

## India has encroached 372 kms border, claims Home Minister

### Parliamentary committee directs govt to resolve border issue

Kathmandu: The International Relations Committee under the House of Representatives (HoR) has directed the government to issue a map of Nepal specifying its territories, Limpiyadhura, Lipulek, Kalapani and Susta belonging to the country, at the earliest.

The committee's meeting also asked the government to safeguard the territorial integrity of the country by removing Indian security force stationed on the areas and hold talks with the Indian government on the issue. The direction has been made amid placement of Nepal's territories, Limpiyadhura and Lipulek in India's new political map recently, which has drawn a widespread outcry from Nepali side. The lawmakers attending the meeting suggested that the government hold talks with India



at political and diplomatic levels at the earliest to strengthen Nepal's sovereign rights and ownership of its territories encroached upon by India. To this effect, they also directed formation of a joint coordination mechanism

comprising the Home Ministry, the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation, the Foreign Affairs Ministry and other concerned ministries and bodies. Lawmakers have urged the

government to protect the national borders and manage security to the people border areas. Speaking in the meeting, Minister for Home Affairs Ram Bahadur Thapa said that the Ministry was working to increase the security forces in the border areas. Similarly, Minister for Land Management Padma Aryal shared that the initiatives to resolve the border issues were going ahead positively.

President at the committee Pabitra Niraula, former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, lawmakers Bhim Rawal, Prakash Man Singh, Mohan Baniya, Sarita Giri, Agni Sapkota and Uma Regmi have urged the government to hold diplomatic talks with government of India to resolve the issues.

After protests and continuous media reports in Nepal placed

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### 'India always ready to help with Nepal's journey to prosperity'

Kathmandu: India's Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri said India was always ready to help with Nepal's journey to prosperity and its initiatives to take the country to socio-economic development.

Addressing at an event by Foreign Secretary Shaker Das Bairagi in honor of Puri, who is retiring as India's Ambassador to Nepal, he said Nepal has delivered a message of commitment to unity, peace and progress to the world by successfully holding three levels of elections.

Describing age-old India-Nepal relations as incomparable, He



expressed the hope that the relations would be further strengthened in the days to come. "Nepal, the land of god is more respectful to Indians.

It can take a development stride through a means of water resources and tourism," he said.

He also took the agreement between India and Nepal on the construction of the Arun III and Upper Karnali Hydropower Project, post-quake reconstructions, integrated check posts and postal highway as a symbol of bilateral friendship between the two countries.

Saying relations between the two countries have achieved a new height during Ambassador Puri's tenure, Secretary Bairagi praised his role as ambassador.

### Pressures on Deputy Speaker to resign

Kathmandu: Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Shiva Maya Tumbahamphe is likely to resign from her post prior to the winter session of the Federal Parliament.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari has summoned the winter session of the Federal Parliament for December 20.

According to Annapurna daily, Nepal Communist Party (NCP) is exerting pressure on Tumbahamphe to resign from her post.

A Constitutional provision has it that

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# Editorial

## Work of Province 2 government

The government, in which it is representing, is certainly not good to comment on the government, but comment has exposed the image of the state government. Actually 2 years have passed since the provincial government has started working. However, in this regard, there is no meaningful work except exposing complains of the people. The readymade answers are found from the ministers - there is no place to sit, no laws to work, no staffs, lack of resources. How to work?

The daily schedule of Chief Ministers, Ministers and State Ministers spent in the program inauguration, speech and meetings.

The main responsibility for managing those challenges is also Chief Minister and the ministers. As a burden to the beginning of the fatal crisis, the Chief Ministers of the province has forgotten their constitutional responsibility and duty. The state government has a leadership role in resolving the problems faced by the state government. Because there are 21 single rights given to the state government in Schedule-6 of the constitution and those who are not giving the list of problems to the Chief Minister and the Ministers of the State, do not give a freedom to come to Kathmandu, but they strive to sit down in the capital of the state. Similarly, the necessary laws for the state and local level are to be made by the state government and the state parliament. This is evident, the work and right of the state government is not less as the federal government is the same. However, although there is a lot of work and authority to do so, the work of the provincial government is very dull. This cannot change the mind of public.

