

Socialist Party 'unhappy' with Cabinet reshuffles

Insiders says party not to quit govt immediately

Kathmandu: The ruling Socialist Party have accused Prime Minister KP Oli of disregarding coalition culture by keeping them in the dark about the cabinet reshuffle. Prime Minister Oli late Wednesday evening brought in nine new faces into the cabinet in the first major reshuffle since he took office in February last year. One of the major highlights of the reshuffle was change in the portfolio of SPN Chairman Upendra Yadav. Yadav, a deputy prime minister and health minister, has been shifted to the Ministry of Law. The party has also lost a state minister portfolio.

The party leaders claim that the prime minister took the decision without consulting any of its leaders.

"I am not aware of any consultation and I don't think they consulted our party chairman [Yadav] to attend a function," Ashok Rai, the party's senior leader. There are speculations that the party may now be forced to rethink



its position over its participation in the government. "It's quite a humiliation. I think it would be a blunder to stick to the coalition after all that has happened," a leader said. Rai said that the party would decide what to do next once Yadav returns from Delhi. "We will take appropriate decision after holding internal discussion with cool heads," said Rai.

But according to some party insiders, another reason behind the party's reluctance to quit the government immediately is its

expectations of landing the post of deputy speaker of the lower house of parliament. The party has been eyeing the deputy speakership as the NCP plans to vacate the post in favor of another party while electing an NCP leader to the speaker's post.

The constitution makes it mandatory to elect the speaker and deputy speaker from different political parties and genders. The NCP should pave the way for another political party to take up the post of deputy speaker. The NCP leadership has already asked

Deputy Speaker Shiva Maya Tumbahamphe to resign immediately after the president summons the House session. Sources said that Yadav, who has long ignored calls from party leaders to quit the government, would now be forced to rethink his position. Last week, a gathering of the party had decided to continue in the government despite the party's federal chairman Baburam Bhattarai's formal proposal to leave the government.

In the written proposal, Bhattarai had stood in favor of withdrawing from the government if the government continues to ignore calls from various quarters to revise the constitution. He had also stressed need for taking forward the proposed merger with Rastriya Janata Party Nepal (RJPN) and other regional parties. SPN and RJPN, partners in the ruling coalition, are also in talks to merge the two parties although the two sides still remain poles apart on numerous issue including leadership.

Province 2 fails to meet literacy target

Janakpurdhham: Local governments in Province 2 have challenged the federal government plan on literacy by introducing their own plans and policies on the same.

The federal government has targeted to declare the country fully literate one in the next two years, but the local governments said the target could not be achieved at least for next five years. The local governments stated that the target could not be met in a short period of two years because enrolling the children from some ethnic communities in schools and continuity of their study has become difficult.

The authorities of the local governments said the federal



government set the target without consulting with local levels because of the unitary thoughts of the centre.

The plan and policy formulated by Janakpurdhham Sub-Metropolitan City in 20185\19 has targeted to

declare Janakpurdhham literate by next five years because of the poor educational achievement there.

Lal Kishor Shah, Mayor of Janakpurdhham Sub-Metropolitan City said they could not meet the target in less than five years because of the education status in the sub-metropolitan city.

He said, "About a week ago, the city appointed 60 sweepers. None of them are capable to put their signature. These all illiterate sweepers are from the age group of 18 to 40 years. This gives the clear image of Madhesh, not only Janakpur in terms of the literary situation."

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Editorial

Honest heads roll in cabinet reshuffle

New ministers were inducted into government as part of a cabinet reshuffle by ailing Prime Minister KP Oli, who is trying to strengthen his grip, improve ties with a powerful ally and minimize internal party conflict.

A government statement issued said Oli dropped six cabinet ministers and three junior ministers.

Oli's critics said the political leader was adding loyalists to his government because political allies were questioning the 67-year-old leader's authority. He has been in poor health since a kidney transplant in India in 2007.

Oli, a moderate Communist, led a coalition with former Maoist rebels to a shock victory in national elections about two years ago. The former Maoists have since merged with Oli's group.

