

**LAVAZZA**  
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE



Masala Cottage - New Baneshwor  
Lakshmi's Chulo - Jhamsikhel  
For Further Information Mail to:  
lavazza@subhashingalintl.com

**THURAYA SATSLEEVE**

Turn your  
iPhone into a  
Satellite Mobile



Tel: +977-1-5549252  
www.constellation.com.np

**SMART LIGHT FOR SMART PEOPLE**

New Technology:  
Intelligent Solar Street Light/  
Courtyard Light Solution

ESL-07  
All-in-One  
5 Watts Home Courtyard/  
Street Lighting System

- > Aluminum alloy case
- > 24 LEDs super bright, 500 Lumens
- > 7W solar panel and 13200mAh battery (replaceable)
- > Night sensor + PIR motion sensor
- > Intelligent Lighting: 5 hours full bright + motion sensor lighting
- > Over 30 hours bright lighting time: can support 6 nights!
- > Easy to install and Auto on/off/PIR

Future Green Energy  
Jhamsikhel: 5549252  
646 Bhatbhateni: 4411244  
www.fge.com.np




**AUCMA**  
your expert in Freezing



**GAUTAM ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONICS CENTRE**  
Head Office: B.P. Chowk, Pashupati, T: 061 533525, F: 061 531602  
Corporate Office: Bhatbhateni Complex, 503, Thapathali, Kathmandu  
T: 01 4230906, F: 01 4230913, E: info@gaupl.co

GAUTAM ASSOCIATES

**SAP**  
Partner

Get SAP training in **NEPAL**

Tel: +977 1 4785525 Ext-205  
www.bos.com.np

**KNOCK KNOCK:** NC and UML cadres gather outside the Birendra International Convention Centre in Baneshwor on Thursday to see live results of the vote counting taking place inside the venue.



BIKRAM RAI

## VICTORY MARCH

More than 70 percent of eligible voters turned up on Tuesday to cast their ballot, despite blatant threats issued by the hardline Maoist faction and its allies and the spate of violence in the run up to D-day. It is now abundantly clear that the dash-Maoists are out of touch with public sentiment and the party now faces an uncertain future in national politics. What is also beginning to look clearer, as the vote count trickles in

from across the country, is that Nepalis have made a different choice this time.

Winner of 2008, the UCPN (M), is trailing behind the UML and NC and has suffered several embarrassing defeats in the direct ballot. The most humiliating loss has come in Pushpa Kamal Dahal's constituency of Kathmandu-10 and the chairman has since gone on a rampage crying foul, threatening to boycott the vote count and come out on the

streets.

However, the winners cannot afford to be smug and complacent. Their collective failure to agree on power-sharing and contentious issues in the draft constitution led to the death of the previous CA. The parties have only option now: be more honest and responsible towards the nation and its people. Nepalis will no longer accept their ifs and buts.



The next step  
page 2

Another chance  
page 3

Sore losers  
page 4

Voting in majority  
page 15

Making it count  
page 16-17

Eyes of the beholders  
page 19

From Kathmandu to Europe  
with Europe's Best



turkishairlines.com | 4438363 | 4438436

Voted Europe's Best Airline 2013 at the Skytrax Passenger Choice Awards

Globally Yours

**TURKISH AIRLINES**



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



THE NEXT STEP

It was an election that had to happen and it did. No one said it was going to be perfect, no one expected it to be completely free of violence and intimidation, but it was the process that was more important than the actual exercise.

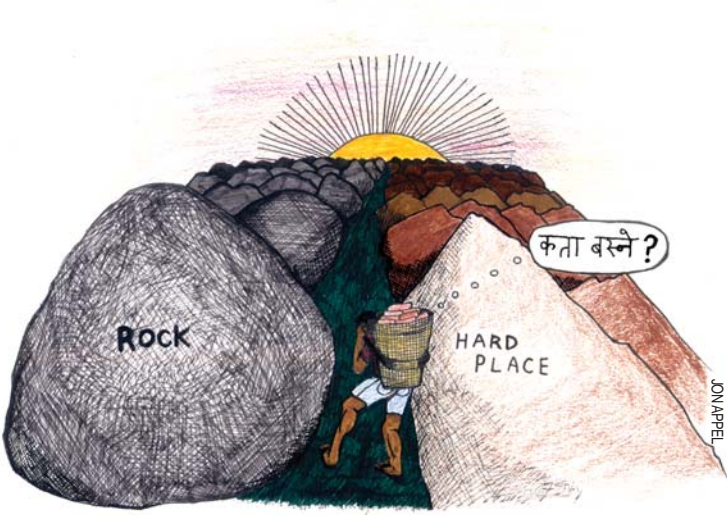
Elections in a democracy should never be just for the sake of elections, this one was. It was an emergency bypass to get the country's failing heart pumping again. Nepalis let their apathy and disillusionment be known through opinion surveys and vox pops in the previous months. But as it turns out, they were never apathetic about elections. The need to get the country's derailed politics back on track was greater than the need to ensure a 'normal' election without irregularities.

Tuesday's vote showed an unprecedented historic turnout, once more proving many doomsday pundits wrong. The biggest defeat was suffered by the Dash Maoists, whose cadres until the morning of elections were on a terrorism spree. In their strongholds in Rolpa, there wasn't much voting.

Preliminary results from polling centres across the country show that the UCPN (M) has been trailing and in some places suffering humiliating defeats in the direct ballot. For Pushpa Kamal Dahal, a defeat in Kathmandu was his worst nightmare come true. So, he has acted in the only way he knows how: by threatening to go back to war, accusing everyone of a conspiracy and boycotting the vote count.

Dahal has said he made three mistakes. Well, he's just made a fourth blunder. By being a bad loser, he is demonstrating to the people that he is a man not to be trusted and is a fool.