Even though the state government does not have 2 years early tenure, the engagement of Chief Minister and Ministers is dramatic. The daily schedule of Chief Ministers, Ministers and State Ministers spent in the program inauguration, speech and meetings. The Chief Minister and ministers are not sitting in the office to lay the foundation of the government and to stand in it.

## Why the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is unconstitutional

Markandey Katju and Dhruvi Kapadia

The Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (CAB) has been passed by both houses of parliament, and got the assent of the president. Since a lot of controversy has been raised over it, it needs a dispassionate analysis.

Assam has had an influx of a large number of Bangladeshi immigrants who came after the Partition of 1947. Some (Hindus, Buddhists, etc.) came due to religious persecution by the Muslim majority. But many poor Muslims also came for a better life.

Such 'economic refugees' – those who migrate not due to religious persecution but to seek a better life – are not, strictly speaking, refugees as defined in the UN Refugee Convention, 1951. But the fact is that worldwide, there are a large number of 'economic refugees'. For example, the US has about 11 million undocumented immigrants from Mexico who migrated to have a better life. Many of them have been living there for decades, and now have little roots in Mexico. What is to be done to them? President Donald Trump wants them deported to Mexico, but that is easier said than done.

In India under the Assam Accord, only those Bangladeshis who came into Assam before March 1971 would be granted citizenship under the Citizenship Act. But CAB will make people of six religions – Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Parsis, Buddhists and Jains – who came from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh Indian citizens, provided they have lived in India since before 2014.

The Bharatiya Janata Party government justifies this discrimination by saying that Muslims did not come into India due to persecution, whereas people of other religions did. But this is only a pretext. The real reason is that the BJP knows that Muslims will vote against them in elections, and so wishes to deny them citizenship (which carries voting rights).

Also, what is overlooked is that many Muslims in Pakistan – Shias, Ahmadiyyas, etc. – are also persecuted there, and may come to India to avoid persecution. While by a constitutional amendment Pakistan has declared Ahmadiyyas to be non-Muslims, the Kerala high Court has declared them Muslims, and Ahmadiyyas regard themselves Muslims. However, they are treated horrifically in Pakistan.

Many Assamese are protesting because they do not want any immigrants in Assam, whether Muslim or non-Muslim, and object to citizenship being given to any immigrant. Others are objecting to the CAB for other reasons. The whole of Assam is in flames, and in many places the army has been called.

The truth is that many Bangladeshi Muslims have been living in Assam for decades, though they may not have come here legally. Many were even born in Assam. They have no roots now in Bangladesh. Where are they to go if deported? Bangladesh has said it will not accept them. This is a humanitarian problem, not just a legal one.

One of us (Justice Katju) remembers once when he was sitting on a Supreme

Court bench, a case came regarding illegal squatters in jhuggi jhopdis in Mumbai. The senior judge on the bench shouted that these illegal squatters have no legal right to remain where they were living, and must be thrown out, to which Justice Katju coolly retorted, "But brother, where are they to go? Should they be dumped into the Arabian Sea? It is not just a legal problem, it has also a humanitarian aspect."

It may be noted that under the Indian constitution while certain rights, like those mentioned in Article 19, are available only to citizens, others like the right to equality mentioned in Article 14 and the right to life and liberty mentioned in Article 21 (which has been interpreted by the Supreme Court to mean the right to live with dignity) are available to all persons. A non-citizen is certainly a person, and hence is also entitled to those rights.

In National Human Rights Commission vs State of Arunachal Pradesh, 1996, the question was about Chakma refugees, who were undocumented immigrants from Bangladesh. The court observed that the fundamental right to life and liberty guaranteed by Article 21 of the constitution is also available to Chakmas, though they were not Indian citizens. In light of that, the CAB is unconstitutional as it violates both Articles 14 and 21 of the constitution.