In what was seen as a large concession to former Maoists, Oli agreed to allow former rebel chief Prachanda to be the executive chairman of the ruling Nepal Communist Party, a party spokesman told reporters on Wednesday.

As the government has spent almost two years in office, it is the right time to swing into full action to speed up the economy. All the ministers should act in full gear to meet the people's expectations.

Allowing Prachanda to run the party will let Oli complete his term as prime minister. Oli during his first term stood up against a border standoff with India, a neighboring power with major political and economic clout in Nepal.

The reshuffle, as well as the mass resignation of a dozen prime ministerial advisers last week, appeared to be more of a decoy than a genuine attempt to assuage public perception of the NCP government's non-performance over the last two years. The real intention was to balance internal party rifts and ensure that the prime minister has trusted comrades in charge during his expected prolonged absence for kidney treatment abroad.

Three of the PM's most powerful advisers had earlier returned to their previous positions, and ministers with the most important portfolios were retained in the reshuffle. The ministers of home and foreign affairs, finance and defence have kept their jobs, while the health and law ministers have swapped portfolios for reasons unknown.

Two of the ministers who were let go were women, and there are no females among the new inductees. This has halved the number of women in the cabinet, even though the Prime Minister appears to have tried to maintain the quotas of Janjati and Madhesi ministers in the cabinet.

With the cabinet's reshuffle in a hiatus of almost two years, it is the right time for the government to swing into full action to speed up the economy.

Six of the cabinet ministers whose overall performance was said to be below expectation were axed and replaced by others who had already served as cabinet ministers. Only two faces are new in the cabinet. PM Oli had made public months ago that he was going to reshuffle the cabinet based on the ministers' performances. Labour Minister Gokarna Bista, whose performance was said to rank second among all ministers, was also sacked while Drinking Water Minister Bina Magar, Dahal's daughter-in-law, whose performance as minister ranked at the bottom, has been retained, raising quite a few eyebrows among the public. In a parliamentary democracy, a cabinet reshuffle is a routine process, and it should not be taken otherwise. As the government has spent almost two years in office, it is the right time to swing into full action to speed up the economy. All the ministers should act in full gear to meet the people's expectations. Nepal cannot achieve the goal of becoming a developing country by the next decade without increasing public capital spending, which can generate employment opportunities at all levels, and motivating the private sector to make more investment in the productive sectors.

'India is not doing to counter China's influence in Nepal'

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, 64, is one of India's most experienced diplomats. He has served as ambassador to Washington D.C., Beijing and Prague and as the high commissioner to Singapore. In May, Hindu-nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought him in as India's new external affairs minister. In Jaishankar's office, three pictures are on display that can be found in the offices of many civil servants across India: the president on the left, the prime minister on the right, and above them, the most famous Indian of all: freedom fighter Mahatma Gandhi. German reporter Laura Höflinger talked with him for Der Spiegel.

Three months ago, the Indian government withdrew Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy. It also arrested hundreds of people and the region's population remained cut off from the outside world for weeks.

I think we have a fundamentally different understanding of what the problem in Kashmir is. Over the past 30 years, 40,000 people have lost their lives due to violence and terrorism. If we hadn't done something about it, the next 30 years would have been just as bad. Surely, none of us, including Gandhi, would have wished that on Kashmir.

Kashmir's autonomy ultimately served only a small elite. It prevented many of India's progressive laws from coming into force. Investments did not materialize. There were too few jobs. The lack of progress led to alienation and separatism, which in turn fed terrorism. Also, bear in mind that there are vested interests out there that want to fight us.

Pakistan mostly, but also certain people within Kashmir who have assisted Pakistan over the years and who have worked for their own narrow ends.

Our intention is that politicians do not engage in any activities that could serve as a magnet for violence, as it has

been the case in the past.

A related issue is that social media and the internet have been used to radicalize. We want to prevent the loss of life.