Now begins the long wait for the final results that, if the 2008 exercise was anything to go by, could take a week. The delay is because of the sheer number of political parties in the fray (130 at last count) which meant the Election Commission could not deploy electronic voting machines this time either. The EC must be commended for doing its job reasonably well at a time of great internal and external pressures. Despite the fiasco



Nepalis were disillusioned with the candidates on offer, not with democracy. That is the main take-home for the political parties.

over Voter ID cards and some political parties pretending the code of conduct didn't exist, one must hand it to the EC for having the logistics sorted out despite last-minute uncertainties.

We won't know for some time who the winners will be, but in a sense, all the political parties are losers. This election was needed because of their collective failure to write a constitution and agree on powers-sharing over the past five years. But by far the biggest loser is the CPN-M for playing an unrepentant spoiler, for offering no alternatives, and for the terrorist arson and bombings it unleashed on innocent Nepalis. Mohan Baidya is now not just politically, but also morally bankrupt.

There will be a lot of lessons to be learnt from this polls. The foremost being that we should never again put the country through expensive elections just to cover up

for the gross irresponsibility and failure of the political forces. The people have given the political parties one more chance to prove themselves, let them not squander it again.

The Election Commission should not be so beholden to the political parties, or so weak that it can be blackmailed on the conduct and rules. The EC did try six months ago to set a threshold for CA membership which would disqualify parties below a cutoff percentage of votes. But faced with the threat of a boycott by smaller parties, it buckled.

As the results become clear, a new CA will convene and that is where the next challenge lies: to ensure that we don't get bogged down for four years like we did last time. The political parties and the CA collectively would do well to exercise some humility about their mandate. Getting the most number of seats in the CA doesn't mean the winner takes all. The 12.2 million eligible voters make up slightly more than one-third of the country's 28 million population and with a 70 per cent turnout it means the CA represents the votes of nearly half of Nepalis of voting age.

The other half either didn't, or couldn't vote. Also completely unrepresented are the more than four million Nepalis living and working abroad, since there is no provision for absentee voting. This cohort is nearly 15 per cent of the population and makes up about half of the country's male population between 20-40. Not giving them a chance to vote is a huge blank in the voter list. Absentee balloting must be a must in next elections.

On the longer-term, the next government must start working towards electoral reform, since campaign financing lies at the root of political corruption as leaders return favours and divide up the spoils with businesses when they get to office.

The key question, however, will be will the CA have the legitimacy and the commitment to write such an important document as the constitution to determine the future of Nepal? For now the answer is a yes, because there is no other alternative.

ON THE WEB  
www.nepalitimes.com

WEIGH-IN

Thank you *Nepali Times* for the extensive and comprehensive coverage of the 19 November elections ('Weigh-in', #681). I just wish the map showing the leaders and their constituencies was slightly more interactive like the one ujjyalo.com has. But other than that, excellent work.

Rajiv

This prediction does not give any evidence. It seems more feels than factual and lacks analysis.

Nayan

It's surprising to see such a 180 degree change of heart that Kunda Dixit and his team have had. From 2006-2010, the paper propped up the Maoists and portrayed them as the ultimate magical wand that would transform the fate of the country and the people. But in the past two years, *NT* has become completely anti-Maobadi. Case in point: the complete thumbs down to Baburam Bhattarai and Pushpa Kamal Dahal in the election prediction of top leaders and the epic-villianisation of Dahal in Muma Ram Khanal and Kanak Dixit's opinion pieces. I personally don't agree with the politics of the Maoist chairman, but I don't see how the spineless leaders of the UML or Congress are any better either. Besides we all know by now that Dahal, unfortunately, is the kingmaker in Nepali politics so sidelining him

and his party is not going to take the country forward.

'Disenchanted'

I see no leader that has the potential to change Nepal and/or write the constitution. No matter who wins, they will just end up driving the country down the same road of corruption.

Durga

LET'S NOT REPEAT 2008

The premise of Kanak Mani Dixit's thesis is a bit weak, not altogether incorrect, but not that convincing either ('Let's not repeat 2008', #681). Elections need to be free and fair, but what about the candidates themselves? Has Mr Dixit done any analysis of the profiles of CA-I candidates vs those running for CA-II? Does it really matter if the same goons get elected albeit with less or even no electoral 'hera-pheri'? Would their egos be any less bloated once they achieve their 'anointed' status? Would they have something smarter to say, be able to compromise better, or realise that they truly need to live and work for their fellow country men and women? Rather than having a 'perfect' or 'near perfect' election process itself, the fear of a real backlash from the public if CA-II fails would be a greater driving force to get a constitution out the door. But I am certainly not holding my breath. Anyway watch out for CA-III, third time is the charm.

AP

Kanak Dixit is always miscalculating the outcome of elections. Mark my

words, although the corruption and incompetence of the last four years will cost them half the representation they had in previous CA, the UCPN (M) will be the biggest party on the assembly floor this time round too. The NC will win some more seats, the UML will lose many seats, and the Madhesis will be the real losers. The combination of these four parties, however, will fall short in gaining a majority to write the constitution. So only a referendum on major issues will fix things when it comes to drafting a new constitution.

Nirmal Ghimire

Mr Dixit always talks about criminals accused of war crimes standing for elections, but who does he mean?

Bhim

SECOND CHANCE

In 2008, most people voted for the Maoists so that there would be peace in the war-exhausted country and the poor in particular thought they would be well looked after under a Maoist-government ('A second chance', Muma Ram Khanal, #681). This time the UCPN (M)'s seats will decrease by around 50 per cent and regardless of whether Dahal wins or loses, I am certain he will not cross 10,000 votes in Kathmandu-10.

Raj

It does not matter how well written the constitution is if the constitutional culture is non-existent. It does not

matter how many times we vote in elections if none of them are about economic development. It does not matter if a king is overthrown if what replaces him are dozens of smaller, petty mini-Gyanendras. It does not matter if we exist as an independent country only on the map if our big neighbours blatantly and ruthlessly force their agendas on us all the time. People are fighting over how many ways to slice a shrinking national pie, but where is the national discourse on expanding the pie? Unfortunately, the Nepali mind is fertile ground for communist inclinations. People want redistribution of wealth, redistribution of the national real estate, free stuff without ever wondering how to increase national wealth.

