



Chinese-Nepalese Anti-Terror Training Causing Concern in India

OE Watch Commentary: In South Asian geopolitics China's alliance with Pakistan usually causes concern in India. However, according to the accompanying excerpted article from the Chinese language website *dwnews.com*, which stands for "multi-dimensional news," Chinese-Nepalese relations are also causing concern in India. The article discusses the joint training of the special forces of China and Nepal, which was recently completed in Chengdu, China. The training, which was titled "Everest Friendship 2018," lasted 10 days and was intended to prepare the units for combating international terrorist organizations. Among other activities, the trainees engaged in mock hostage rescue operations, climbing, sharpshooting, and removing explosives. In addition, they conducted a comprehensive counter-terrorism drill of a terrorist bus hijacking.

According to the article, Li Shizhong, the deputy chief of staff of the Tibet Military Region of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, considered the training to be a "milestone." It was the second year of this training; the 2017 training took place in Kathmandu. The article also noted how *The Times of India* reported that the joint training between China and Nepal narrowed the scope of activities after India expressed concerns about military exchanges between those two countries. Yet, the article claimed that even if Nepal is more "cautious" in its foreign policy with China as a result of pressure from India, it will still not bring an end to India's concerns. The article therefore, makes clear that Nepal will not merely be a country in India's sphere of influence: China will also compete to strengthen relations with Nepal, including through military exchanges, despite Indian concerns. **End OE Watch Commentary (Zenn)**

Source: "中国尼泊尔举行联合演习 印媒表担忧 (China and Nepal joint exercise, India expresses concern)," *news.dwnews.com*, 27 September 2018. <http://news.dwnews.com/china/news/2018-09-29/60088262.html>

The joint training of the special forces of the two armies of China and Nepal ended in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. According to reports, this joint training is based on the joint efforts of China and Nigeria to combat international terrorist organizations, with "hostage rescue" as a theme. The special forces of the two countries carried out courses including climbing and landing, sharpshooting, and explosives removal. They also participated in a comprehensive anti-terrorism drill in the context of "terrorists hijacking buses."

Li Shizhong, deputy chief of staff of the Tibet Military Region of the Peoples Liberation Army, stated that this joint training was a milestone in the history of the exchanges between the two militaries. It is known that this is the second joint training between the Chinese and Nepalese special forces. In April 2017, the "Everest Friendship 2017" Sino-Nepalese special forces joint training was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Indian media has expressed concern about the military exchanges between China and Nepal. The Times of India reported on August 13 that, considering India's concerns, the Sino-Nepalese military exercise narrowed its scale at the last moment. However, even if Nepal is cautious in its foreign policy, the 'military diplomacy' between Nepal and China will still worry India.

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A fort in Rasuwa District in Nepal China Border (2013).

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