

In a first, China and Nepal to hold joint military drill in early 2017

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Kathmandu: Nepal and China will hold their first ever joint military exercise in February 2017, a move that will calcify a growing relationship between the Himalayan country and the communist state.

China Nepal joint military drill

Chinese Defence Ministry Spokesperson Yang Yujun said China and Nepal had been in "initial communication" on the military exercise, and that the details would be released in due course of time.

Although Nepal has been holding joint military exercises with other countries, including India and the United States, this is the first time Nepali military would be holding such an exercise with China.

According to reports, the military drill will be held in February next year and will focus on training Nepali soldiers in dealing with hostage scenarios involving international terror groups, My Republica reported.

The new development is seen as China's growing interest in the Himalayan republic since the deterioration of relations between Nepal and India due to the border blockade last year, the daily said.

- PTI inputs