Abhishek Sharma

OUR DAUGHTER

I couldn't help but cry while reading this moving piece ('Our daughter from Nepal', Kiran Kumar Karlapu, #681). We always hear about the numbers: hundreds of Nepali women caught at Delhi airport trying to fly to the Middle East on fake passports or so and so many Nepali women coming home after facing horrendous physical and sexual abuse at the hands of their employers in the Gulf. But this story puts a very real face to the problem. A heartfelt thank you to the entire Air India team and the staff at the Mumbai airport for helping a stranded Nepali woman return home safely. However, the government really needs to step

up and make foreign employment more organised and secure. The number of lives lost or harmed is appalling.

Mona Karmacharya

CRIMINAL FACES

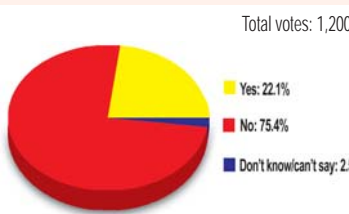
It's so shameful that while criminal investigators in neighbouring countries have access to the latest forensic science technology we are still stuck in the dark ages ('Criminal faces', Rameswor Bohara, #681). Yogesh Maharjan, the lone composite artist in the Nepali police force, has to rely on photoshop and free softwares from the net to create his sketches. Despite the lack of appropriate tools, Maharjan has a high success rate. I have new found respect for the man, keep up the good work.

Sristi



Weekly Internet Poll #682

Q. Do you think any party will win an outright majority in 19 November elections?



Weekly Internet Poll # 683. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Are you surprised by the results of the direct poll?



Nepali Times on Facebook  
Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter

Publisher and Chief Editor: Kunda Dixit  
Editor: Trishna Rana | Associate Editor: Tsering Dolker Gurung | Online Editor: Bhrikuti Rai | Design: Kiran Maharjan  
Published by Himalmedia Pvt Ltd | Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur | GPO Box 7251 Kathmandu  
editors@nepalitimes.com | www.nepalitimes.com | www.himalmedia.com | Tel: 01-5005601-08 Fax: +977-1-5005518  
Marketing: Arjun Karki, Surendra Sharma rachanas@himalmedia.com | Advertisers: Ram Krishna Banjara | Subscriptions: Santosh Aryal santosha@himalmedia.com  
Printed at Jagadamba Press | 01-5250017-19 | www.jagadambaprc.com





# Another chance

Holding peaceful elections was the easy part, resolving the deadlock on the constitution will be harder

‘Only once in an era, comes a day,’ was NC leader Girija Prasad Koirala’s opening statement when the dissolved Constituent Assembly was first convened on 28 May 2008. Koirala is no more and the CA he addressed was dissolved last year. But this generation has lived to see yet another day and now has another chance to fulfil that purpose.



BY THE WAY

Anurag Acharya

More than 70 per cent of Nepali citizens cast their vote on Tuesday, mostly free of fear and intimidation. Preliminary results hint at a shift in the power balance with the Maoists trailing behind the NC and UML. Media and analysts, who had been off the mark last time, were more cautious in predicting the outcome this time.

Analysts had been predicting beforehand that the Maoists would lose popular support they enjoyed in 2008, mostly because of the media exposes of corruption scandals and unpopular decisions taken during their time in government. The results in Kathmandu suggest that the UCPN (M) will pay heavily for the road expansion project and the decision to bulldoze illegal squatters along the Bagmati corridor during Baburam Bhattarai government without ensuring relocation of the landless. Similarly, sheltering war criminals within the party and promoting those in the Nepal Army have come back to haunt the ‘people’s party’.

The embezzlement of cantonment money gave the top leaders bad press and the comrades from the disgruntled faction campaigning against them has contributed to UCPN (M) losing ground even in traditional strongholds like

Makwanpur.

However, this is not a winner-takes-all-battle. Whatever the composition of the next CA, Nepal’s Interim Constitution mandates that the parties work in consensus to draft the statute. In the last CA elections, when Madhav Nepal was defeated, Girija Prasad Koirala and Pushpa Kamal Dahal requested him to join the CA as a nominated member stating that his presence was necessary to facilitate the constitution drafting.

Secondly, the large presence of a party inside the CA does not necessarily guarantee its diktat there. Despite being the biggest party, the Maoists were unable to set their terms and had to backtrack from several propositions including that of drafting a ‘People’s Constitution’. Then there are cross-party political caucuses that will play an important role in shaping debates within the assembly floor. In 2012, despite consensus among big parties to form an expert committee to draw the boundaries of future federal states, leaders from indigenous caucus and the Madhesi Front played a decisive role in forcing the CA to agree on a State Restructuring Commission.

Those watching this election closely also believe that the pattern of voting in the proportional representation will be different from the first-past-the-post. The whim of Hindu nationalism and campaigning against secularism could see a surge in support for Kamal Thapa’s right wing RPP-Nepal. Election slogans like ‘ek vote dai lai, ek vote gai lai’ were popular in places like Dharan.

Chances are, the Maoists may lose out on the FPTP seats but gain with the PR votes, just like the NC and UML did in the last elections. Also, the collective strength of Madhes based parties could once again make them a decisive force in the CA.

Size will matter in cobbling



ANURAG ACHARYA

together a government in the legislative parliament but it won’t matter much inside the CA. We have seen lawmakers cross the floor and take up a stand against their own parties on contentious issues. We have seen two leaders

from marginalised Dalit and Muslim communities stall the proceedings for several days demanding that their concerns be addressed. That was the purpose of having an inclusive CA and it is too early in the day to call winners and losers.

