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## 'Nepal move on altering map is unilateral, talks difficult now'

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NEW DELHI

Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli's move to bring a constitutional amendment that alters Nepal's map to include territory in India has "prejudged" any future discussions, said New Delhi, virtually ruling out talks with Kathmandu for the moment.

With the vote on changing the map depicted in the Nepali national symbol to include Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura being passed unanimously in the Lower House of the Nepal Parliament on Saturday, and another one expected to go through the Upper House

### We share close ties: Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said whatever differences had arisen between India and Nepal over the construction of the Lipulekh-Dharchula road would be resolved through talks and that the

this week, the Modi government appeared to take a tougher stand with Kathmandu than it has in the past few weeks.

However, comments by sources, who refused to be identified, were at variance with Defence Minister Raj-

ties went beyond mere geographical or political ties to spiritual connections and a *roti-beti vyavahar* (consanguinity and inter-dining, a sociological term to describe close kinship relations). ▶ PAGE 9

nath Singh's comments, at a party address on Monday, that the issues would be resolved through dialogue.

"We have always conveyed our willingness to talk," sources said.

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