(Justice Markandey Katju is a former judge of the Indian Supreme Court and Dhruvi Kapadia is advocate on record, Supreme Court and solicitor, Bombay high court.)

# No need to review by-election

**What results of the by-election's votes indicate?**

RJP-Nepal participated in local level by-elections. So we won somewhere and also lost in some places.

The results we find are not satisfactory.

**But the result didn't come as expected?**

Our result is satisfactory. We lost chairperson in one rural municipality. But results of other places are good.

**Why didn't RJP review the by-election?**

We only contested in a limited number of places. It seemed to be the all leaders and cadres were actively involved, we are just taking it as usual. We competed at the local level. It was not a big election that needed to be reviewed. Therefore, there is no specific reason for review.

**Some National Assembly members are being vacant, tenure of two members of RJP also expiring. What is party doing for National Assembly election?**

The term of the National Assembly member is yet to end so it is not needed to exercise from today. The party will take decision once the election process begins.

**It means, it is not a priority for RJP now?**

Why debate that topic right now? The tenure is still remained of our members so it is not necessary to debate now. From today, there is no compulsion to think about it.

**Have you been silent about the demands that the party is raising?**

We have been fighting in parliament for two years to amend the constitution and other issues. We are working for ourselves and we are not silent. We strive

to do so with our power.

**The date of the general convention of RJP has failed twice, what is the present situation of preparation for the convention?**

It is true that the date of the general convention was changed twice. There can be no disagreement over whether the party must hold a convention. No other event can be more important in the life of the party than the convention. The best way to keep the party alive is through a convention. However, this is unfortunately not the case. We had set a date for the convention twice, it would have been today if we had made a calendar and moved on.

**After all, the leadership did not want to hold the general convention?**

If there is no general convention in time, then the responsibility should be taken by the leadership.

**There is the great dissatisfaction and resentment among the leaders and cadres as there was no**

- The issue of leadership and policy in party unity has to be resolved first. What will be the policy, agenda of two parties, the adjustment of leaders are vital issues and they cannot be settled in few days.
- The main reason being the constitution states the Deputy Speaker can summon the house in case of the absence of the Speaker, but the power is limited to that and nothing more.
- We have a Presidential system, wherein the case of the absence of the President the Vice-President should be able to discharge duties on behalf of the President.

**convention?**

This is especially due to the presidium members. We have formed an ad hoc committee. In ward, village, municipality, district, we are now leading in single leadership. Certainly the party should go in single leadership. For that the



## Laxman Lal Karna

Deputy Chairperson, RJP-Nepal

path is the convention itself. Leadership and policy selection and statute amendment are from the convention. Therefore, the convention is absolutely necessary.

**But, why does the leadership not serious for general convention?**

**also affected the convention?**

The talk of unity is only between top leaders. If unity is happened it is also people's expectations. The issue of leadership and policy in party unity has to be resolved first. What will be the policy, agenda of two parties, the adjustment

the parliament have not been able to carry out their duties. The main reason being the constitution states the Deputy Speaker can summon the house in case of the absence of the Speaker, but the power is limited to that and nothing more.

**Could this house elect the new Speaker?**

Why do we have a Deputy Speaker is because, in the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy should be able to discharge all related duties of the Speaker of the House. We have a Presidential system, wherein the case of the absence of the President the Vice-President should be able to discharge duties on behalf of the President. There are numerous loopholes in the constitution that do not allow discharge of active duties required to run the various committees and organs of the Parliament.

The leadership has started some work now. Due to the six presidium members, the conflict in the district has ended.

**There has been a long discussion for unification with the Socialist Party, has this unity discussion**

of leaders are vital issues and they cannot be settled in few days. This is a process. It cannot affect the convention.

