

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Youth discontent could trigger another rebellion, warns Nepal PM Karki

KATHMANDU, Feb 19: Nepal's interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki on Thursday warned that failing to address youth discontent could trigger another rebellion.

Speaking on the 76th Democracy Day celebrations at the Nepali Army Pavilion in Kathmandu, she said democracy must deliver results, protect citizens' rights and ensure accountability.

Referring to the Gen Z-led protests in September last year that led to the ouster of K P Sharma Oli-led coalition government, Karki said, "That movement sought an end to corruption, nepotism and discrimination. It sought good governance and equitable justice."

"The state must respond to this not only with generosity, but also with humility and a deep sense of duty," she added.

She warned that failing to address youth discontent could trigger another rebellion.

"No nation can progress by undermining the youth," Karki, who became interim prime minister on September 12 last year, said.

"The youth have energy, aspiration for change and moral anger," she said, adding democracy is "not only a process, but a result-oriented system".

"We embraced democracy in principle, yet in practice,



we continued to foster dis-

crimination. We wrote

equality in the Constitution; yet within our structures, we went on protecting inequal-

ity," she said.

Monopoly over power and

resources has eroded public

trust, fuelling rebellion,

Karki added.

Separately, Nepal Presi-

dent Ramchandra Paudel

expressed his wish that

Democracy Day may help

achieve national goals of sus-

tainable peace, good govern-

ance, development and

prosperity in the country.

President Paudel said that

Nepalese people should

never forget the 1950 revolution

which is evident from the

voices raised by different

pro-monarchist groups.

"We have to evaluate what

we have gained from past

movements and changes,"

Gyanendra said.

Meanwhile, former King

Gyanendra has said that "if

we go for election without

addressing the national cri-

sis, it could invite more con-

flict". He did not elaborate

specifically what he meant by

national crisis.

"The entire country has

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crisis and the people are ex-

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claimed the former monarch

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