The new CA must deliver a constitution that reflects the majority’s concern and accommodates the aspirations of the minority. Unless it fulfils that mandate, it would have failed its purpose and in that case, we all lose. ■

SHAH RUKH KHAN  
AND HIS AQUARACER

**TAG Heuer**  
SWISS AVANT-GARDE SINCE 1860

**SULUX CENTRE**  
Hotel Woodland Complex, Durbarmarg  
Kathmandu, Nepal.

**MODULAR KITCHEN**  
Starting from Rs. 2 Lakhs onwards

**BED ROOMS**  
as per Vastu & fengsui

**LIVING ROOM**

**ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS**  
Let professional take care of your dream



# SORE LOSERS

Just 48 hours after they turned up to polling booths in their largest numbers, Nepalis woke up on Thursday morning to the news of the UCPN (M) boycotting the vote count throughout the country and Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal,



HERE WE GO  
Trishna Rana

who lost in his Kathmandu-10 constituency, threatening a return to the streets if there is no re-evaluation.

The move was not too startling coming from a party that has never played by the rules of democracy. But after dragging the country through a decade-long bloody war, the least the Maoists could have done was to respect the mandate of the citizens and wait for the final results before going around crying conspiracy.

Despite widespread apathy towards politics, 70 per cent of eligible voters showed up for elections because they were desperate for change and had to make 19 November count. The parties had spent five years in a constitution-writing process that met its unceremonious end in May last year with nothing to show for. The next 18 months were wasted on setting



RAM HUMAGAI

poll dates and then promptly postponing them on one pretext after another.

Along the way we were forced to compromise on accepting an unconstitutional interim government led by a sitting chief justice and backtracking on the size of the new CA and one per cent threshold for proportional representation, just to pull the country out of the prolonged crisis. The elections cost Rs 50 billion, not to mention the cost of supporting a 601-member CA for the next five years.

From their years in the jungle to their time in mainstream politics, the Maoists

have not changed their spots. They are still blackmailing, bullying, and threatening opponents into submission. In the audio tape that was leaked two days before polls, Dahal at a close-door election meeting in Kirtipur goads cadres to use flattery, bribery, aggression, and polarisation, so that the party wins at any cost.

Unsurprisingly, Maoists were accused of attacking members of opposition parties and capturing polling booths in Dolakha-1 and Gorkha-1 where Baburam Bhattarai was running. Given the revelations of the Kirtipur tape, these were serious allegations that needed

## There will be no third chance for Nepal's leaders to set things right

**CRY BABIES:** Speaking at a press conference on Thursday morning at party headquarters in Parisdanda, UCPN (M) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal said the elections were rigged and demanded a suspension of the vote count.

to be thoroughly investigated. Instead, the district election office dismissed them as 'minor incidents' and claimed that voting was fair, free, and peaceful.

Despite extensive electoral fraud, voter suppression, and use of violence during 2008 elections, the Maoists were given a clean chit by rival parties, the EC, and international observers because they were afraid to 'derail' the peace process. This time too, the party did everything in its power to skew the playing field in its favour and yet it is now on the verge of a crushing defeat.

Part of the loss can be

accounted by the breakup of the party which split the Maoist vote and took away key candidates. The strike and acts of violence unleashed by Mohan Baidya's hardline faction didn't do Dahal and co any good either. The blood-splattered pavement and walls in Bhote Bahal where eight-year-old Samir Khadgi lost his arm were gruesome reminders of war years and drove away even the sympathetic voters from casting their ballot for the UCPN (M).

However, the low tally of votes for Maoist candidates was a way for Nepalis to tell their former leaders that enough is enough. In the past decade, the public has overlooked the loss of 16,000 lives, the plundering of funds meant for the upkeep of ex-guerrillas in the cantonments, and the dangerous political brinkmanship that Maoist politicians engaged in on the CA floor, all in the name of peace. But no more.

There is a lesson here for the winners as well. Victory over the Maoists does not mean the Nepali Congress and UML, which were also responsible for the failure of the past five years, can afford to become smug and complacent. There is a constitution to draft and many of the contentious issues that led to the dissolution of the previous CA remain largely unresolved. Future parliamentarians need to make more concessions than their predecessors and finish the job on time. There was a first CA, there were extensions to the deadline, but as the Nepali public has shown, there will be no third chances. 🇳🇵

# Now, the constitution

Nepal once again showed the world its people believe in a peaceful, democratic way to select those who govern them

GEORGE VARUGHESE

An estimated 70 percent of Nepalis went to polls on 19 November to elect a new constituent assembly charged with writing a long-delayed constitution. While the exuberance of the 2008 elections was missing, the hope was palpable.

By almost any measure, the period leading up to and during these elections has been peaceful. Attempts to disrupt election preparations were sporadic, often smacked of desperation, and reaped public disdain. Incidents of deaths, injuries, and kidnapping are a fraction of what they were in 2008. Security arrangements have been thorough: almost twice the number of security personnel was on the ground compared to 2008, as were a more modest contingent of domestic and international election monitors and observers. Almost all who wished to vote obtained an ID and were encouraged to vote. In addition, those who legitimately sought public office through popular vote were, for the most part, able to run.

No doubt, it is too early to fully assess the process and outcomes of this long-awaited electoral exercise, but credit must be given to both the election commission and the interim electoral government for pulling it off despite grave misgivings expressed repeatedly and until the last



BIKRAM RAI

moment by almost everyone.

These elections were complex, not only for the unusual logistical burden it posed in terms of time frame and scope of preparatory activity; it was also an exercise in tortuous – albeit successful – navigation for election and government officials between contending political formations and variegated interest groups who sought to delay, divert, and delegitimise the process.

To those who sought to delay, the firmness shown by electoral authorities was decisive, those with legitimate claims were heard and accommodated to the extent possible and those who tried to conflate electoral process with political wrangling ended up being sidelined by the inexorable progress of events. All in all, the process has been a clinic in working politically, conducted by a fully technocratic interim government.

That said, these elections – as in 2008 – represent only an initial step toward stable, plural, representative, and accountable governance arrangements in Nepal. Beginning with the new 601-seat constituent assembly, which will become the parliament, politics must be representative of popular aspirations and not solely reflect the whims, fancies, and ambitions of individual leaders.

These aspirations include meaningful recognition and self-governance for some, redress of historical and recent grievances and injustices for others, and wholehearted acceptance of the pluralism inherent in Nepali society.