**What do you think about the upcoming session of House of Representatives?**

The various committees in

# Dhanusha bomb blast

## Home Minister expresses determination to book culprits

Kathmandu: Home Affairs Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa has expressed the determination to take action against the criminals carrying out a powerful bomb explosion in Dhanusha. Describing the incident in which three people including father and son and a Police Inspector were killed as heinous, the Home Minister through the social site, expressed that he was stunned by the incident. "I express commitment on behalf of the government to bring to justice the criminal



involved in such atrocious incident," Minister Thapa

posted on his Facebook wall. The Home Minister

stated that he has been shocked by the incident that happened in Mahendranagar municipality of Khireswarnath Municipality-5 in Dhanusha in which Police inspector Amir Kumar Dahal, local Rajeshwar Shah, and Ananda Saha were killed and three other locals were injured. He paid tribute to the deceased and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Minister Thapa also wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the incident.

## Winter session of federal parliament from Friday

Kathmandu: The government has recommended to convene the winter session of federal parliament from December 20. The Cabinet wrote to the president for calling the winter session also known as the bill session. The budget session had ended on September 19. The post of speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) is vacant after Krishna Bahadur Mahara resigned following rape allegations by a federal parliament secretariat staffer.



Deputy Speaker Shiva Maya Tumbahamphe has been filling in as acting speaker and has already chaired the meeting to recommend office-bearers for the National Information Commission but bills have not been verified in lack of speaker. Spokesperson at the federal parliament secretariat Roj Nath Pandey said the first meeting of the winter session may start the process for election of speaker. "The first agenda of HoR now is election of speaker," he stressed.

## Nepal seeks review of Gurkha recruitment deal with Britain

Kathmandu: Nepal wants to review a military deal allowing its citizens to be enlisted in the British army, before a planned recruitment of Nepali women in the Brigade of Gurkhas for the first time in two centuries, the Himalayan country's foreign minister said. It is not clear how many Gurkha women Britain plans to enlist, but the first Gurkha women could begin their training in the British army in 2020, according to British media. Britain has been enlisting Gurkhas, a tribe from Nepal's Himalayan foothills

known for their fierce combat abilities, since 1815. An agreement between New Delhi, London and Kathmandu following India's independence from colonial rule in 1947 allowed India and Britain to share and recruit Gurkhas. In 2007, Britain announced plans to recruit Gurkha women for its elite force, adding however that issues such as recruitment and selection standards needed to be settled. Nepal now wants the 72-year-old tripartite deal renegotiated since that

accord does not allow Kathmandu to play any role in the recruitment process of Gurkhas by foreign armies, the country's Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali told Reuters in an interview late on Friday. "(Some) provisions of that agreement have become irrelevant now. Therefore, we have told Britain that we should review it ... make bilateral arrangements," said Gyawali. "We should define the presence of the government of Nepal in the (recruitment) process."

A new agreement should also address Gurkha grievances such as pensions and other benefits, which retired servicemen say are not at par with their British counterparts, Gyawali added. Nepal, a natural buffer between China and India, is one of the world's 10 poorest countries and remittances from Nepalis working abroad, including the Gurkhas, account for more than a quarter of its GDP. Currently, there are about 3,000 Nepalis in the Brigade of Gurkhas who have fought in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans.

## Nepal Army to complete Tarai-Madhes fast track by 2024

Kathmandu: Nepali Army said that it would complete the construction of Kathmandu-Madhes/Terai Fast Track Project (Expressway) by March, 2024. Physical infrastructure progress in the Expressway, one of the national pride projects of the government, has reached just 6 per cent in two years after the project was handed over to the NA by the Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda-led government on August 11, 2017.

Although the final date the completion of the project was fixed for 2024, the NA has said that it would take the project works by developing a separate holistic plan or master plan to complete the project within the given four years terms after the government handed over the project to the NA.

Brigadier General and project chief Sharad Lal Shrestha, a regular press conference organised on Monday at the Army Headquarters, said that the NA was, however, committed to

completing the project in the given timeframe of the government.

“By the coming next two weeks, the Project will develop and give the final shape to its holistic plan that will have several packages and programmes to complete the project in next four years,” the Project Chief said.