There are people with strong preset views. Kashmir's autonomy was based on a temporary provision. But looking at the Western press coverage, very few acknowledge this aspect. There's a reason for that: It's an inconvenient fact! Really? Prime Minister Imran Khan speaks openly about it. I must give him that. He acknowledges that he has a terrorism problem. Whatever we do, we're not doing to counter China's influence. Take China away for a moment: We would be still be investing in Nepal, Bangladesh or Sri Lanka the way we do today. South Asia is lacking regional awareness and I fault India for it, because as the largest country, it shoulders the largest responsibility. For the past five years, we have done our best to correct that mistake. The more connected South Asia is, the better it is for us too.

There are already two rail connections between India and Nepal, and in a few years, there will be five. Nepal's border towards India is open, towards China, not so much. Many Nepalese are coming to India looking for work. How does one compare those things?

I find the idea of being someone else's pawn in some "Great Game" terribly condescending. I certainly don't plan to play the counterweight to other people. I'm in it because of my own ambitions.

In the next five years, we will likely become the most populous country in the world and, within a decade, the third largest economy. We have a large share of the global human talent, and if I look at the role digitization will play in the future, then I feel this is going to be a world where India can contribute more. It's not just a desire for a higher profile. We know that with more weight comes more responsibility.

Let me give you two examples. First, we have a close and emotional relationship with the countries of Africa and other southern nations. These relations are difficult to understand for people who haven't been through the colonial experience. For example, we run a significant development program in Africa that involves more than \$10 billion. Second, a tsunami in the Indian Ocean caused severe destruction 15 years ago. The West responded. But today, it's a different world. Today, we take charge. Whether it's the severe earthquake in Nepal or the civil war in Yemen, the Indian Army went there each time.

Identity and power are symbols of nationality

• *The Janamat Party is participating in the by-elections, what is the preparation?*

On the basis of statute, the manifesto and the 11-point agreement with the government, we have shown four base pillars. They are people's sovereignty, democracy, social justice and socialism. On this basis, we are keeping the people in the lurch as the focus of the upcoming by-elections. Certainly the people trust us. There is no alternative among the people now, so we are going to the present by-election on the basis of CK Raut, based on the established struggle of the Janata Party. We have found that people are excited when we go among the people. As we

agreement we have with the government has been prepared as a documentary.

• *What is the basis of public trust to Janamat Party?*

In Nepal, from BS 2007 till today the question mark has been placed on the leaders. After BS 2052's people's war, the question mark has been raised on Prachanda today. Prachanda says that he has a love with the Madhesi people, but he has not done anything to change the living standard of the Madhesi people.

Now Province 2 is far behind other regions. People have already seen the Congress, the UML was also seen by the people and now they are watching the activities of

International Convention 1966. But we can understand for ourselves the situation in which the Madhesi people reach the state without giving them autonomy with self-determination. When this country is yours, ours too, we should recognize and empower it to be the country of three million people. CK Raut has signed a five-point agreement with the government that states that respect for people's opinion through democratic methods, democratic law and that our main goal is to end apartheid, oppression, and exploitation.

• *Dr. Raut urges the youths of Madhesh to make Madhes an independent nation*



Suryadev Yadav
Member, Janamat Yadav

- People are excited with us.

-We have taken this by-poll as an opportunity.

-CK Raut demanded a separate Madhesh state because there was repeatedly looked at the nationality of the people with suspicion.

-Raut wants to protect the people of country from killing, slaughter and empowering the people.

move among the masses, it will not matter if we are focused on victory.

• *The Janamat Party has fielded candidacy at 10 places for for this by-election. How many seats will be won in this by-election?*

We have taken this election as an opportunity. In the past, the campaign of Dr. CK Raut's test which was going on in the past and which is still going on has also participated in the by-election. An opportunity has been seen to lay the foundation of the party. So, we have said that in the next election, we will have to do a clean sweep in Province 2, but now we feel that we are going above 5 seats. In a democratic way, the result can be another. This by-election is an opportunity to prove that the 11-point

the Communist Party of Nepal today.

Today, there are Socialist, RJP and other smaller parties. What is their situation? In this case, the party respects the public opinion and goes to the people, and the referendum received now determines our working life tomorrow.