Regardless of the composition of the ruling coalition that will likely result from these elections, all parties must agree that the common minimum agenda should be to write a constitution together that embraces these and other fundamental issues facing Nepal and bring it to the full assembly for discussion and passage as quickly as possible. Other equally important tasks await, but the first order of business should be the nation's constitution. 🇳🇵

*George Varughese is The Asia Foundation's country representative in Nepal.*  
[gvarughese@asiafound.org](mailto:gvarughese@asiafound.org)





For greater connectivity and a larger market, the Nepali government needs to treat internet service providers as equal players

# Expanding the net

AYESHA SHAKYA

With digital technology increasingly becoming an indispensable part of our daily lives, the need for widespread, reliable internet is clearly evident. Advancements in communications technology are now making it easier and less expensive to connect to the web, but several slip-ups by the Nepal Telecommunications Authority have left Nepal's private ISPs (Internet Service Providers) in the lurch. For greater connectivity and a larger market, the Nepali government needs to treat internet service providers as equal players.

Collectively, private ISPs cover a huge array of services, ranging from cable internet, wireless broadband internet, 3G, VSAT, ADSL, and fibre optics. However, the number of ISPs that have entered the local market in the past couple of years have led to rate undercutting left and right: "The competition is very stiff, but unfortunately most ISPs are only focusing on price and not the quality of

service and customer support," says Pratik Sharma, marketing coordinator of Mercantile Communications. "Such unhealthy competition is not good in the long-term."

While none of the companies have a monopoly on an individual service, Nepal Telecom has a clear advantage. Besides being a government-owned public sector company with over 30 years of experience, NT also has the benefit of being the only ISP providing WiMAX broadband, the fastest internet service currently available in Nepal. Other ISPs are riled by this apparent favouritism.

"All companies were supposed to obtain the permit for WiMAX at the same time, but Nepal Telecom was the first to get it," explains Binay Bohra, head of the Internet Service Providers Association of Nepal (ISPAN). "This creates a non-level playing field in the market. The scenario sums up the government's attitude towards the private sector in general."

Chief public relation officer of Worldlink, Pavan Singh Shakya, expresses his own frustration at not being able to offer WiMAX to

his customers. "It has been two years since we have been begging the Ministry of Information and Communications for a WiMAX permit, but the regulator isn't answering any of our requests."

ISPs say the sluggish pace at which the state is moving ahead with infrastructure development is hindering the growth of new markets. The regulatory body, Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA), is endowed with the Rural Telecom Development Fund worth Rs 6-7 billion to upgrade facilities and standardise practices within the telecom industry. Despite the enormous budget, the organisation has done very little to promote internet within the country.

"The funds are piling up, but not a single thing has been done in terms of building infrastructure," says ISPAN's Bohra. "The cost is too high for private companies to build their own network or infrastructure. The organisation needs to start doing a better job so that ISPs can expand into rural areas."

Like many, Bohra thinks the problem lies in internal issues at the NTA. The controversy surrounding the ousting of former chairman Digambhar Jha due to a lack of qualification has left the regulatory body without a working chairman. As a result, many ISPs have to fend for themselves in the market. Says Bohra: "Providing fast, reliable internet services is not a priority for the government. The various officials are busy bickering amongst themselves. Unless there's a leader to direct, we can't go to NTA with our issues."

Although Kailash Neupane, spokesperson for NTA, agrees that many issues need to be resolved internally, he remains optimistic about what lies ahead. "While certain pilot projects have been implemented in rural areas, we plan to continue developing optical fibre in each district headquarters and providing infrastructure to the various VDCs," he says.

There is no dearth of energy and enthusiasm within the ISP community. All they need now to push Nepal into the connectivity stratosphere is the backing of a technology-friendly government. 🇳🇵

nepalitimes.com

Surfing under surveillance, #563  
"We are a soft target", #549  
Crackdown riles ISPs #518

## EVEREST BANK BIZ BRIEFS

### Collective trademark for carpets

The Nepali Carpet industry, once the mainstay of the country's economy, has been hit hard by political instability and labour unrest. For the past decade, the exports of Nepali carpets have seen a downward spiral and businessmen worry that if the trend continues, the once glorious industry will collapse altogether.



In an effort to revive the carpet business, the Trade and Export Promotion Centre has started working on obtaining a collective trademark for Nepali carpets. The centre hopes this will help boost the industry as it did in the case of the Pashmina industry following its registration of Chyangra Pashmina trademark.

The collective trademark is used as a signifier of quality assurance and will come as a boon for carpet entrepreneurs whose business has suffered largely due to lack of quality assurance.

### Welcome aboard

Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) operated around 40 shuttle buses on Election Day to facilitate tourists arriving and departing from the country. The shuttle buses ran from the airport to various hotels and vice versa. In the previous CA election, NTB had provided around 15 buses for the same purpose.

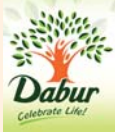


### Key winner

Rupandehi based Mukti Lal Shrestha, winner of the bumper lucky draw of IME's Dasain Ma SLC promotional campaign, received his Hyundai EON car key from executive chairman Chandra Prasad Dhakal. Shrestha's transaction number was drawn out of a pool of IME transactions which took place during the campaign period.

### The best

Qatar Airways was named the Best Emerging Airline/Airport in the Social Media category at the 4th Annual Simplifying Awards on 23 October. The event took place in conjunction with the Eye for Travel Online Marketing, Mobile & Social Media in Travel Europe 2013 conference.



### Brush up

Dabur Nepal recently launched its latest product Dabur Super Salt tooth paste in the market. Super Salt is available in 40gm, 80gm, and 175gm tubes.