Although the DPR of the project was finalised taking some more time, works like finalising the tender processes and selecting the international project consultant will complete soon and after that there would be no problem to give pace to the project, Shrestha said.

According to Brigadier General Shrestha, 96 per cent of the project works, which are yet to be done, and the percentage of remaining works would increase after works on the tunnel and road ways begin,” Shrestha said.

The Fast Track Project has got Rs. 15 billion for this fiscal year and out of the total amount, the Project has spent Rs. 60 million in the first four months of the fiscal.

However, the government’s current fiscal year’s plan and policy programme and budget had provided five years’ term for the project.

Shrestha said that the project deadline (2024) was set as per the endorsed DPR of the project.

The Project office has estimated that it takes Rs. 175 billion, including VAT to complete the project. However, the real construction cost would stand at Rs. 155 billion as of the present inflation ratio of the market.

As per the recently endorsed DPR of the project, the alignment of the project has been changed in Khokana (the zero point area) to avert historical Sikali temple and other pilgrimage as per the concern of the locals.

As per the newly endorsed DPR, now the total length of the fast track will be 72.5 from earlier total length 76.2 km. The NA will construct 87 bridges and three tunnels (6.41 km) in different locations of the project site.

Among the total bridges, 16 will be of special kind, he said. The Expressway will be of four lanes with

50 metres right of way and 25 metres wide road section in the hilly and 27 metres in the Terai region.

Similarly, three tunnels will be constructed at Mahadev Danda (3.355 km), Dhedre (1.630 km) and Lendanda (1.430km) of Makwanpur district.

The Expressway will be of Asian Highway Design Standard (Primary Class) with ‘A’ level of service.

The DPR of the project was prepared by Soosung Engineering & Consulting Firm at a cost of Rs. 70.45 million.

The project will have three interchange sections in Khokana, Budune and Nijgadh of Bara district and three toll plazas in the same places. Similarly, there will be 12 passenger under passes (PUP), five vehicle under passes (VUP), one passenger over pass (POP) and four vehicle over passes (VOP). Following the completion of the road, it will take one hour two minutes to travel the highway.

## India...

pressure on the KP Sharma Oli administration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a diplomatic note to Delhi registering its protest against India’s inclusion of Kalapani within its borders.

Nepal’s Ambassador to India Nilamber Acharya also held talks with Indian Foreign Secretary Vijaya Gokhale on November 8 to discuss the matter.

Meanwhile, Kathmandu has been attempting to activate all channels to initiate dialogue with India on the matter.

Oli was even working on sending Madhav Kumar Nepal, a senior leader in his Nepal Communist Party (NCP), to New Delhi as his special envoy to hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While leaders of the ruling party have said that the plan was just in the preliminary phase and that

no concrete decision was taken, a section of Indian media reported that India refused to meet Madhav Nepal.

Minister for Information and Communication Technology Gokul Baskota said that there was no such attempt to send a special envoy to India.

“We can send a special envoy later, but we should not follow through on things that people write on social media,” Baskota said in response to a media query at a regular press briefing. “We have issues with India only for Limpiyadhura. There is no issue about Kalapani, Susta and Lipulekh because they belong to Nepal.”

New Delhi asserted that all discussions on the border dispute would take place through diplomatic channels, which shows that Delhi is disinterested in dialogue with Oli’s special envoy or through any other channel.

**‘India has encroached 372 kms border’**

Minister for Home Affairs Ram Bahadur Thapa has said that India has encroached Nepal’s border extending to 372 kilometers.

Minister Thapa said so during a meeting called by the International Relations Committee of Parliament to discuss the inclusion of Nepali lands including Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limiyadhura in the new political map unveiled by India.

He added that Nepal has mobilized border security forces for the protection of Nepali lands, but it is not enough. Informing the House panel that 37,000 Armed Police Force personnel have been mobilized for the border security, Minister Thapa said the number was insufficient. ‘The government is preparing to increase the number of Armed Police Force personnel on the Nepal-India border so that the country can ‘counter’ reported Indian encroachment’, said Minister Thapa

He said that the number of border security forces will be increased, adding that 70 new border outposts

are being added.

