

Upendra Yadav's quitting the government

Socialist unlikely to become an effective force

Kathmandu: Ending months of speculation, Socialist Party exited the government. Ministers representing the party -Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Upendra Yadav and Minister of Urban Development Mohammad Ishtiaq Rai-tendered their resignation to the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers.

In his resignation addressed to Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, SP-N Chairperson Yadav said the government unilaterally broke the two-point pact signed between the then Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal and the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) on 28 May 2018 on the basis of which the FSF-N joined the government. The FSF-N merged with Naya Shakti Party-Nepal to form the Socialist Party.

In the agreement signed between Yadav and NCP Co-chairmen KP Sharma Oli and



Then UML Chairperson KP Oli, CPN Maoist Chairperson Prachanda and Forum Chairperson Upendra Yadav signing 2-point agreement (from left to right)

Pushpa Kamal Dahal, the two sides had agreed to address issues raised by the FSF-N during its agitation by amending the constitution on the basis of mutual understanding and in the interest of people and nation. Yadav stated in his resignation that he time and again raised the issue of constitution amendment in the Cabinet and in the Parliament, and even submitted a written reminder to the prime minister.

“In this context, in my capacity of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, I presented a proposal in the Cabinet yesterday to form an expert recommendation committee to do groundwork for constitution amendment. However, the government rejected the proposal, making it clear that it had broken the two-point pact unilaterally,” stated Yadav. “Since there’s no moral reason to remain in the government, I resign from the

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RJP likely to get Deputy Speaker

Kathmandu: With the Socialist Party quitting the KP Sharma Oli-led government, new political dynamics are emerging, as the ruling Nepal Communist Party and RJP-Nepal are in negotiations for a broader package deal. The RJP, which has 16 seats in the federal parliament, leads a coalition government with the Socialist Party in Province 2, where the ruling party is looking to expand

its reach.

RJP leaders have been saying that a potential alliance with the ruling party depends on a larger package deal, which could begin with the post of Deputy Speaker. After Krishna Bahadur Mahara’s resignation in early October, the ruling party is trying to install one of its leaders, most likely Subas Nembang, as Speaker by asking

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India agrees border dispute in Kalapani area



Kathmandu: After silence of one month, India has responded Nepal’s diplomatic note against release of a new political map by India by including Nepali territory Limpiuadhara area. India has sent a letter to the Nepal

government accepting border dispute in Kalapani area.

India, however, has claimed that the area included in the newly released map belongs to her. However, India, in the letter, has stated that the issue will be discussed in the upcoming secretary level meeting, yet, the meeting date has not been confirmed. It is stated in the letter that India is ready to resolve border dispute in Kalapani and Susta area.

PM trying to bring RJP in the government

Kathmandu: After ousting of the Socialist Party from the government, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli is trying to bring RJP-Nepal.

Minister for Information Technology and Communications and spokesman of the government, Gokul Banskota has given such a gesture. Banskota told talks are on regarding participation of RJP in the government.

Banskota said that after alliance between NCP and RJP



for National assembly elections, environment for agreement on other issues has been developed. We are ready to welcome RJP in the government,” Banskota said.



Editorial

Why Upendra quits the govt?

Socialist Party has formally quit the government. On the face of it, unwillingness of the Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to amend the constitution has been attributed as the main factor behind the FSN's ouster from the government. But there is an undercurrent of schism and enmity that forced Upendra Yadav-led Socialist Party to leave the government.

Yadav had joined the government with its sole agenda of the statute amendment. Yadav had first become the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Population and Health. In the recent reshuffle of government, he was given the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs with the DPM post. PM Oli had appointed to this post without consulting him and many had interpreted it as an insult to Yadav.

However, PM Oli was not satisfied with Yadav right from the beginning. As the important figure of the government, Yadav was supposed to defend and boost its image but he

The changing political scenario is to unfold some dramatic moves in the days to come.

forgot the minimum norms and went on to spit venom against it that was quite unethical, apolitical and un-parliamentary. He accused the government of being indulged in corruption. By slamming the government, he was denigrating himself because he was the part of it.

After Yadav unified his party with Dr Baburam Bhattarai-led Naya Shakti, the relations between Yadav and PM Oli further went sour. Bhattarai pressed Yadav to leave the government and hit the streets against it. Yadav was sticking to the government on one or another pretext. Finally, he left it after enduring so much humiliation. Upendra was under intense moral pressure after the ruling NCP and RJP, Nepal inked a two-point deal on sharing four seats of lawmakers in the National Assembly election in Province 2. The two parties will each get two seats from the state. NCP-RJP accord had dealt a blow to main opposition Nepali Congress and Socialist Party as both will each lose one seat of NA.