• *Finally, Raut too made a U-turn at the beginning of the dream of making Madhesh a separate nation.*

CK Raut has demanded a separate Madhesh country because there was repeatedly looked at the nationality of the people with suspicion. Nepal has, in the past, been signed by the Government of Nepal as an autonomous rule with self-determination in Articles 1 and 2 of the UN Convention on

first. Now youth of Madhes are not in dilemma?

The state should remember the foundation of the Madhes Alliance. Again this is not our last. For us, identity and power are symbols of nationality, which are under the fundamental rights of every people. Raut wants to protect the people of country from killing, slaughter and empowering the people, then making people independent, then referendum should be taken in general and Raut was talking about sitting at the base of 1816 and 1860 for the independent Madhes coalition at that time. If the question is raised on our nationality, then the situation can be another. To end apartheid, oppression and

discrimination, the state in particular has to think about what Madhesi is and who Madhesi is. It is important to pay attention to the situation of the landless Madhesi people.

• *If the state does not behave in accordance with the agreement, is there any possibility that the issue will arise again?*

The public rose up, but we are in a position to look and make a decision. If the state honestly adheres to the 11 point agreement, we will not come back to the previous state, but such agreements that have been dishonored made by Upendra Yadav and Mahanta Thakur by compromising the 8 point and 22 point agreement are thrown in

the corner of Singha Durbar. However, before that, when the constitution was made unilateral, everyone felt that there was respect. If not, the situation can come up anyway.

• *You have considered the 11-point agreement with the government as a great achievement but it does not show anything about Madhesh and Madhesi.*

There is 11-point agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Independent Madhes Alliance. Based on this agreement, we came to the mainstream of this state and formed a party. The Janamat party should be pushed forward by the people's mandate and common differences should end. People are looking for honest alternative power, so honesty is needed to fulfill the basic demands of the people. We understand the situation of the people across the country, including the Madhes and Madhesi peoples. We move forward not to take politics as a business but as a profession to serve the people.

Nijgadh Airport to be operable in 5 years: Minister Bhattarai



Kathmandu: Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Yogesh Bhattarai said that the international flights from yet-to-be constructed Nijgadh International Airport would start within the next five years.

“Nijgadh International Airport is the only option of Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA). So, we have to construct the project at earliest to overcome the growing passenger pressure on the TIA,” he said while speaking at a face to face interaction in Kathmandu.

TIA was operating in an optimum capacity where it was providing services more than 7.2 million passengers yearly, he said, adding that the TIA

would not sustain passenger flows while the government was bringing more tourists by promoting tourism.

“We have dedicated ourselves to upgrade the TIA to provide sound services to the passengers. The TIA would be developed into a boutique airport,” he said.

He said that the construction work of the Nijgadh Airport would start by completing the required procedures as the ministry was holding discussion with the Investment Board Nepal and inter-ministerial coordination was also being made in this regard.

A few people have been spreading rumor that more than 2.5 million trees have to be cut down for the airport construction which is not true, he said, adding that the report regarding the required number of trees to be felled would be published soon.

He said that the airport would be constructed causing minimum damage to environment as the government was sincere to preserve the environment and cultural heritages while carrying out development works.

Janaki Temple invites Indian Home Minister & UP CM for Bibaha Panchami



Janakpur: Invitations have been sent to Home Minister of India, Amit Shah, and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in India, Yogi Adityanath, to attend this year's festivities of Bibaha Panchami in Janakpur.

Bibaha Panchami celebrates the wedding of Hindu Lord Ram and Sita. As per Hindu scriptures, Ram was born in Ayodhya of India and Sita was the daughter of King Janak in Janakpur. Every year, a flock of Indian pilgrims from Ayodhya through the Janaki Temple with a wedding procession to celebrate the occasion. Last year, UP CM Yogi Adityanath had attended the ceremonies.

According to a representative of Janaki Temple, Mahanta Ram Roshan Das Baisnav, the temple authorities have informed the tourism ministry of the federal government about the same. Baisnav added that the two Indian leaders would definitely come to Janakpur if the central government made an effort and paid ample attention to the event.

This year, Bibaha Panchami has fallen on December 1 (Mangsir 15). However, VIP and VVIP guests have been asked to arrive Janakpur two days early i.e. on November 29.

