



## Nepal's Currency Featured Kalapani Region

[Source: IE](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, **Nepal announced** the printing of a **new Rs 100 currency note** with a map that shows the contentious territories of **Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani**, already termed as “artificial enlargement” and “untenable” by India.

- India responded sharply to Nepal's decision, with India's External Affairs Minister stating that it **will not change the situation** or the reality on the ground.

### What are the Regions of Border Dispute Between India and Nepal?

- **About:**
  - Currently, [India and Nepal](#) have border disputes over the **Kalapani-Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh trijunction and Susta area (West Champaran district, Bihar)**.
- **Kalapani-Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh Trijunction (Kalapani Region):**
  - This is a **35-square-kilometre area** located in the northwestern part of Nepal, near the trijunction where India, Nepal, and China meet.
  - **Kalapani** is a **valley** that is **administered by India** as a part of the Pithoragarh district of **Uttarakhand**. It is situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route.
  - Kalapani is advantageously located at a height of **over 20,000 ft** and serves as an **observation post** for that area.
  - The **Kali River** in the **Kalapani region** demarcates the border between India and Nepal.
  - The [Treaty of Sugauli](#) was signed by the **Kingdom of Nepal and British India** (after the **Anglo-Nepalese War**) in 1816.
    - The treaty designated the Kali River (or the Mahakali River) as the western boundary of Nepal.
    - **Land east of the Kali River came under Nepal's control**, while territory **west of the river became part of British India** (present-day India).
  - The **discrepancy in locating the source of the Kali River** led to boundary disputes between India and Nepal, with each country producing maps supporting their claims.

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#### ▪ Claims of Different Parties over Kalapani Region:

##### ◦ Nepal's Stand:

- According to Nepal's claims, the [Kali River](#) originates from a stream at **Limpiyadhura**, northwest of Lipu Lekh.
- Thus Kalapani, Limpiyadhura, and Lipu Lekh, fall to the east of the river and are part of **Nepal's Dharchula district**.
- The territory of Kalapani was **offered to India by King Mahendra** after the 1962 India-China war who wanted to help India's security concerns due to perceived lingering Chinese threats.

##### ◦ India's Stand:

- India claims that the **Kali River originates** in springs **well below the Lipu-lekh Pass (or Lipulekh Pass itself)**, effectively bringing the Kalapani region under Indian control.
  - The Sugauli Treaty does not demarcate the area north of these streams.
- The **administrative and revenue records of the nineteenth century** also show that Kalapani was on the Indian side, and counted as part of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

#### ▪ Susta Region:

- The **Treaty of Sugauli** defined the [Gandak River](#) as the international boundary between India and Nepal.
- The **right bank of the river** was under Nepal's control while the left bank was under India's control.
- **Susta village was initially on the right bank** when the treaty was signed and it was a part of Nepal.
- However, over the years, the **Gandak River changed its course and Susta moved to the left bank** and is now currently under India's control.



## Conclusion

- While both countries present historical documents and interpretations of the Sugauli Treaty to support their claims, a resolution remains elusive.
- Moving forward, constructive dialogue and a willingness to find common ground will be crucial to resolving this long-standing issue and fostering a stronger relationship between Nepal and India.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. Consider the following pairs: (2016)**

**Community sometimes In the affairs of mentioned in the news**

1. Kurd — Bangladesh
2. Madhesi — Nepal
3. Rohingya — Myanmar

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

- (a) 1 and 2  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3  
(d) 3 only

**Ans: C**