Now speculations are rife that RJP might join the Oli government. It had withdrawn support to the Oli sometime back after its array of demands were not met but now situation has changed with Rajendra Mahato taking the mantle of the head of the party under its presidium system. The NCP-RJP deal has also endangered the Socialist Party-led government in Province 2 based on the Socialist Party-RJP alliance. If the inconvenience marriage between the NCP and RJP does not hit the roadblocks or sails smoothly, it is likely that the Province 2 government might collapse.

In order to abort the possible alliance between the NCP and RJP, Upendra Yadav announced that unification with the latter has become easy after his party quit the Oli government. RJP had demanded that Yadav must pull out of the government for the unification between the two Madhes-based forces. With Yadav's exit from the government, it had lost the two-thirds strength in the parliament. But the changing political scenario is to unfold some dramatic moves in the days to come.

Delhi can't anger Nepal too -2

- Major General Ashok K Mehta

Kalapani is a strategic asset dominating an ancient trading post and the western India-Nepal-China trijunction. It serves as a military launch pad into Tibet.

None of the 21 posts remained.

Two Nepalese experts – Major General Binoj Basnyat and Buddhi Narayan Shrestha (author of Border Management Of Nepal) have recommended a more professional border management policy based on a national security strategy. Lawmaker Anand Pathak wants India to vacate Kalapani as a gesture of goodwill. Meanwhile, civil society groups are hyperactive: on 24 November, 'Save Border Campaign' protested on Kalapani; on 25 November, 'Save Nation Team' came up with a new map of Nepal showing Kalapani in Nepal. Rattan Bhandari has written a book on Kalapani tracing the origin of the dispute, and has suggested solutions.

The last time Kalapani became a political hot potato was in 1999, when Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh visited Nepal with a delegation. I was part of his media team and recall that Communist leader Bamdev Gautam, accompanied by other Nepalese, including journalist Narayan Wagle, lead a protest march to Kalapani and grabbed headlines. At a press conference, Jaswant Singh had said that India was ready to amicably resolve the Kalapani issue. In 1981, a Joint Technical Boundary Committee had delineated 98 percent of the India-Nepal border, later producing 182 strip maps and installing nearly 85,000 boundary pillars. Maps were sent for ratification in 2007. Only Kalapani and Susta were two unresolved border

issues. The Joint Technical Boundary Committee was redesignated in 2014 as the Boundary Working Group.

Kalapani became a political football last month during the 52 by-elections to various posts, the first after the 2017 series of elections.

Nepali Congress President and three-term Prime Minister, Sher Bahadur Deuba, slammed the ruling Nepal Communist Party, alleging that Kalapani had been 'occupied' by India with Prime Minister KP Oli's 'consent'. NCP executive chairman, Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda, said that India must vacate its 'illegal occupation' of Kalapani. Oli told Kantipur TV that no previous government had taken up the Kalapani dispute due to 'weakness' and 'inferiority complex', and his government had already taken up the issue with India following an all-party political consensus.

Besides Kalapani, Nepal has flagged the India-China Additional Trading Post Agreement of 2015 through Lipulekh Pass, as a violation of Nepalese sovereignty. At the time, Prime Minister Sushil Koirala had called Prime Minister Modi to register Nepal's strong objection. India has claimed that Lipulekh is on its territory. On the other hand, New Delhi has alleged that Nepal and China had bilaterally shifted the T i n k e r - L i p u l e k h trijunction 5.5 km west towards Lipulekh. This was apparently done in 1979, and will further confound the complexity of the dispute.

In sum, this time, Nepal has acted on Kalapani — urged by public opinion — with stunning alacrity. Following the release of India's new political map on 2 November, Nepal Ambassador to India, Nilambar Acharya met Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale on 5 November. On 21 November Nepal sent a diplomatic note to New Delhi. According to Nepal, there is no response from India so far. Nepal has sought the reactivation of 2014 Foreign Secretary-level Mechanism. On 12 December, Nepal's minister for Land Management, Padma Aryal, said that Nepal will release its own map showing Lampiya Dhura as source of the Kali river.

In the ongoing debate in Nepal on Kalapani — which has been described as a David-Goliath situation — options in Nepal range from war, to the UN, to the International Court of Justice, and to the realists advocating the politico-diplomatic route. The Kalapani chorus has become the signature tune of 'competing nationalism' alias 'anti-Indianism'. For a small country, land is sacred soil. Still, emotional grandstanding is no substitute for hard evidence.