Province 2 fails...

According to Shah, drug addiction among youths has become another challenge to meet the target in Janakpur. The situation of Saptari is no different from Dhanusha. Khila Nath Gautam, headmaster of Narendra Memorial Secondary School of Rajbiraj, said though teachers and social leaders had been trying their best to enroll all children of different ethnic communities, they failed to enroll the children from some backward ethnic groups.

Gautam said, “There is a settlement of Sada (Madhesi Dalit) community near the school. But the school failed to enroll even a single child from the community when parent of Sada community did not take the requests of schoolteachers seriously.”

Like Sada, children from Bakkho, Khatwe, Mandal and Ram communities were not enrolled in the schools. Even if they enroll in schools, they hardly coming to attend classes, Gautam added.

However, Gehenath Gautam, director of Center for Education and Human Resource Development, said the local levels have to formulate their policy on the basis of national target.

“It is wrong to set one's own target without connecting it with the national target. If any local level is facing the problem of budget to meet the target, they can consult with federal government about their problem. But the local levels have to cooperate with the federal government to meet the national target,” he added.

Talking about the appointment of illiterate people as employees in the municipality, Gautam said that to discourage the illiteracy authorities did not have to appoint illiterate in the government job. “The local government seems to promote illiteracy by giving job opportunities to illiterate there,” he said.

No basic facilities for Musahars



Siraha: A small and poor locality situated around 200 meters south of Siraha road of Musaharniya Chowk along the East-West Highway is popularly known as a Musahar settlement.

Anyone who reaches the small settlement of Dhangadhimai Municipality-9 feels that he/she has arrived at a remote place.

The settlement is not connected with the road facility even though it is located near the East-West Highway. Facility of electricity and drinking water are still beyond the imagination of the poor people. The people have to walk through the farm land of a landlord to reach their settlement. The Musahar settlement developed 35 years ago has 32 households of Musahars and a house of Mochi (cobbler).

In the lack of road connectivity,

even a rickshaw cannot reach the village to carry a patient to the nearby hospital.

Showing the soil coated wall and thatched roof of his house, 59-year-old Kusma Sadraya said that the landlords utilized them as their bonded labourers.

“There is no facility of drinking water in the settlement and we have to fetch water from a neighbouring village. The houses in the neighbouring villages get illuminated as they have power supply, but we need to use oil-fed lamp in the night,” he said.

Working as farm labourers in the landlords land is the only means of livelihood for all people of this village.

They urged everyone who reached their settlement to provide the facilities of road, drinking water and electricity, but in vain.

A look at Oli's 'reshuffled' cabinet

Kathmandu: On Wednesday evening, the President's Office released the names of Nepal's new cabinet ministers. As per the release, President Bidhya Devi Bhandari upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister and abiding by Nepal's constitution (Section 67, subsection 9) made the changes in some key ministerial positions. The president today administered the Oath of Office and Secrecy to the newly appointed ministers. Who is out?

Six ministers were relieved off their responsibilities – Lalbabu Pandit (Federal Affairs and Local Development), Matrika Yadav (Industry, Commerce and Supplies), Chakrapani Khanal (Agriculture), Gokarna Bista (Labour, Employment and Social Security), Raghubir Mahaseth (Physical Infrastructure and Transport), and Tham Maya Thapa (Women, Children and Senior Citizens).

Who is in?

Lalbabu Pandit has been replaced by Hridayesh Tripathi, Matrika Yadav by Lekhraj Bhatta, Chakrapani Khanal by Ghanashyam Bhusal, Gokarna Bista by Rameshwor Ray Yadav, Raghubir Mahaseth by Basanta Kumar Nembang,



and Tham Maya Magar by Parbat Gurung. Deputy Prime Minister Upendra Yadav and Minister Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal have interchanged their ministries. Yadav has taken over the ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. His position as minister of health and population has been assumed by Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal (ex minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs). What do the ministerial change(s) imply?

Former Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport Mahaseth, often touted for his inefficiency in addressing plaguing problems regarding transport and physical infrastructure, has been replaced and the change is hailed by many. The Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, earlier headed by a woman (Tham Maya Magar), has been given to lawmaker Parbat Gurung – making the motive to replace a woman minister from the ministry of women with a man

questionable.