EVEREST BANK LIMITED  
(A joint-Venture with punjab national bank, India)

Consistent, Strong & Dependable



ESPRIT

watch&see

Durbarmarg | CityCentre | Bluebird Mall



Wherever you are, we are always at your service



"Heading soon towards KGH golden jubilee"

### Waterfront Resort

Sedi Height, Lakeside Road, Pokhara, NEPAL  
Tel: 061 466 303 / 304 | Cell: 98186 37557  
Email: reservation@waterfronthotelnepal.com  
Website: www.waterfronthotelnepal.com

Corporate Sales Office:

KGH Complex, Thamel, Kathmandu  
Tel: 4700 800 | Cell: 9801 166311  
Email: sales@waterfronthotelnepal.com

Kathmandu Guest House, Thamel | Park Village Resort, Budhanilkantha | Buddha Maya Gardens Hotel, Lumbini | Maruni Sanctuary Lodge, Chitwan



# Dynasty vs dynamism

India's regional leaders may be forced to choose performance over charisma in next year's polls

Over the next decade or so, a host of regional parties in India will have to confront the issue of who should succeed the leaders spearheading them. Should the successor belong to the leader's family or be one of his or her trusted lieutenants? No doubt, these parties draw their energy from the charisma of their solitary leader, one who also symbolises regional aspirations, or quests of subaltern castes, or a combination of both.



LOOK OUT

Ajaz Ashraf

Some of these leaders are ageing, yet they have desisted from naming their successors. Nor the few who are still relatively young seem to have accounted for the unpredictability of life – a fatal mishap, for instance. Don't these leaders worry that the political ideas they embody could get disemboweled in their absence and their support base gobbled up by the national parties? Why do they imitate the Congress in building their party around their family and, unlike it, encounter rampant rebellion?

These questions have acquired an urgency, following the conviction of former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad Yadav in the fodder case. Unless the conviction is set aside by a superior court, Lalu won't be able to contest election in the foreseeable future. Considering he's already 66, does it not make sense for him to pass the leadership baton of his party – Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) – to someone else? Lalu hadn't been prescient enough to groom one of his children to



succeed him. Nor does he trust his lieutenants, fearing they would marginalise him and the family.

The issue of succession is particularly complicated because some of the regional leaders are single and don't have children. In this category are AIADMK's Jayalalitha, 65, BJD leader Naveen Patnaik, 67, BSP boss Mayawati, and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, both 57. Then there are leaders whose children are either disinclined towards politics, as is true of Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (U) leader Nitish Kumar, or in whose favour succession hasn't been settled decisively.

Mayawati inherited the leadership mantle from

Kanshi Ram and Jayalalitha from MG Ramachandran. Yet their anointment led to bitter squabbles. Then again, Naveen Patnaik was persuaded to enter politics by his father's trusted aides, yet most of them were expelled from the party once he established control over power. The parties of M Karunanidhi and Sharad Pawar, too, would face succession battles once they are not around.

It is bewildering why the Congress, which adheres to the dynastic principle of succession, doesn't experience convulsions over the issue of succession. Perhaps it is because the Congress under Indira Gandhi perfected the system of patronage – at the death or retirement of MPs their seats were assigned to their


children and relatives, in case they wished to enter politics.

Thus has been created a mechanism through which satellite families orbit around the principal family, the Gandhis, with both benefitting from the symbiotic relationship. The former do not have, or were not allowed to nurture, an appeal powerful enough to win seats in different pockets of India. No wonder, over the last four decades, the Congress has been organised around the principle of charisma, perceived to have imbued the Gandhis. (The system, it can be argued, has begun to falter as the pan-India appeal of the Congress has diminished appreciably since its halcyon days.)

By contrast, outfits

confined to a state emerged in response to the ideas of regional identity, pressure from subaltern groups to have a share in power, and social justice gathering momentum. These ideas challenged the Congress hegemony of the past – and, over the last two decades, put the brakes on the rise of the BJP as well. No doubt, some of the regional leaders mentioned above personify these ideas. Yet these ideas can be sustained through constant renewal and fresh articulations to attract the electorate.

Charisma is nebulous, in contrast to the ideas of, say, social justice and federalism. Voters demand proof of their implementation, or gravitate towards those considered most suitable to turn these ideas into reality, rather than repose faith in leaders who only happen to be the children of leaders who first voiced them. These ideas are also democratic and progressive in nature and harp on change. The culture these ideas spawn in the parties propagating them leads to resistance against the leader who wishes to establish an authoritarian control over his or her party or transfer its leadership to his or her children. This resistance succeeds in India's regional parties because their turf is infinitely smaller to that of the Congress, thus enabling the rebel to build a new social combination to vanquish the leader.

Indeed, the regional leaders, particularly those who have no children, need to restructure their party organisations, invoking not charisma as the organising principle but ideas they have come to symbolise.  [ashrafajaz3@gmail.com](mailto:ashrafajaz3@gmail.com)

LUXURY  
AS MAGICAL AS  
NATURE

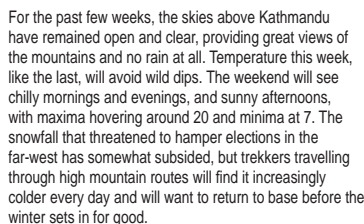
Barahi  
Jungle  
Lodge  
CHITWAN  
NEPAL



Barahi Jungle Lodge: Andrauli, Meghauri-1, West Chitwan, Nepal. Eml: [info@barahijunglelodge.com](mailto:info@barahijunglelodge.com)  
Pokhara Office: Barahi Path, Lakeside, Pokhara-6. Tel: +977 61 460617, 463526 Fax: +977 61 461572 Eml: [info@barahi.com](mailto:info@barahi.com)  
Kathmandu Reservation Office: Tel: +977 1 4429575, 4429820 Eml: [jungle@barahijunglelodge.com](mailto:jungle@barahijunglelodge.com)

[www.barahijunglelodge.com](http://www.barahijunglelodge.com)





FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 20° 7°	 20° 7°	 20° 7°



shutdown and children are made targets of terrorism. I ask myself, has peace really returned to our country?"