For India, Kalapani is a strategic asset dominating an ancient trading post and the western India-Nepal-China trijunction. It serves as a military launch pad into Tibet. The Kalapani dispute must be resolved expeditiously and earnestly, to the mutual satisfaction of both sides. India cannot afford to disinvest the diminished trust it enjoys in Nepal.

Source: The Quint

PM was not honest to enforce 2-point agreement

Socialist Party joined the government to amend the constitution and protect its achievements but since the government is not honest on 2-point agreement, we walked out.

➤ **For the time being, the Socialist Party seems to be moving amidst various ups and down, finally the party also quitted the government. What is the reason behind it?**

• The party has not fluctuated significantly as you have said. The Socialist Party had joined the government by making the 2-point agreement. In that first point of agreement asked the issue of amending the constitution. We had participated in the government in consultation with the Chairpersons of both the then CPN-Maoist and CPN-UML. While we were in government, we had repeatedly submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister for amending the constitution. The Socialist Party once again raised its points in the Cabinet debate. But the Prime Minister did not show much interest. We understand that he backtracked from our agreement that we would amend the constitution. Non-compliance of the agreement itself, which is still Nepal's political culture, remains the same.

➤ **Was the Socialist Party out of the government thinking that the PM would not amend the constitution?**

• It was clear to us that the constitution should be amended and if the constitution is not amended then we have been saying repeatedly that we do not live in this government. Even if our demands are not met, morality does not allow us to stay there. It does not mean to stay in government only just for holding flag. But, when the party joined to the government by

making a two-point agreement, did you not understand the intention of NCP's leaders? The agreement was not very fulfilled before.

This is not to say that once a movement has failed in politics, there is no movement again. Ours words are repeatedly raised in every way and every man can be used for them. Therefore, the issue of one time agreement is not adhered to. Just because we failed once on the basis of our political morality does not mean that we should step back.

➤ **As your party Chairperson submitted a proposal for amending the constitution, the issue is not being raised as well?**

• When we repeatedly urge the Prime Minister, he should ignore it and what process should we take to take up the proposal. Upendra Yadav, who has been in agreement for five years now, has proposed to Parliament not to go ahead with the process and how we have no choice but to move forward. If that process was not correct, then the Prime Minister did not consider the importance of revising the constitution in the direction of how to proceed with consultation. After he answered in a negative way, we were out of government.

➤ **Did the Prime Minister also feel that he had to leave the Socialist Party from the government after seeing the kind of behavior that**

was going on with it?

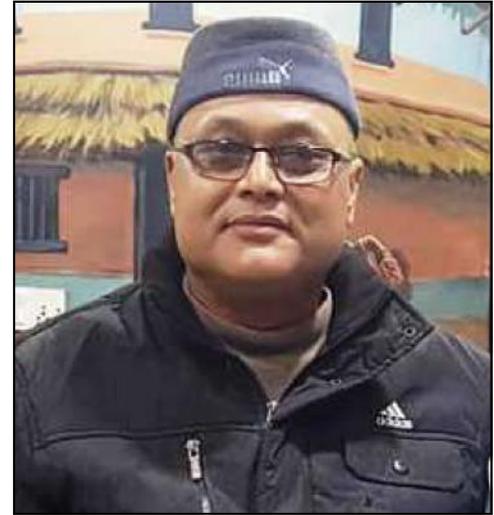
• We have not gone to government. We did not even ask that we should join the government. We have joined the government to bring about two-thirds of the time required to amend the constitution. Although Prime Minister told that they are positive on the issue and for that he requested us to join the government for two-thirds majority is required. We are sticking to our political issues as we move forward.

➤ **There was no discussion with the Socialist Party on various decisions made by the government. Did Upendra Yadav have a conflict with the Prime Minister on some issues?**

• The Prime Minister has the power to appoint or remove anyone in the Council of Ministers. But the Prime Minister did not show any political rhetoric on any of these decisions. We need not comment on the fact that the ministry, which was changed some time ago, is within the authority of the Prime Minister. If the CPN has its own point of view, then the Socialist Party has its own point of view. We joined the government to amend the constitution and protect its achievements but since the government is not honest on 2-point agreement, we walked out.

➤ **What is the party's upcoming strategy?**

• We will cooperate with parties that are politically oriented. Our agenda is decided on the basis of



Prakash Adhikari
Sub-General Secretary,
Socialist Party

which we discuss within the party.