Lal Babu Pandit, an example of excellent leadership and governance for many, has been relieved off his position, the public unsure if it is in the best interest of the nation. Amongst all, relieving Gokarna Bista from his position has drawn the most intrigue – as per a Nepali Times report, "Bista was credited with dismantling the mafia that was fleecing Nepali workers seeking to go overseas, and was trying to safeguard worker security."

Will work towards making administration active: Minister Tripathi

Kathmandu: Newly-appointed Minister for Federal Affairs and General Administration Hridayesh Tripathi said that he would work towards making the personnel administration active by resolving the 'policy and structural problems' that existed in this sector.

Taking charge of his office at the Ministry today, he said there was psychological problem in relation to the employees' adjustment.

"The Civil Service Act is under consideration in Parliament. Many things would be sorted out once it is finalized. Especially, it concerns with some issues related to the interrelation



among the three levels of government. There is some legal problem and some laws needed to be changed. We have to move ahead by building

synergy," the Minister said. The Minister for Federal Affairs and General Administration stated that he would take appropriate decision by holding

discussions with other political parties as well as he believed in consensus.

Noting that change of ministers will make no difference in the government's works as it is the continuation of the same government, he said he had been watching the activities of the ministry since the past also in his capacity as lawmaker.

Minister Tripathi stressed on maintaining financial discipline in the works of the local governments and institutionalizing transparency. The Ministry has stated that it has prepared the work procedure for the construction of the office buildings of all the 753 local levels.

BJP leader Fadnavis sworn in as Maharashtra CM

Mumbai: The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Devendra Fadnavis and Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar were sworn in as the state's chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.

The National Congress Party (NCP) appears to have split after its leader Ajit Pawar was sworn in deputy chief minister of Maharashtra Saturday morning after President's rule in the state was revoked. He appeared to have checkmated his uncle



and party chief Sharad Pawar who insisted that his nephew's decision was his own and not the party's.

"Ajit Pawar's decision to support

the BJP to form the Maharashtra Government is his personal decision and not that of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). We place on record that

we do not support or endorse this decision of his," Pawar tweeted.

Senior NCP leader Praful Patel also backed his boss saying the 78-year-old leader did not prompt his nephew to join hands with the BJP. "This is not NCP's decision and does not have Sharad Pawar saheb's support," Patel said.

Pawar reportedly spoke to Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray over phone twice this morning. Pawar had said on Friday evening that Thackeray would be the chief ministerial candidate for the three-party government of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress.

Land revenue officer of Sirha arrested on bribery charge

Sirha: The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) has taken into custody the acting chief land revenue officer from the Office of Land Reform and Revenue in Sirha district.

Rambabu Mandal was apprehended with the bribe money of half a million rupees by a team of CIAA officials from Barbibas, Mahottari.



Mandal was arrested based on the information that he had asked for bribe from a service seeker for the purpose of sending his file to Janakpur High Court Office at Rajbiraj, informed Hari Prasad Ghimire, Information Officer at CIAA's Bardibas office.

The accused has been taken to CIAA's office at Bardibas for further investigation and to initiate legal action against him.

'No chances of unification with Socialist Party'



Kathmandu: RJP-Nepal Presidium Coordinator Rajendra Mahato has said there is no possibility of immediate unification with Socialist Party Nepal due to the latter's reluctance to leave the KP Oli government.

"There is a need for a new force in the country as an alternative for Congress and communists. We will move forward toward building that force in the coming days. But the alternative force cannot be built by staying in the

government," Mahato, who has spoken about unification with Socialist Party on numerous occasions in the past, said talking with media persons at Janakpur Airport.

He revealed that the party is in talks with Socialist Party and other parties to build a democratic alternative force. He refused to comment on the recent Cabinet reshuffle saying why ask the way to a destination one does not intend to go. "We are not in the government and it is not an issue of our interest either," he quipped.