“But the government is clear that this land belongs to us. Previous governments were also fighting [to secure the land],” he said, adding, “There are around 37,000 APF personnel; it is not sufficient for border security. The ministry has proposed recruiting more people.” Likewise, preparations were underway to add 60-70 more border outposts, he informed.

## Pressures...

Speaker and Deputy Speaker must represent two different parties and genders. NCP cannot contest elections for the post of Speaker unless Tumbahamphe resigns from her post. Hence, pressures are building on Tumbahamphe to resign.

The session will convene at the New Baneshwor-based parliament building, at 4:00 pm on December 20.

# Court stays centre's decision to bring forest under its jurisdiction

Kathmandu: The constitutional bench of the Supreme Court has decided to continue its stay on the federal government's decision to bring Sagarnath Forestry Development Project under its jurisdiction.

The bench had, on August 30, issued a temporary stay order against the federal government's decision to bring SFDP under its jurisdiction in response to a writ petition filed by the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment of Province 2 on August 1. This is the first time a provincial government has gone to court against the federal government over jurisdiction issues.

The five-member constitutional bench comprises Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher JB Rana, justices Deepak Kumar Karki, Meera Khadka, Hari Krishna Karki and Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha.



Province 2 government challenged the federal government's June 6 decision that authorised the merger of SFDP with Timber Corporation of Nepal, which was later put under the Forest Corporation, a federal government entity. Province 2 government argued that as per No 19 of Schedule 6 of the constitution, Province 2 had exclusive power over

SFDP as it was a national forest project of the province.

Province 2 lawyers also argued before the court that the federal government could not interfere with its jurisdiction just because it did not enact its own laws to manage provincial forest resources.

Chief Attorney of Province 2 Dipendra Jha, senior advocates Badri Bahadur Karki, Purna Man Shakya and Mahadev Yadav

pleaded on behalf of Province 2 government. Jha said the constitution bench's decision to continue staying the federal government's decision to bring SFDP under its jurisdiction was a major victory for provinces. Lawyers who defended Province 2 government in the case also argued that if the federal government's erroneous decision was not stayed, then that could weaken federalism.

The petitioner argued that the federal government's decision to bring SFDP under its jurisdiction was erroneous as Schedule 6 of the constitution put national forest projects under the provincial government's jurisdiction. The petitioner also argued that the Forest Act did not allow transfer of SFDP to the Forest Corporation.

Province 2 government allocated Rs 10 million in fiscal 2017-18 to support SFDP for planting trees and an equal amount has been allocated in the current fiscal for the same purpose. SFDP was established under the Development Committee Act, 1956.

## Indian Ambassador pays farewell call on leader Nepal



Kathmandu: Ambassador of India to Nepal, Manjeev Singh Puri held talks with Nepal Communist Party (NCP) senior leader Madhav Kumar Nepal at his residence in Koteswar.

Ambassador Puri, who is preparing to return home after completion of his tenure here, paid a farewell call on the former Prime Minister and the NCP's foreign affairs department chief, Nepal, according to Mohan Gautam, leader Nepal's personal secretary.

During the meeting, ambassador Puri and leader Nepal discussed on various aspects of Nepal-India relations. Initiatives are underway to resolve the border dispute that has surfaced at present between the two countries at the diplomatic and political levels.

## INTACH signs deal with Indian Embassy to rebuild Nepal's 11 quake-hit heritage sites



Kathmandu: The Embassy of India to Nepal has signed an agreement with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), India for the post-earthquake reconstruction of 11 cultural heritage sites in Nepal. The agreement was signed by the deputy chief of mission at the embassy of India to Nepal Dr Ajay Kumar and member secretary of INTACH Dr C T Mishra. Senior officials from the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) of Nepal and Manjeev Singh Puri, the ambassador of India to Nepal were also present during the occasion.