Gurung has been outspoken about his mistrust of identity-based federalism and believes in using music to unify Nepalis. Whenever Nepathya performs, the frontman and founder makes it a point to ask fans, "Are we Nepali first?" and he says, "From Sindhuli to Sydney and Waling to Wembley, the audience responds with a loud yes, everytime." Talking about the band's sold-out concert in London he says, "I am glad that we could be a catalyst for Nepalis to come together in one place."

For the 2013 tour, Nepathya will perform at 10 new destinations. While Sarlahi, Kapilbastu, and Bardia do not feature in an average musician's preferred hot spots, Gurung stresses on the importance of giving every listener an opportunity to hear them live. "All the audiences around the country are the same for us and they deserve quality shows especially in places where people don't often get to enjoy technically sound shows," explains Gurung.

Like in years past, the band is collaborating with Nepa-laya and will wrap up the tour with their first-ever performance at Patan Darbar Square on 29 December. “We can’t wait to play in front of our fans who have shown us so much love and support throughout these years,” admits Gurung. 🍷

*Tsering Dolker Gurung*

**nepalitimes.com**

"We meet by chance and we love by remembering", #664  
Musical peace education, #584  
Nepathya's back with a bang in 2010, #483  
Watch Nepathya's videos 

# BACK TO ROCK

For more than a decade, Nepathya has been traversing Nepal spreading the message of peace and violence-free education through their distinctive mix of folk-rock sound. After a historic performance at the famed Wembley Arena in London in August (*pics, above*), the band is now gearing up for its fifth edition of 'Education for Peace', a nation-wide tour which begins on 9 December.

"In the 11 years since we started our concert tours, Nepal has been through a violent war, political movements, a period of transition, and elections for a second CA," says lead singer Amrit Gurung. "We have been longing for peace and the right to education for all children. We need to keep this voice alive."

Nepathya first travelled across Nepal in 2002 when the conflict was at its peak. With the five-date concert, the band hoped to send a message to the army and the Maoist rebels to keep violence away from classrooms. The concerts were a huge success and the group managed to raise Rs 400,000 which was used to build libraries in the schools of the war-torn towns and cities where they performed. Five more tours followed, each more successful than the other, and helped raise thousands of dollars for charities.

As with the previous editions, this year's concerts will focus on keeping children in school. Says Gurung: "The recent bandas and violent activities leading up to the 19 November elections are dismal reminders of wartime Nepal. Even now, schools are being forcibly



ALL PICS: NEPA-LAYA

The Power of Dreams

ORDINARY IS OUT.  
AMAZING IS IN.

The amazing **new Honda Amaze** is here



doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141149.g002



**HONDA**



**Syakar Trading Company Pvt. Ltd.**  
Honda Car Showroom, Dhoobihat, Ring Road, Lalitpur  
Tel: 5549741/8721383223 Fax: 977-1-5549742  
Thapathali Showroom Tel: 4246235  
E-mail: [hondacar@syakar.com.np](mailto:hondacar@syakar.com.np)  
**h o n d a . c o m . n p**

**18**  
kmpl\*



EVENTS



**EXPANSION**, an exhibition of paintings by Jay Shankar Son Shrestha. *Runs till 27 November, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited*

**Tell your story**, make a 1-2 min video about how girls are changing the world; contest open to girls aged 12 to 25, winner takes \$10,000. *www.letgirlslead.org*

**Guerrilla celluloid**, learn from travelling director Uzair Sawal how to make a film on a shoe-string budget or less. *4 to 5 December, 10am to 4pm, Sattya Media Arts Collective, Jawalakhel, www.sattya.org, www.uzairsawal.com*

**Straight sets**, go watch the young talents at the first ever junior open tennis championship. *Runs till 23 November, Satdobato, (01)5202114*

**Rev up your spirit**, ride with hundreds of other bikers from Basantapur, Kathmandu, to Sukute. *Bhotekosi. 23 November, 8am onwards*

**60 seconds film festival**, make a minute-long short film and earn wide exposure. *Deadline 25 November, www.sixtysecondfilmfestival.com*

**Who won**, Nepal is gripped with election fever as results from around the country start coming in. *Runs till 26 November, http://www.datanepal.com/en/projects/election\_results*

**Return to nature**, an exhibition showcasing importance of water colour and landscape painting in fine art, created on the spot by 20 artists at Kirtipur. *Runs till 24 November, 12 to 4pm, Park Gallery, Pulchok, (01)5522307*

**Basic photography workshop**, learn the nitty-gritties of fine photography from experienced hands. *Rs 2,500, 7 to 9am, 1 to 7 December, Image Park, New Road, 9803309513, 9841279544, 9841240341*

**B-BOYING TOUR**, Dharan-based b-boying group Da-Pace is travelling to six major cities to promote tourism through dance. *Starts 15 November*



DINING

**Pagoda Chinese Restaurant**, Head to this jade palace if you are in the mood for Chinese with clean, green and peaceful environment. *Park Village Resort, Budhanilknatha, (01)4375280, pvh@wlink.com.np*



**BARISTA LAVAZZA**, the newest addition to the Valley's European inspired coffee-culture cafes serves excellent mochas and lattes, don't forget to try their grilled chicken sandwich. *Jawalakhel, https://www.facebook.com/barista.lavazza.nepal*

**Laskus Restaurant**, welcome to the best taste your palates can get. *Kathmandu Guest House, Thamel (01)4700800, info@ktmgh.com*

**Alice restaurant**, step in for scrumptious Thakali, Chinese, Continental, and Japanese cuisine. *Gairidhara, (01)4429207*

**New Tushita Restaurant**, relaxing ambience and good food. Don't miss out on its penne with creamy bacon and mushroom sauce. *Lajimpat, (01)44432957*

MUSIC

**Cancion del Mariachi**, listen to Latin and gypsy jazz with Monsif Mzibri and Hari Maharjan and drink jugs of sangria. *Every Saturday, 7pm onwards, New Orleans Cafe, Jhamsikhel*

**Mohit Chauhan live**, everyone's beloved balladeer is coming to town. *Rs 500 to Rs 5,000, 30 November, 4-45pm onwards, Dasrath Stadium, Tripureswor, 9818842177*

