In old ties, a hopeful turn

Jun 13, 2023 | Delhi | Pg No.: 13 | Top Left | Shyam Saran | Sq Cm: 721 | AVE: 1124391 | PR Value: 5621955
In old ties, a hopeful turn

Nepal PM’s visit showed that the political and psychological barriers that have long hampered cooperation between Delhi and Kathmandu have been diminished.

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IN THE GAMES of musical chairs, which is the defining hallmark of Nepali politics, Prativa Kansel (Dubu) “Prachanda”, the Maoist leader, is now his fourth sitting as prime minister since 2008. He recently left India from May 10 to June 1 and was also his fourth as PM and arguably his most successful. But there may be a revolution in Prachanda himself from a revolutionary leader to a statesman with a more realistic and pragmatic approach to the issues that he had cited at the start of his tenure in 2008. “At the time, the impact of the revolution and the war was very strong on my mind. I needed more time to understand and complete politics. After the ups and downs of the past decade, I think I will be able to strengthen relations between our two countries with more maturity.”

The personal transformation was also evident in his doctrine of the traditional Nepal national dream, davai purusho, for formal occasions on the visit. Earlier he would only wear western clothes to emphasise the revolutionary and tribal tradition. Another first was his visit to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the former royal residence, and his participation in the modern power projects. This would have had its own small residual ringing in the HP government about how to deal with an unaccustomed, and possibly dangerous, communist.

Prachanda was positively *relaxed* with the success of his visit. He expressed with the raising of contentious issues which would detract attention from the opportunity for substantive progress. The revision of the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 was not cited, perhaps for the first time in recent years. The report of the six-member high-level mission to Nepal in March 2016, which has recommended the Indian government to not compensate about, such as the existing open-hydrant systems (which have now been replaced by the Nepali politicians in the wake of their visit). The assessment of the project is the recent visit of Nepal National Hydroelectricity (NNH) officials for the first time in recent years. The mission to Nepal is the first time in recent years. The mission to Nepal is the first time in recent years.

The overall sense one gets is that the political and psychological barriers that have long hampered cooperation between the two countries have diminished. PM Modi reflected this new, more positive mood when he said that borders should not become barriers to cooperation.

PM Modi’s visit marks a more positive and hopeful turn in India-Nepal relations and the president can be more optimistic about his visit to India in June. This has been due to increased diplomatic efforts by both sides, including high-level visits and bilateral meetings. The overall sense one gets is that the political and psychological barriers that have long hampered cooperation between the two countries have diminished.