➤ **Is it possible to go to the movement?**

• That way is open forever. If the government is dishonest, it is the right of the political parties to go to the streets and people. If there is no other alternative, the last road is the road.

➤ **The discussion for unification with the RJP is underway but the party left from the government just after 2 days after NCP agreed with RJP? Was this an attempt to spoil the unification process?**

• The issue of party unification is not linked whether we are in the government or not. We are not even out of the government because RJP agreed with the NCP. Now whether or not RJP joins the government is its internal matter.

Even if they join the government, we do not say that they must come out of the government for party unification. If there is one in view, idea, principle, then having or not being in the

government for party integration does not make much sense.

➤ **Is there a possibility of a change in the power equation of province 2?**

• I do not think there may any change in the government in Province 2. The Madhesi people have given the mandate to form a government by giving votes to the Madhesi parties, the parties favoring the movement. On the basis of this, we are in government and we have come forward with the mandate of the people of the province. There is no possibility of any change of power in Province 2.

➤ **What do you think about the dispute that is being raised in the map released by the Indian government?**

• The territory that belonged to Nepal during the Sugauli Treaty and the land that belonged to India is still of that country. Whatever issues are currently being raised, the issue should be resolved through diplomatic means.

122 Chinese citizens nabbed by police



Kathmandu: Number of Chinese citizens arrested by Crime Division of Metropolitan Police Office, Kathmandu, in suspect of cyber fraud has reached 122. Police has suspected that there are over 200 Chinese citizens, residing in the capital city. Police had raided houses in Budhanilkantha, Maharajgunj and Manamaiju, where Chinese were found to be living by renting entire houses. The police has confiscated laptop from each and every arrested Chinese. "The acts of these Chinese people, who had entered Nepal in visiting visa were found to be suspicious," said Sahakul Thapa, Police Sub-inspector, Crime Division, Metropolitan Police Office, Kathmandu. Thapa said that 122 individuals were arrested and investigation was going on Chinese citizens residing at Chabahil, Bouddha and Koteswor. The police had received information about suspicious activities of Chinese

citizens residing in group a week ago.

A local informed that they used to stay in groups and used to parade like an army in the morning and evening.

The Central Investigation Bureau, Crime Division and Metropolitan Police Office, Kathmandu had jointly raided the houses, based on the special information they had received. A detailed investigation is still due, however, foreign nationals residing in groups is suspicious per se, said Thapa.

"Each and every arrested person was found to be equipped with laptop, this is questionable," he added. "Most of their visas have expired already." As per the initial statement given by the accused Chinese citizens, they had been working as labour in the sector of Information and Technology, the name of the companies that they worked for, however is still unknown.

Indian envoy Puri pays farewell visit to Prez, PM



Kathmandu: Outgoing Indian Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri held separate meetings with President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli. Various aspects of Nepal-India relations were discussed during the meetings. On the occasion, President Bhandari and PM Oli thanked the ambassador for his efforts to promote age-old Nepal-India

relations. Puri, who came to Nepal to take the charge in March 2017, is returning home next week. He is retiring from the Indian Foreign Service as well.

Puri had also met Nepali Congress (NC) leaders before that. NC President Sher Bahadur Deuba called Puri to his residence in Budhanilkantha for lunch earlier on the day. Senior leader Ram Chandra Paudel and other office-bearers were also present during the lunch meeting. Puri had arrived in Nepal in March 2017 and is returning home after completing his term.

Upendra Yadav's...

post of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs with immediate effect," he added.

In the last Cabinet reshuffle, Oli allotted Yadav, the then minister of health and population, the portfolio of law, justice and parliamentary affairs when Yadav was on a foreign trip. Although Yadav had said the reshuffle was done in consultation with him, some party leaders, including SP-N Federal Council Chairperson Baburam Bhattarai, strongly criticised the government for insulting the party by reshuffling the Cabinet without consulting it. Speculations about SP-N quitting the government had started right after the merger of Yadav-led FSF-N and Bhattarai-led NSP-N. Bhattarai had been pressuring Yadav to quit the government and start a new movement for constitution amendment. The speculation got further currency after Cabinet reshuffle and NA election alliance between the NCP and RJP-N. The fresh development has also given rise to another speculation that the RJP-N will join the government.

However, RJP-N leaders say they will not join the government unless their concerns are addressed. RJP-N leader Laxman Lal Karna said if they had to join the government, they would have done so much earlier as the party had initially extended its support to the government.