He stressed that there is no chance of RJP joining this government until the demands including Constitution amendment, withdrawal of cases against protesting friends, and others are addressed. "We cannot support the government until our demands are addressed. We have, therefore, withdrawn our support to the government and playing the role of opposition."

President receives reports from Madhesi Commission



Kathmandu: The National Inclusion Commission and the Madhesi Commission today presented their annual reports before President Bidya Devi Bhandari. National Inclusion Commission's Acting chair Bishnumaya Ojha submitted the Commission's annual report of the fiscal year 2075-76 BS (2018-19) to the President amidst a programme at the Rastrapati Bhawan, Shital Niwas.

The report was presented as per the constitution's Article 294, according to the Spokesperson for the Office of President, Hari Prasad Dahal. Similarly, Madhesi Commission's chair Dr Bijay Kumar Dutta presented the Commission's annual report of the fiscal year 2075-76 BS (2018-19) before the Head-of-the-State. The report was presented as per the constitution's Article 294.

Province 2 moves to court over Forest Act

Kathmandu: The Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment of Province 2 filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the government, demanding that the court directs it to scrap the Forest Act as it contradicts the constitution. The petitioner has named the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, the Federal Ministry of Forest and Environment, the Parliament Secretariat and the Office of the President as defendants.

The petitioner has also sought an interim order in the name of defendants, barring them from executing the Forest Act and its provisions until the case is finalised in accordance with the Supreme Court rules.

The petitioner has cited Article 232 (1) of the constitution which stipulates that the relations between the three tiers of government shall be based on cooperation, co-existence and coordination. However, the federal government did not coordinate with Province 2 government before



enacting the Forest Act-2019, which violates the powers and rights of the provincial government.

The petitioner has argued that the act violates the principle of natural justice. While the federal government can solely enact laws on the issues of exclusive rights, it cannot do so on issues of concurrent lists on which the federal government must coordinate with the provincial governments, argues the

petitioner.

The petition adds that as Point No 19 of Schedule 6 of the constitution contains exclusive lists of provincial powers, national forests within a province, water utilisation and environment

management, it should be under the jurisdiction of provincial governments.

The petitioner stated that the Forest Act defined provincial forests as national forests so that they could be managed by the federal government.

The petitioner has demanded that executive rights given to divisional forest officer should be scrapped as per Article 162 (1) of the constitution. The petitioner argued that the Forest Act gives executive rights to the divisional forest officer and the provisions are contradictory to the constitutional provision.

The petitioner has also stated that the act has provisions related to determination, management and ownership transfer of forests within the province. "This provision has rendered ineffective provincial legislative powers," adds the petition. "The federal government is wrong in trying to keep with itself the rights that should be delegated to provinces."

Prabhu Sah not happy with cabinet reshuffle

Kathmandu: Nepal Communist Party's central leader Prabhu Sah has expressed his dissatisfaction over the Cabinet reshuffle that happened. Sah said he was embarrassed about the decision as it was done without considering performance of the leaders. He claims the new ministers were selected on the basis of factional prejudices and power-sharing, and some unqualified leaders replaced the qualified ones. It is interesting to note that Sah, who heads the ruling party's Province 2 committee, was also an aspirant for a ministerial position. However,



he could not make it. Expressing his dissatisfaction on Facebook, the former minister said, "The basic norms and values of a communist party have not been followed in the reshuffle."

Oli to hold premiership for full term, Dahal gets executive chair

Kathmandu: Ruling Nepal Communist Party has decided that Prime Minister and co-chair K P Sharma Oli will head the government for a full five-year term while another co-chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' have been handed the responsibility of executive chair.

A meeting of the party secretariat held in Baluwater took the decision, according to party Spokesperson Narayan Kaji Shrestha. The two leaders had reached a deal to share the premiership and party leadership between them in early August. But, lately, Dahal had expressed dissatisfaction after Oli seemed reluctant to hand party leadership to Dahal.

The meeting was also expected to reach a concrete decision regarding the reorganization of the Council of Ministers. However, "no concrete decision on reshuffle on ministers has been made yet" said Shrestha.

