that it had obviously enthused the tourism community.

As he said, tourism infrastructure development is on the rise in Pokhara. He also hoped that the visit by VVIP guests would contribute to give a further lift to tourism sector in terms of quality. When we look back in history, Pokhara has been witnessing the rise in tourist arrival since 1960. It may be noted that in 1960, the city had got an opportunity to welcome Chou En-lai, the first premier of the People's Republic of China. Similarly, Queen Elizabeth II had visited Pokhara in 1961 and it was followed by Indian President Radhakrishnan in 1963. Phewa Lake located on the foothills of the glittering Himalayas, and other unique lakes, Sarangkot, Bishwashanti Stupa (World Peace Pagoda), Mahendra

Cave, Chamere Cave, Gupteshwor Cave, Seti River and Davis Falls take no more time to capture the fascination of visitors.

Besides these sites, Begnas, Rupa, Khaste, Dipang, Maidi and Neuren Lakes in the Lekhnath area remain as other significant touristic sites in Pokhara. More, Pokhara was lucky as the 37th Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers (Mini SAARC Conference) was held in Pokhara, on 17 March 2016 and shortly after British Prince Harry had visited it. During his Nepal visit in the Nepali month of Kartik, 2073 BS, the then President of India Pranab Mukherjee also visited Pokhara. Ministers for Foreign Affairs of SAARC member states and other guests who participated in the meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers then praising Pokhara for its beauty and scenery was covered by the national and international media. President Hamid's lauding mountains and lakes of the tourist city has once again helped draw the attention of the world.

The President's visit would help create positive impact on Pokhara's tourism, said Bikal Tulachan, president of the Western Hotel Association. The number of well-equipped hotels and infrastructures is increasing lately, he said, adding that there are around 750 general and well-equipped hotels in Pokhara and surrounding areas including approximately 12 hotels which are well-equipped enough to provide good facilities to VIPs and VVIPs. Approximately Rs 3 billion has been invested in hotels and infrastructures in the areas, he said.

Kalapani is ours: RJP-Nepal Yadav



Kathmandu: RJP-Nepal Mahendra Raja Yadav has said that Kalapani and Lipulek are Nepal's territory and the government should make efforts to return these territories.

Speaking at an interaction

programme organised by the Reporters' Club, Yadav said, "An all-party consensus has been developed in Baluatar. Presently there is a strong government in the country. The all-party consensus on Kalapani has given a big strength."

Yadav said, there is border dispute with India for last 70 years. The dispute has to be ended through diplomatic talks, according to Reporters Nepal Online.

"We will not give one inch of land," Yadav said and added, "We have stood at one place to save our land."

'China also encroached Nepali land'

Kathmandu: Nepali Congress lawmakers Amresh Kumar Singh and Devendra Raj Kandel have pointed that China has also encroached Nepali land in the meeting of State Affairs Committee of the parliament convened Monday to discuss inclusion of Lipu Lekh and Kalapani of Nepal in the new political map published by India.

"The government should also put a clear position on encroachment by China," Kandel said. "It should also state its position in pillar number 56 of Dolakha and Mt Everest."

Kandel opposed arrest of protestors opposing encroachment of Nepali land by the police and demanded that the border dispute with China should also be resolved when the issue of Kalapani has been raised.

Singh also raised the border encroachment by China and pointed that the northern neighbor has sole possession of the keys for the bridge in Rasuwa connecting Nepal and China. "Why does China have sole possession of the keys? Why does the Nepal Police not have the keys?" Singh asked.

He opined that the Nepal Army should be deployed for border security. "It is not the army's duty to run shopping malls and sell petrol. The army should not be turned into contractors through Cabinet decision and should instead be deployed at the borders," he stressed.



Local government representatives on exposure visit to India



Kathmandu: As part of Government of India's post-earthquake-reconstruction efforts in Nepal, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is organizing an exposure visit for 16 elected local government representatives from Gorkha district of Nepal to India that concludes on November 16.

UNDP's partner Owner Driven Reconstruction Collaborative of India (ODRC) is coordinating their visits to Gujarat and Delhi to learn from the Bhuj Earthquake Reconstruction Experience. Mayors/Deputy Mayors of two municipalities and Ward Chairs/Vice-Chairs of six rural municipalities are participating in the visit which began on November 12, according to a statement issued by the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu.

During their visit, the delegation will interact with the elected representatives of Bhuj and Gujarat government executives and observe the practices of owner-driven reconstruction adopted after the Bhuj earthquake. In Delhi, the delegation will interact with the National Disaster Management Authority of India to get a comprehensive overview of India's disaster preparedness, recovery set up and experiences.

Alam sent to Nakkhu Jail



Gaur: The Rautahat bomb blast accused Muhammad Aaftab Alam was shifted to central jail in Nakkhu on Friday night.

Following the verdict of Rautahat District Court, Alam was shifted to the central jail where he would be kept for carrying out further investigation into his case.

During the Friday's hearing, Alam was not found innocent and thus further investigation on his alleged crime was required. The district court allowed for his shifting to the safer jail.

"Serious allegations upon Alam need detail investigation with additional evidences. If he is freed investigation process may hamper," there is in the court decision.

District Security Committee had decided for his transformation. "Due to the security reason Alam was required to be shifted to the central jail from the district," Police Inspector Pappu Nayak said. He said that the district jail was not appropriate for Alam.

"Alam was brought late Friday night from Rautahat and admitted to Nakkhu jail at 4:00 AM early Saturday morning due to the security purpose," police said. However, he would be presented to the court at hearing times along with evidences and witnesses.