"How can we join the government at a time when our party members are still facing police cases and our leaders are in jail," said Karna. "Above all, there has not been any progress regarding our major demand of constitution amendment."

As far as the NA election alliance is concerned, Karna said they did so because it was the only option for them to maintain their representation in the Upper House. He added that it was purely an election alliance.

The party's leaders were miffed with Oli when Yadav's portfolio was changed from Health to Law and a state minister from the party was relieved in the cabinet reshuffle last month without any consultation with the coalition partner.

Yadav, however, had said that he would fight from within the government for constitutional amendment, a major goal for the party in joining the government.

Relations between Oli and Yadav had further soured after the NCP struck a deal to form an alliance with the RJP -Nepal in the National Assembly elections earlier this month.

After exiting the KP Sharma Oli government, leaders from the Socialist Party Nepal have been saying that the party will focus on strengthening itself to provide an alternative to the Communists and the Congress. Political analysts, however, say that the party has lost its way and is unlikely to become an effective force outside of government.

Party leaders said they wanted to reach out to the people to inform them about their reasons for quitting the government and that the party would now focus on raising their issues in Parliament as part of the opposition.

The Socialist Party has lost all three grounds as a political party—political line, public opinion and base. The party will now become a follower of the Nepali Congress and protest the government. There is no condition for them to start any kind of movement in the Madhes as people know the real intention of these people. However, even the Congress is unlikely to trust Yadav as part of the opposition. In order to save face, Yadav is preparing for opposition politics but it will not be easy for him. Yadav has only made the Madhesi agenda a tool for political gain.

By exiting government after such a long wait, Socialist Party has not just lost the ruling party as its partner but also ideologically similar parties like the Janata Party. RJP is unlikely to follow through with the merger as the Samajbadi Party refused to quit government when asked.

RJP likely...

Deputy Speaker Shiva Maya Tumbahangphe to resign in return for a ministerial berth. Oli could then offer the RJP the post of Deputy Speaker. At least two leaders from the RJP said that Chanda Chaudhary would be the most probable candidate for the position.

Rajendra Mahato, chairman of the RJP's six-member presidium, said that the party is ready with its candidate if it is given the post of Deputy Speaker. Another leader from the party, who did not wish to be named, said that informal negotiations with the ruling party are ongoing in favour of Chaudhary as Deputy Speaker. But that alone will not be enough for RJP, which is eyeing a bigger deal. The party withdrew support to the government in March after a district court handed a life sentence to its lawmaker Resham Chaudhary in relation to the August 2015 Tikapur violence in which nine people were killed.

"Chaudhary's release and constitutional amendments are major issues that the Janata Party wants in the larger deal," the leader said.

The RJP's relationship with the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) will depend on how the government responds to the former's demands for constitutional amendments and the withdrawal of cases against its leaders and cadres, said Mahato. Leaders said the ruling party is positive about both demands. If negotiations go well, the Nepal Communist Party and the RJP could form a new government in Province 2, according to the leaders. Everything, however, will depend on how negotiations unfold in the coming days.

Lawmakers demand diplomatic solutions to resolve Nepal-India border dispute

Kathmandu: The lawmakers of the ruling and opposition parties have drawn the government's attention to seek diplomatic solutions to resolve the ongoing Nepal-India border dispute.

The lawmakers in a meeting of the National Assembly advised the government to be more serious on the border issue saying that the initiative taken by the government could not yield concrete results.

Speaking at the meeting, Nepal Communist Party (NCP) lawmaker Khim Lal



Bhattarai urged the government to seek diplomatic solutions to narrow down the Nepal-India border dispute. The

initiation taken by the government to iron out the ongoing border dispute is, Bhattarai said.

“The Nepal government has

maintained its clear-cut stance on issues of Kalapani, Lipulek and Limpiyadhura, which is quite positive,” said he. Similarly, Nepali Congress lawmaker Badri Prasad Pandey advised the government to form a high-level team to hold talks with India.

Lawmaker Chakra Prasad Snehi said India has encroached Nepali land even though Sugauli Treaty clearly stipulates that Kalinadi is the border between India and Nepal. “The Nepal government should hold talks with India at the diplomatic level with evidences.”

Visit Nepal 2020 promotion in Bengaluru

Kathmandu: In order to explore the trade and investment opportunities with focus on Tourism in Nepal, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) under aegis of its India-Nepal Centre/SDC and in association with the Embassy of Nepal, organised “Visit Nepal 2020 Conclave” on 23rd December at Bengaluru.

