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Nepal summons Indian envoy on the issue of obstruction of supplies

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Kathmandu: The tension between India and Nepal over the Himalayan country's new Constitution led to the government summoning the Indian envoy to raise the issue of obstruction in the supply of essential goods coming from the Indian side.

India has already voiced its concern over the new Constitution after protests by Indian-origin Madhesi community which claims that their rights have been marginalised.

Indian envoy Ranjit Rae was called in by the acting Nepalese Foreign Minister, Khaga Raj Adhikari, after hundreds of protesters opposing the new Constitution blocked a key trade checkpoint at Birgunj on the Indo-Nepal border. This has led to vital supplies being blocked from entering Nepal.

According to sources, Mr Rae told the Nepalese leader that the obstruction was due to unrest, protests and demonstrations on the Nepalese side, by sections of their population.

Earlier in the day, India had asked Nepal to address the underlying causes of the continuing unrest "credibly and effectively". The adoption of the new Constitution has sparked weeks of border violence that killed more than 40 people.

- PTI