Nayak said that victims, witnesses and complainants were provided security. "The plain-cloth police have been providing security to the victims and their families and the accused in the crime was shifted elsewhere from the district for maintaining security," he told. The existing criminal laws advocates for maintaining safety of defendants and plaintiffs during the investigation of a criminal case.

Tendulkar plays friendly match alongside children

Kathmandu: Former Indian national team skipper Sachin Tendulkar played alongside school children in friendly cricket match at TU Stadium. Team Sachin won the game by nine wickets. Tendulkar, widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen in the history of cricket, came to Kathmandu to take part in the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) programme as its goodwill ambassador.



Binod Das, former Nepali national team captain, also joined him for the event organised on the occasion of 30 years of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The programme hopes to promote the values of physical fitness, proper nutrition and choices that positively impact children's health. Earlier, the UNICEF Nepal had invited former England International David Beckham in 2015. Beckman, also the goodwill ambassador of UNICEF, visited Bhaktapur Durbar Square and played a charity match with school children at Taumadi.

Tendulkar meets PM Oli

Kathmandu: Former Indian national cricket team skipper Sachin Tendulkar who came to Nepal for a UNICEF programme, met Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli.

In his tweet, PM Oli shared that Tendulkar appreciated the efforts undertaken by Nepal for the promotion of child rights and their welfare.



Tendulkar, widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen in the history of cricket, came to Kathmandu on Friday as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) goodwill ambassador Tendulkar joined former Nepali national team captain Binod Das to play a friendly cricket match alongside children at TU Stadium in Kirtipur on Saturday. The game was organised by UNICEF and European Union Programme — commemoration of 30 years of UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. Earlier, Tendulkar visited Pashupatinath Temple.

Will remove Indian forces from Kalapani: PM

Kathmandu: Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli says his government will remove Indian security personnel from the disputed land of Kalapani. He has requested the Indian government to call back the troops.

Oli's statement comes around two weeks after India published its new political map, putting Kalapani in its territory. The map triggered rounds of protests in Nepal in recent weeks.

Though the Ministry of Foreign Affairs clarified that it would not accept the map, urging India to resolve the issue through dialogues, Oli was silent about the issue, inviting criticisms from the main opposition party. But, speaking at a function organised by his party's youth wing in Kathmandu today, the Nepal Communist Party chairman said, "We will not let even a single inch of our land encroached on, neither do we need the land of others."

"The government's position is not incapable of holding the dialogues. It will remove the foreign troops," he said, "The borderland was not encroached on today, but we have achieved national unity over this issue now."



Nepal Army to study on border dispute



Kathmandu: With the mounting public interest on Nepal-India border dispute, the Nepal Army has started a meticulous study on it.

After defense ministry level decision regarding the need to make a thorough and authentic study on the border, NA started the study for last 3 months." the source told Khabarhub. NA has established a separate unit entitled 'Treaty- Agreement and Map Study and Research Centre' for the study.

According to the NA source, the center has started its work with the focus on the disputed area bordering with India.

"NA has set up a separate team for Survey and Border Monitoring," the source said. The Defense Ministry level decision of March 28, 2019, had asked NA to initiate a thorough study on various bilateral and multilateral treaties, agreements, maps and other important documents related to national security.

Once the task is accomplished, the NA headquarter shall forward the report to the Ministry of Defense.

"Although the center shall make a thorough study on it, we are not the implementing mechanism," added personnel in the team, "We shall submit the report to the Ministry via our Headquarter, which provided it wants the government can bring into implementation as required".

Province 2 to bring bill on intelligence bureau



Janakpur: Province 2 government is to introduce a bill designed to have its own separate intelligence bureau.

The government's minister of state for internal affairs and law, Saroj Singh Kushwaha said that the bill is being brought in the exercise of the rights provided by the constitution.

The Province 2 government has had a bill on the formation of the State Police passed by the State Assembly before this. Minister of

State Kushwaha said that the State government has forwarded the process for the formulation of the bill designed to constitute the State Intelligence Bureau.

"The related bill has been passed by the State Assembly's Business Advisory Committee and has been forwarded to the ministry of law. It will now be registered in the State Assembly," he said.

According to him, the functions of the State Intelligence Bureau would be similar to that of the National Intelligence Department at the federal level. The NID's working area is the entire country whereas the SIB's working area is within the state.

He added that there is no controversy regarding this bill since it has been brought as per the constitution.

Minister of state Kushwaha also shared that the State Assembly has so far passed 21 various bills that have got the status of law and still dozens of more bills were ready to be registered.

Province 2 cuts subsidy on wheat seed

Rajbiraj: Province 2 government has cut subsidy on wheat seeds, leaving Saptari farmers worried. The province government had introduced a 50 per cent subsidy on wheat seed last year.

"We felt easy when we were provided improved seeds at subsidised price. Now that the subsidy has been cut, how shall we grow wheat?" asked Birendra Yadav, a farmer.

Wheat farming starts from mid-November in Saptari, according to Agriculture Knowledge Centre, Saptari. AKC Saptari Chief Bhagirath Yadav said the province government had cut the 50 per cent grant given on wheat seed from this year.

Farmers vented their fury at the cancellation of the subsidy on



wheat seed. A farmer in Khadak Municipality Narsingh Prasad Chaudhary said it was unfortunate that the province government had cut the grant on seeds.

Province 2 Minister of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives Sailendra Prasad Sah said the government had cut the subsidy on wheat seed due to the poor quality and inadequate supply of the seed.

Sah said the province government would establish its own seed company and manage the distribution of seeds from next year.

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जसरी आ-आफ्नो क्षेत्रमा
तपाईं सधैं मज्जुहुन्छ
NO COMPROMISE