The Conclave hosted the official launch of Government of Nepal's “Visit Nepal 2020 Campaign” and the discussions of key decision-makers’ and stakeholders’ from the government and industry, for positioning “Visit Nepal 2020” to attract the visitors and investments from Southern India to Nepal.

While delivering the keynote



speech, Nepal's Ambassador Nilambar Acharya called for tourism and investment promotion in Nepal and further strengthening of India-Nepal economic relations.

Ambassador K V Rajan, the Chair of Inaugural Session

highlighted the importance of tourism as a major sector for Nepal, both keeping economic and socio-cultural considerations. He added that “Endowed with favourable natural conditions, the tourism in Nepal is all set to gain new height with Visit Nepal 2020, a meaningful

campaign started by the Government of Nepal.”

The two Sessions and Roundtable Meeting hosted the voices of the policy-makers from the government and industry in Southern India.

The vision for “Visit Nepal 2020 Campaign” is grand and reflects Nepal's unwavering commitment to improving its competitiveness through investment, innovation, infrastructure development, regulatory reforms, new product offering, environment & wildlife conservation and ensuring greater level of efficiency in service standards with the aim to develop tourism and economy in Nepal. Significantly, the government declared 2020 as the Visit Nepal Year with a goal to achieve two million arrivals and daily spend of over \$75.

329 patients get free surgery



Jaleshwar: Three hundred and twenty-nine persons were provided with free surgery at an extensive health camp operated by Nepal Army at Mahottari. The health camp that was originally said to run from December 13 to 21, was extended by a day till Sunday considering the large number of

patients coming to the camp seeking service. The health camp was organized at the Khakhana Secondary School at Sonama Rural Municipality-3. A team of specialists including surgeons from the Army Hospital performed surgery on 194 men and 135 women free of cost, Nepal Army chief surgeon Dr Shreejan Malla said. He said 178 complicated, 47 medium and 104 general surgical operations were performed during the period. Likewise, about 22 thousand patients were given free health examination on the occasion. Medicines were also distributed to the patients free of cost.

APF removing illegal structures at border

Rautahat: Armed Police Force in coordination with Indian security forces started removing physical structures constructed on the encroached 32-kilometre Dasgaja area in Rautahat, along the Nepal-India border.

APF personnel have started vacating cowsheds, huts, shops and shanties that were unlawfully built at Dasgaja area. APF 11 Number Gan said the campaign to remove structures built on the encroached land had started from Rautahat's western border area. For a long time, locals from both sides had been occupying most parts of the Dasgaja area for private use.

The law has it that neither side can build any physical structure in Dasgaja area. But, the Indian side has constructed a customs check-



point, besides the Miteri Bridge in Dasgaja area. The customs point is illegally built. APF SP Rabin Raj Karnajit said they had launched a campaign to remove unlawful structures and vacate the border area. “We have started a drive to remove structures along the border and keep border pillars updated and intact,” he said.

Talk on the democratic traditions of India and its constitution



Kathmandu: Neeti Anusandhan Pratisthan (NeNAP) and National Law College (NaLC) Nepal, jointly organized a program. The discussion program titled "The Constitution of India and its Democratic Traditions" had speakers from India as well as Nepal.

The program was attended by the Ambassador of India Manjeev Singh Puri who is completing his three-year tenure in Nepal.

Introducing the program Dr. Deepak Adhikari the Executive Director of NeNAP welcomed the guests and the eminent speakers on the occasion and laid stress on

the continuity of the people to people relations between the two nations. He was hopeful that the bilateral relations between Nepal and India would further strengthen in the days ahead.

Speaking on the occasion were Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Prof (Dr.) Guru Prakash, Prof (Dr.) Ram Krishna Timilsina, Prof (Dr.) Surya Dhungel, and Prof (Dr.) P.Puneeth from Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The entire program was followed by a Q&A session which was participated and by the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Indian Embassy Dr. Ajay Kumar. Closing remarks were given by the President of NeNAP Ms. Nalini Gyawali, and the vote of thanks by Mr. Harka Rawal.

Indian vehicles banned in Pokhara

Pokhara: At a time when the entire country is gearing up to welcome a record number of visitors during the upcoming Visit Nepal Year 2020, a decision to ban Indian number plate vehicles in Pokhara, one of the most visited tourism destinations in the country during the New Year and Christmas celebrations, has created quite a controversy.

According to sources, the decision to ban Indian vehicles during Christmas and New Year was taken by Pokhara Tourism Council in consultation with the District Administration of Kaski, with a view to easing traffic congestion.

