

# **Nepal: A Land of Peace or a New Battleground for Power Nations? A Citizen's Explosive Concern**

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## **Background: The Pain of Return and the Ruins of a Dream**

Who am I? I am that Nepali who performed the rigorous penance of study and research for 7 years in the technology and culture of Japan. I am that Nepali who, after working for 6 years in a prestigious university in America, returned to my own country with the sacred goal of contributing something, giving up the 'Green Card' that was in my hand. Even if I haven't been able to do anything special in my own soil, I am a conscious citizen living by preparing occasional materials related to public health in my own way and sharing the pain of the personal/family 'thunderbolt' (tragedy) that fell upon me.

This return was not easy. Leaving behind the clean streets of Japan, the advanced labs of America, and the convenient life of every day, I returned to Nepal. Why? Because there was a dream in my heart—a Nepal that can look at its children with pride. A Nepal whose name the world looks upon with respect. But today, when I think of the future of my country, my heart grows cold. My eyes well up. Is this the Nepal we envisioned? Is our country truly on the path of preserving its existence, or are we unknowingly becoming a dangerous battleground for foreign power nations? This question is not just mine; it belongs to every patriotic Nepali. Today, through this article, I am sharing my explosive concern with you—neither in favor of any political party nor against any foreign power. Simply as an ordinary citizen, in whose blood the love for Nepal flows.

## **Unusual Commotion: A Startling Beginning**

Following the political crisis after the last 'Gen-Z' movement, an interim government was formed under the leadership of Sushila Karki with a one-point mandate to conduct House of Representatives elections within six months. After the formation of this government, a new hope had arisen in Nepal. The youth thought—now change will come, corruption will decrease, and national integrity will be strengthened.

But immediately after the appointment of this government, an incident occurred that startled me for the first time. The arrival of a congratulatory message from the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, at the very beginning, just like for a head of state, was not a normal matter diplomatically. Did you all notice its gravity? In a matter connected to a neighbor's sensitivity, what was this 'silent acceptance' of the interim government signaling toward? This incident raised a question in my mind—have we not learned from history? Nepal was always known as a 'Land of Peace.' Our ancestors made the principles of

Panchsheel the foundation of life. But today, as the confrontation between world power nations increases, we are trapped in the middle of it. My concern is that if we cannot protect our sovereignty, what will the coming generation say to us?

### **January 29: That Mysterious Incident at Tribhuvan Airport**

As time passed, the suspicions began to prove true. On January 29, 2026, an incident occurred at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu that shook the very roots of Nepal-China diplomatic relations. When the representative of the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, Kyabje Jonang Gyaltsab Rinpoche, landed in Kathmandu, he was welcomed with "Special Diplomatic Protocol" (Official Protocol) and high security on behalf of the Government of Nepal. Looking at the history of the last 30-40 years, examples of giving "State Honor" or official government security to the Dalai Lama's representatives are extremely low and exist only as exceptions. Past governments, for fear of irritating China, used to keep such visits as secret as possible or dismiss them as "purely religious."

However, this recent incident crossed those old '*Lakshman Rekhas*' (red lines). I feel that this incident was not just a religious visit. This was a signal—that Nepal is taking a new turn in its foreign policy. But is this turn in the right direction or the wrong one? My patriotic heart says—we have already lost our balance. When a small country cannot maintain balance between great powers, its very existence falls into risk.

### **Pu Yu Hai's Warning and Chinese Anger**

Immediately following this incident, the influential Chinese writer and intellectual Pu Yu Hai published a serious warning article in the 'Dragon' media. Attacking Nepal's "double character," he argued that giving government honor to the Dalai Lama's representative was an assault on China's sensitivity. He warned in clear words—if Nepal does not stop such activities, it will have to face serious "consequences." This warning was not just the opinion of one writer, but a stern diplomatic message from Beijing.

Immediately, the Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu issued a 'Demarche' to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs seeking an explanation. China has defined this as a "security violation" and a "betrayal of friendship." Even some Chinese media outlets have given symbolic threats that there could be a "reconsideration" of cross-border railway and economic assistance projects happening with Nepal. I could not sleep all night hearing this warning. China is our neighbor, our trade partner, and our development ally. But if we ignore their 'Core Interest' (Tibet), we are hitting our own feet with an axe. My worry is that such incidents are making Nepal a 'Buffer State'—which power nations use according to their own interests.

## **The Interim Government's Immaturity and Defiance of *Panchsheel***

The question arises—why is this government, which received a mandate only to conduct elections within six months, working in defiance of the "*Panchsheel* Principles" and "One China Policy," which are considered the pillars of Nepal's foreign policy? A main point of *Panchsheel* is 'not to interfere in each other's internal affairs.' The government has tried to escape this by calling it a "technical or administrative error." Even though the Ministry of Home Affairs claimed it had no information about this, on whose orders were the airport's VIP lounge used and government escorting provided?

Failing to understand a neighbor's sensitivity during such a sensitive time is considered "immaturity" in the diplomatic field. This has taken the "Trust Deficit" with China to an extreme point. I feel that this government has received power from the youth's movement. But power means responsibility, not negligence. If we forget *Panchsheel*, our history will not forgive us.

## **'Proxy War' of Power Nations in Nepal**

But this incident is just a beginning. Something else is cooking deep inside. What does the increasing activity of organizations like the Barbara Foundation and the American Youth Council (US Embassy Youth Council) currently in Nepal signal? Is Nepal becoming the arena for the clash of power between China and the USA? After the movement of last Bhadra (August/September), there has been criticism that people associated with the Barbara Foundation have influence in this government. Some analysts have even gone as far as calling it a "***shadow government operated by Western powers.***"

On the other hand, the American Embassy's Youth Council is expanding its network across all 77 districts, targeting 900,000 new youth voters. China feels that by using these youth networks, there is an attempt to bring "pro-Western" forces to power in Nepal, which could add a challenge to China's security. Currently, two styles of power demonstration are happening in Nepal:

1. America: wants to establish a grip on the intellectual and youth class through projects like foundations, youth councils, and MCC.
2. China: is using "warning diplomacy" through coordination with security officials and writers like 'Pu Yu Hai.' This is a proxy war. And its field is our Nepal. It pains me to see this—our youth, who shed blood in the Gen-Z movement, are being used by foreign powers for their own interests.

## **Conclusion: To Wake Up or Not?**

Successful world figures like Bill Gates often say—"The progress of any country depends on its policy stability." But the increasing activity of external organizations in Nepal has not increased policy stability, but only "polarization." Our country is no longer just a 'yam between two boulders,' but signals have been found that it is becoming a geopolitical arena for China and America. The interim government, which received a six-month mandate, is facing the highest external pressure in history.

As a patriotic citizen, I want to ask—are we ready to hand over our sovereignty to foreigners? Will the election of Falgun 21 (March 5) belong to the Nepali people or to foreign powers? I believe that Nepalis will wake up. Our history has taught us—we are a small country, but our self-respect is great. Come, let us all join together and make this battleground a garden of peace. May my love for my country never diminish.