According to the agreement, INTACH will provide design and project management consultancy services for the reconstruction of 11 cultural heritage sites in four different districts Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Solukhumbu.

INTACH will work with the Department of Archeology (DoA) of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Nepal to reconstruct cultural heritage sites as per the Government of Nepal's guidelines on the reconstruction of cultural heritage Sites. INTACH is one of the largest heritage organizations in the world with over 190 chapters across India.

# Jaganath Puri's deities installing in Pashupati Nath

Kathmandu: Kathmandu valley and Jaganath Ji of Puri has over five century old relations but there have never been any dispute over the lord. However, just a recent week, the news about installing Jagnathjee inside Pashupatinath has created a some controversy. Although the dispute over whether to install deities of Jaganath of Puri Temple is over following a decision of organizer to postpone the insulation of a statue sri Jagnath in the premises of the Pashupatinath Areas.

However, the abrupt decision divided Hindus on the basis of sect. It also indicated that how politically appointee at the helm of religious institution like Pashupati Area Development Trust can create the division in religion.

The temple priests and servitors of the Lord Jagannath Temple, Puri came last week to install deities. Frontal servitor Chhatisha Nijog Nayak, Priest of Lord Jagannath Temple Janardan Pattajoshi Mohapatra, Poet and Pandit. Dr Siddheswar Mohapatra a contemporary writer on Puri & Jagannath cult and servitor Neelamani Guru & Biswanath Dashmohaopatra, Engineer Debashis Mohapatra, Pandit Bichitrananda Mishra many others were in Kathmandu. However, they faced stiff opposition from a section in Kathmandu. The people opposed the installation on the ground that the Nepal's Law cannot permit to install any deities inside the temple. Former treasurer of Pashupati Development Trust Narrotam



Vaidya was in forefront. With the threat from various individual including religious organizations, the installation of deities in the premises of Pashuapti.

The center in the controversy was member of the Pashupati Development Trust Dr. Arjun Bastola who is reportedly close to President Bidya Bhandari. Although Dr. Bastola earlier claimed that the trust is installing the deities with consent from Sankaracharya of Puri. Later Puri's Sankracharya Math issued a statement saying that it did not give any consent to install deities. An installation of the deity of d Lord of the universe Sri Jagannath in the premises of the Pashupatinath Temple, Kathmandu a great historical step initiated by Swami Dibyanandji.

According to them, an installation of the idol of the Jagannath and Chatruddha Murti by the Indo-Nepal friendship movement under the leadership of Swami Dibyanandaji aimed to open an eye to the centuries old socio-cultural & spiritual rapport of d Indo-Nepal from mythological age to d modern era in many

more ways.

According to organizer, from time immemorial, starting from the mythological period till today India & Nepal both are having strong socio-cultural & spiritual ties. They argued that Installation of deity would have re-established the socio-cultural n spiritual heritage of d Indo-Nepal & speaks of the reunion of both d Nations.

They argued that Nepal has saturated India in many more ways. All the Rivers of Nepal flows to India empowering India's greenery, scenery, plants, foods, fruits & flowers. All the four empowered women of Nepal Sita, Urmila, Mandavi, Shrutakriti enabled their husbands to establish Ramarajya, golden era of India.

They said that Nepal is not only women but also wisdom flows from Nepal. The birth place of d intellect, incarnation of wisdom ,the bodhisattva is Nepal. Buddha was born and brought of here in Nepal as a prince and prefers to live as an yogi in quest of the reality of life.

The organizer said that the Lord Jagannath not only lexically the Lord of universe but also having his presence in d 140 countries out of which 124 countries use to celebrate

d car-festival along with Jagannath Puri to prove him as the Lord of the mass, Lord of the universe. However, Nepal too has historically a long connection with Jagnath. The temple of Jagnath in Kathmandu Valley is oldest one. This temple, noted for the erotic carvings on its roof struts, is the oldest structure in this part of Durbar Sqaure.