Meanwhile, the decision has drawn mixed reactions from tourism entrepreneurs. Former chairperson of Western Regional Hotel Association Hari Gaire described the decision taken on the eve of the visit year as fatal. "Besides Indian vehicles, vehicles from other countries also arrive here, so what do we really want to suggest by



singling out Indian vehicles and banning them?" he asked. The controversial decision has even prompted Indian media to cover the news.

Pokhara Tourism Council Chairperson Chiranjivi Pokharel defended the decision citing the positive effects the decision would have on the local business of travel agencies, entrepreneurs and cabbies. "Only public vehicles have been banned, not private ones," he explained.

"Indian vehicles don't know the parking system and routes here, and will naturally cause traffic problem," he said. "We'll take another decision whether to lift the ban after Christmas and the New Year following consultation with stakeholders," he added.

Shringla to be new Foreign Secretary of India



New Delhi: Indian ambassador to the US and one of the senior-most diplomats, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, has been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary; he will replace Vijay Keshav Gokhale.

He speaks Nepalese French and Vietnamese apart from English and Indian languages. Ambassador Shringla has graduated from St Stephen's College, Delhi University, and worked in corporate and public sectors before joining

IFS.

Shringla was director of the northern division, handling Nepal and Bhutan and deputy secretary of the western division, dealing with Europe. An order issued by the government on Monday said that Shringla will take over next month after the completion of Gokhale's two-year term.

A 1984 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer and a fluent French speaker, Shingla served as an ambassador to Bangkok from 2014 to 2016 and later High Commissioner to Dhaka for two years. In his current posting, Shingla came into prominence when he rebutted Pakistan Prime

Minister Imran Khan's opinion piece in The New York Times, quite eloquently.

In a diplomatic career spanning 35 years, Ambassador Shringla also served at UNESCO in France, UN, in New York besides Vietnam, Israel and South Africa.

Ambassador Shringla has served in the Ministry of External Affairs as Joint Secretary for Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Maldives. He also headed the UN political and SAARC divisions in the ministry.

Congress general convention in Feb 2021

Kathmandu: The Central Working Committee meeting of main opposition Nepali Congress



decided to hold the 14th general convention of the party on 19-22 February, 2021 in Kathmandu.

According to a press statement issued by party chief secretary Krishna Prasad Paudel, the meeting also extended the term of the party. The meeting was chaired by president Sher Bahadur Deuba. However, leaders of the rival factions led by NC senior leader Ram Chandra Paudel and Krishna Prasad Sitaula boycotted the meeting. The meeting also decided to extend the tenure of party's all level committees by one year and the decision will be informed to the Election Commission.

The meeting also decided to form 41 departments breaching the party statute's provision for 28 departments. The statement said the decision would be endorsed from the party's upcoming Mahasamiti meeting and general convention. The meeting also extended the tenure of the Nepal Tarun Dal by six months and shouldered the authority to party president Sher Bahadur Deuba for its fulfillment after necessary consultation.

Border dispute will be resolved through dialogue:



Minister Gyawali

Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali said a recent border dispute with India in Kalapani would be resolved through dialogue.

At a meeting with Nepal Communist Party cadres in Tansen of Palpa district, he said the government was competent to resolve the bilateral border dispute through the means of dialogue.

The minister also shared that the preliminary task of the party unity process had completed. He informed that the remaining tasks in regard to the party unity process would be finalised by mid-January. The government and party functioning would take pace once the completion of the party merger process, Gyawali added.

Kathmandu: Minister for

Won't let Nepal's land be used against national interest: Minister Sonal

Janakpurdhham: Minister for Physical Infrastructure in Province No 2 Jitendra Sonal has reassured that Nepal's land will not be allowed to be used for any anti-national activities.

At a discussion program organized by the Nepal-Bharat Khulla Sambad Samuha at Janakpurdhham in Dhanusha district, Minister Sonal spoke of the need to acknowledge the open border between Nepal and India as an 'opportunity' to further strengthen social, cultural, religious and economic ties between the two countries. Pressing for the need to focus on how to resolve the bordering issue with India in the wake of India placing Nepal's territory as Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura in its newly unveiled political map and subsequent uproar, Minister Sonal urged one and all not to harbour any doubt that the bordering places in



Nepal side will be allowed to used against the national interest.

Similarly, Minister for Social Development of the Province Nawal Kishore Shah said that Nepal had social, cultural, religious ties with India while Nepal was known as 'Mithila Kingdom' and this ties, he claimed, will not broken in any circumstances.