शुभारम्भ... शिवमसँग

शिवम्
सिमेन्ट

जसरी आ-आफ्नो क्षेत्रमा
तपाईं सधैं मञ्जुहुन्छ
NO COMPROMISE



Congress listed 21 failures of govt



Kathmandu: The leftist government of Prime Minister KP Oli is pushing the country toward another cycle of conflict, lawlessness and authoritarianism, the main opposition Nepali Congress (NC) has alleged. Taking a sharp dig at the government just days ahead of the by-elections scheduled for November 30, the NC said that Oli government had reneged on all tall promises made during three tiers of the elections. "It's said that the morning shows the day, and the government has already spent one third, or 21 months, of its tenure, and the bygone period doesn't indicate positive sign for result-oriented outcomes in the remaining day or the evening," NC spokesperson Bishwa Prakash Sharma said during a press conference held at the party's

headquarters in Sanepa. In a statement, Sharma has listed off 21 major failures of the Oli government since it came to power 21 months ago. The list includes a range of issue including corruption to inordinate delays in completion of mega infrastructure projects to attacks on press freedom and civic liberties.

Sharma has pointed out the communist government's soft response on Kalapani issue as its biggest and inexcusable shortcoming.

"The government has failed to demonstrate a result-oriented nationalism through meaningful diplomacy and high-level political effort despite unity across the political spectrum," reads the statement.

NC has also questioned Oli government's commitment to good governance and rule of law by lashing out at its reluctance to take on the medical mafia, or start probe into big corruption scandals like the wide-body scam and Lalita Niwas land scam.

Nepal-India border security meeting concludes



Kathmandu: Nepal-India Border Security Meeting that kicked off in Pokhara on Wednesday has concluded. At the meeting, the Nepali side was led by Chief of Armed Police Force Sailendra Khanal and the Indian side was led by Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Kumar Rajesh Chandra. The meeting dwelt on cross-border crime, joint patrol at no man's land and exchange of information. The two countries also agreed to hold a joint exercise.

The meeting was expected to discuss the disputed territory of Kalapani. But, the agenda didn't make it to the meeting, according to the source. A high-ranking APF official said the issue was not raised as the agendas were pre-determined.

Janmat Party holds rally against 'discrimination'

Kathmadu: Janamat Party led by CK Raut has organized a mass rally in Kathmandu against what it called "color discrimination". This is the first mass protest organized by Raut-led Janamat Party in Kathmandu after it reached an agreement with the government



to renounce its secessionist agenda and join mainstream politics in the country in March earlier this year. Raut had later registered Janamat Party with the Election Commission in May following the agreement.

A large number of people from Madhesh and elsewhere currently living in Kathmandu Valley had joined the rally named "Unity Rally Against Color Discrimination". This is probably the first time any Madesh-based political party has organized this kind of rally in Kathmandu. Addressing the rally, chief of Janamat Party Raut said the rally was an unprecedented event in the history of Nepal and creation of history in Nepal.

"We have gathered to end discrimination; we have gathered to put fire on such ugly mentality; we have gathered to erase the slur against humanity once and for all; we have gathered to create a history," said Raut in his emotional speech. Raut alleged that although those who built Nepal as a nation did not even think of racial or color discrimination, rulers of the country later institutionalized this discrimination against people of the same country. He also recalled that Madhesi people had faced obstruction in Kathmandu when a Madhesi leader Gajendra Narayan Singh tried to organize mass rally in Kathmandu in the past. Raut also argued that there is no point in questioning the patriotism of Madhesis as they are the people who have been safeguarding the border unarmed. "It was a golden period when Madhesis ruled this nation. Nepal was one of the prosperous countries in the world until Madhesis ruled this country," he further said.

Government forms committee for border inspection

Kathmandu: The government has formed a committee to inspect Nepal's borders with India and China, following the controversy in the country after India released a new political map which shows a piece of Nepali land in Kalapani inside the Indian territory.

The decision of the government comes amid mounting pressure from various quarters to start fresh negotiations with India through diplomatic channels to resolve the issue of border disputes once and for all.

Government Spokesperson Gokul Baskota informed the press that the Cabinet meeting last week decided to form an inspection team to observe the country's borders with both India and China.