Lord Jagnath, a lord of world, is not new in Kathmandu. There are numbers of temples dedicated to him. Jagnath Temple is one of the oldest temples inside the Kathmandu Hanuman Dhoka Durbar Square. Pratap Malla claimed to have constructed the temple. Jagnath" is probably the oldest temple in Kathmandu, dating as far back as 1563 "Jagannath Temple" is also quite famous for the erotic carvings on its roof . The oldest temples in the square are those built by Mahendra Malla (1560–1574). They are the temples of Jagannath, Kotilingeswara Mahadev, Mahendreswara, and the Taleju Temple. This three-roofed Taleju Temple was established in 1564, in a typical Newari architectural style and is elevated on platforms that form a pyramid-like structure. Although the dispute and controversy is over, the recent dispute, whether to permit installment of Jagnath deities inside Pashuati premises or not , has cracked the faith. At a time when Hindu religion is passing through all round assault, the division within Hindu will harm further.

Individuals have their own argument and counter argument, nothing can change closest relations between Pashupatinath and Jagnath and their devotees.

# India introduces 'discriminatory anti-Muslim' Citizenship Amendment Bill in Lok Sabha

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha has voted to introduce the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, tabled by Indian Home Minister Amit Shah. A total of 293 members voted in favor of introducing the Bill, while 82 voted against, The Wire reported. Opposition parties led by the Congress had opposed the introduction, pointing that the bill violated Article 14 of the Indian Constitution. The bill grants Indian citizenship to immigrants from six non-Muslim religious communities coming from Pakistan,



Afghanistan and Bangladesh. It has been widely criticized as being blatantly communal and anti-Muslim. Congress leader Adhir

Ranjan Chowdhury began the debate, interrupting Shah to say that the Bill could not be introduced. Reading the preamble of the Constitution,

Chowdhury asked Shah, "Do you not like this document?" Shah, responding to Chowdhury's statement that the Bill openly targeted minorities, said that it did not do so "even 0.001%". N.K. Premachandran of the Revolutionary Socialist Party also opposed the bill, saying religion could not be made the basis for citizenship while Saugata Roy of the Trinamool Congress also opposed it saying that that Shah's defense that "Muslims were not mentioned" in the bill holds no water and called the bill divisive and unconstitutional.

## National Assembly election on January 23

Kathmandu: The government has announced election to elect the 18 National Assembly members for January 23, 2020.

A cabinet meeting earlier this month fixed the election date upon the recommendation of the Election Commission, said government spokesman Gokul Prasad Baskota.

The two-year tenure of 19 lawmakers of the 59-member NA is expiring on March 3 next year. The existing laws state that the election of the upper house members must be held 35 days before the expiry of the tenure of the serving members.

Eighteen of the vacant seats would be filled through the election, while one member would be appointed by the president upon the recommendation of the cabinet. Major political parties are also quietly holding internal negotiations to decide their candidates for the upper house. Last month, Prime Minister KP Oli had offered Nepal Communist Party senior leader Bamdev Gautam to become NA member,



signaling his possible induction in the cabinet. Prime Minister Oli is also consulting his party leaders on possible replacement of Finance Minister Yuba Raj Khatiwada, an upper house member whose term is also expiring in March. If Oli decides to retain Khatiwada as finance minister, NCP will need to re-elected him to the upper house.

Other NA lawmakers whose terms are expiring in March include Sarita Prasain, Surendra Raj Pandey, Haricharan Shiwakoti, Rampriti Paswan, Binda Devi Ale, Brishesh Chandra Lal, Badri Prasad Pandey, Balaram Baskota, Mina Budha, Mukta Kumari Yadav, Youtol Tamang, Ramesh Prasad Yadav, Durga Prasad Upadhyay, Dhan Kumari

Khatiwada, Kamala Kumari Ale, Kali Bahadur Malla and Khem Raj Nepal. Their tenure was decided through lucky draw. As per Article 86 (3) of the constitution, only one third (ie 20) of the NA members get to serve full term of six years. The remaining one third (20) NA members will be stepping down upon the completion of their four-year terms.