Likewise, Policy Commission Vice-chair Dr Bhogendra Jha viewed that Nepal-India ties were

'natural, fundamental and humanitarian' and viewed that all sides should be aware to safeguard Nepal's sovereignty.

Similarly, Province Assembly member Parameshwor Shah added that the citizens of both countries had cordial relations while the political analyst Chandra Kishore argued that since the people-to-

people border relations between Nepal and India was a common thread social anomalies should be put to an end collectively.

On the occasion, India border experts professor Nawal Kishore Chaudhary, Ashok Priyadarshi, Nagendra Prasad Singh and Arun Das univocally said that the citizens residing in bordering areas should stay alert on the misunderstandings that the rulers might create over the border relations.

Samuha's Chairperson Rajiv Jha pointed out the need for public participation, especially of those living in the bordering areas, to combat cross-border criminal activities between Nepal and India.

Govt's arrogance of two-thirds majority finished: Yadav



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Law citing discontentment over the K P Oli-led government.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital, Yadav formally announced his party's withdrawal from the government.

"We do not support the government anymore," he said while hinting at playing the role of strong opposition in the House of Representatives. The government no longer has a two-thirds majority, he said alleging the government of failing in all aspects. Yadav, however, said his party would continue to raise the issue of the constitution amendment from the parliament.

Kathmandu: Chairman of Socialist Party Nepal Upendra Yadav has spewed his grudges on the government saying that its arrogance of two-thirds majority has been over now.

"With the Socialist Party Nepal walking away and withdrawing its support to the government, the egotism of two-thirds majority has been done," Yadav, who on Tuesday resigned from the post of

शुभारम्भ...शिवमसँग

शिवम्
सिमेन्ट

जसरी आ-आफ्नो क्षेत्रमा
तपाईं सधैं मञ्जुहुन्छ
NO COMPROMISE



'Daughter insurance week' to begin in Province 2 starting Jan 16



Janakpurdham: The Province 2 government is set to launch a campaign 'daughter insurance week' to reach out its benefits to grassroots level.

The campaign will be run as part of the daughter education insurance under Province 2 government's popular program 'educate daughter, protect daughter'.

Though the government had announced insurance package to contribute to the education of daughters born in Province 2 since

15 January 2018, However, it was not implemented well owing to human resource crunch.

Reviewing the sluggish progress, the government decided to run camps in every local level to provide insurance and plus in the doorsteps of target beneficiaries.

Priyanka Yadav, coordinator of 'educate daughters, protect daughters' campaign, said the camps will be rolled out in all eight local levels of Province 2 from coming January 16. Each camp will provide education insurance along with free health check-ups and medicines for daughters.

The target is to reach cent percent insurance to the daughters who took birth since last year. It is to cover the daughters whose family could not insure her due to several reasons.

130 crore Indians have found solutions: PM Modi

New Delhi: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi today claimed that issues ranging from Article 370, Ram Mandir have been resolved, and refugees from other nations have been given citizenship. With this, 130 crore Indians have found solutions to their problems, he said while speaking at a program in Lucknow.

"Issues revolving the Article 370 as well as Ram temple have been resolved peacefully," he said adding that the way to give citizenship to refugees from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan has been cleared.



According to him, 130 crore Indians have found the solution to such challenges with confidence, Indian media reports have said on Wednesday. He added that Article 370 was an old disease and that it was India's responsibility to resolve it.

Experts call for enhancing Nepal-India relations



Kathmandu: Experts on Nepal-India relations have stressed the need to further enhance people-to-people relations.

Addressing an interaction program entitled "Dynamics of Nepal India-Relations in the Changing Context" organized in New Delhi recently, the speakers underscored the need for deepening bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries.

Former Ambassador of India to Nepal and a member of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) Jayant Prasad said the people-to-people relation defines the relation between the two countries rather than between "Singha Durbar and Raisina Hill".

Prasad said that Nepal and India can work together in the field of water resources.

Nepal expert in India, SD Muni

argued that cultural linkage alone is not enough to strengthen the relationship between Nepal and India.

Former Indian Ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae said that the two countries should deepen their cooperation in the field of economic cooperation, hydropower and connectivity. Former Nepali ambassador Dinesh Bhattarai stressed the need to resolving existing border disputes between Nepal and India.

Nepali Ambassador to India Nilambar Acharya stressed the need to adopt a workable approach to deal with historical commonalities. Stating that 98% border disputes between Nepal and India has already been resolved, Acharya expressed hope to resolve remaining disputes including in Kalapani and Lipulekh soon.

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