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## Long-standing relations with the Nepali Congress: Nitish Kumar

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**Kathmandu, March 3:** Foreign delegates attending the 13th National Convention of the Nepali Congress have extended best wishes for the success of the Convention.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the convention that began here Thursday, Chief Minister of the Indian state of Bihar, Nitish Kumar recalled his long-standing relations with the Nepali Congress and its leaders.

Stating that Nepal has a culture where top leaders of all parties participate in another party's national convention, Nitish Kumar urged the parties to give continuity to the culture. Nepal is itself capable enough to resolve problems facing the country, CM Kumar added that the relations between Nepal and India have remained persistent.

Recalling his participation in the 12th National Convention of the NC six years ago, Vice-Chairman of Bharatiya Janta Party, Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, said that his wishes for the promulgation of new constitution in Nepal has now been fulfilled. He also conveyed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP Chairman Amit Sah's message wishing for the success of the NC National Convention.

Similarly, Communications Minister of Bangladesh, Hasanul Haq Inu, wished for the success of the national convention and said that Bangladesh was ready to collaborate with Nepal in trade, transport and power sector.

Secretary General of the Socialist International, Luis Ayala, lauded the role played by the then Prime Minister and NC President, Sushil Koirala, for the promulgation of the new constitution.

Likewise, General Secretary of the Indian National Congress, BK Hari Prasad, expressed the view that the national convention would be successful to develop solid agenda and ideology.

President of the International Relation Cambodia, Yasunachi and leader of the Bharatiya Communist Party, Pallav Singh Gupta, expressed the view that the NC's National convention was important not only in Nepal but also in the South Asia region.

Indian leaders condemn India-imposed unofficial border blockade on Nepal

Various Indian leaders, who arrived Kathmandu representing their respective political parties, have also taken the opening session of NC's 13th national convention as an opportunity to express their solidarity with Nepal as well as its welfare by condemning the unofficial border blockade India imposed on Nepal following the promulgation of a new constitution in September 20, 2015.

Bharatiya Communist Party (Marxist) leader Jogendra Sharma said that Nepali citizens had to bear the brunt of the economic embargo imposed by India on Nepal.

Stating that India was trying to impose religious extremism on Nepal, he assured that the Indian public was with the Nepalis in spirit at the time of adversity.

Similarly, stating that the India-imposed border blockade and its repercussions on Nepalis had pained him, Democratic Socialist Party Vice-Chair Vijaya Pratap apologized for this very untoward act of India.

He was of the opinion that Nepal had to put up with India's dominance since socialism was yet to be institutionalized in India.

On the occasion, Bharatiya Communist Party leader Pallav Singh Gupta welcomed the newly promulgated national charter of Nepal, stating that it was progressive one.