**Kripa Unplugged**, young Nepali musicians and seasoned veterans give an acoustic rendition of their favourite songs. *8.30pm and 10.30pm on Sundays, TTV, www.youtube.com/user/KripaUnplugged*

**Shastriya sangeet**, dabble in the magic of Hindustani classical music every new moon night. *2 December, 3pm onwards, Ram Mandir*



**JAZZ FROM COPENHAGEN**, swing to the sounds of the Copenhagen Jazz Quartet, featuring Simon Thorsen, Per Møllehøj, Graig Earle and Frands Riffbjerg. *Rs 350, 22 November, 7.30 to 10pm, Moksh, Jhamsikhel; 23 November, 7 to 10pm, Jazz Upstairs, www.katjazz.com.np, (01)5013554*

GETAWAYS

**Waterfront Resort**, head to this eco-friendly resort to make your stay right in front of Phewa Lake. *Sedi Height, Pokhara, (61)466 303/304, 9801166311, sales@waterfronthotelnepal.com*



**BUDDHA MAYA GARDENS HOTEL**, add value to your travel in Lumbini with a stay at probably the best hotel in the area. *Lumbini, (71)580220, 9801033109, info@ktmgh.com*

**Maruni Sanctuary Lodge**, nestled inside a Tharu Village at the edge of Chitwan National Park. *(01)4700800, info@ktmgh.com*

**Park Village Resort**, far away from the madding crowd yet so close to the city. *Budhanilknatha, (01)4375280, pvh@wlink.com.np*

**Atithi Resort**, a perfect place to stay, nearby pool, massage, sauna, and delicious food of your choice. *Shantipatan, Lakeside, Pokhara, (61)466760, (01)4002077*

# Lighten up

**SPECIAL Limited offer**

Subscribe to

## NEPALI Times

and get

## CHINADAILY

with free

### Enersonic LED Lantern

One year subscription: Rs 2,200

**For renewals and subscriptions:**  
Santosh Aryal: Mobile: 9851054729, Tel: (01) 5005601-8 | santosha@himalmedia.com

**Himalmedia**, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur. [www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com)

**Yeah!!! You will love it.....**

**Degaa** Red-Lounge  
Kumari pati, Lalitpur | 5008679

**Pulchowk** 5521755  
**Thamel** 4262768  
**Bhatbhateni** 4426587  
**Now open at Boudha** 4916446

**Roadhouse Café**  
where the good times roll

wood-fired pizza, coffee and more!



# Education for peace

When the right to movement and speech was curtailed during the insurgency, Nepathya toured across the country to spread the message of peace and harmony among the people.

Now for the seventh time, Nepathya is setting off on a nationwide tour to 10 new cities with the aim of voicing the concerns of children.

- 6 December, Ratnanagar, Chitwan
- 8 December, Birat Chok, Morang
- 10 December, Damak, Jhapa
- 12 December, Lalbandi, Sarlahi
- 14 December, Taulihawa, Kapilbastu
- 16 December, Gularia, Bardiya
- 18 December, Lamahi, Dang
- 20 December, Abu Khairani, Tanahun
- 22 December, Myagdi, Beni
- 24 December, Gagan Gaunda, Kaski
- 29 December, Patan Darbar Square

www.nepalaya.com.np,  
(01)4412469/4437893



# 123 DAYS

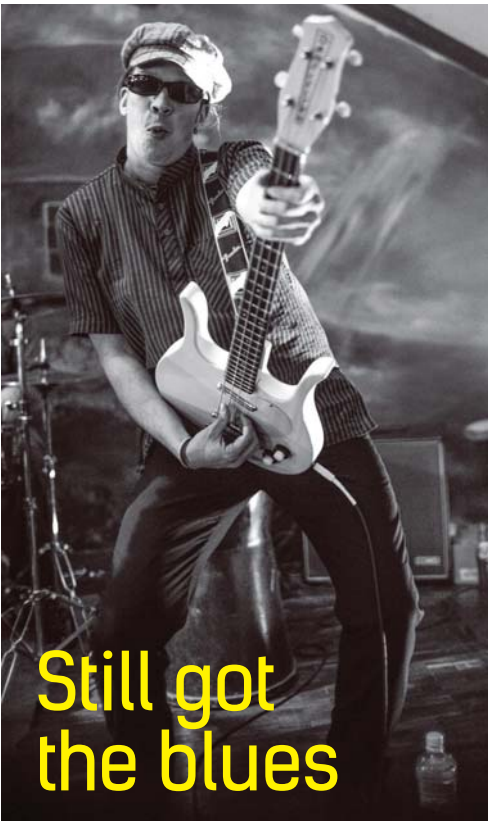


In 2012 Gerda Pauler set out to walk the Great Himalayan Trail for the charity Autism Care in Nepal. Her journey of 1700km took her 123 days over glaciated 6000m passes, high mountain deserts of the Tibetan Plateau in Mustang and lush forests throughout the foothills of the Himalaya.

Pauler was born in the 1950s outside Munich in Germany. She worked with autistic children as a music teacher. Besides travelling to Nepal, India and Pakistan, Pauler has also been on expeditions to Central Asia and South America. She has also written a book on her journey through Nepal's Himalayas.

Gerda will be sharing her story at a talk program this week. Don't miss out if you want to hear her speak adventure.

26 November, 6.30pm,  
Shanker Hotel, Lajimpat  
Rs 400 for non-members, including tea/  
coffee, half-price for students  
csgnepal@yahoo.com, https://www.  
facebook.com/CulturalStudiesGroupOfNepal



# Still got the blues

Soak yourself in the best of the blues at the 5th Himalayan Blues Festival with bands from USA, France, Italy, and Nepal.

- 22 November, Blues Big Bang. Rs 799, 6 PM onwards, 1905, Kantipath
- 23 November, Patan Museum Sessions Rs 1,000, 6pm onwards, Patan Museum
- 23 November, Forest blues 1,000, 5pm onwards, Gokarna Forest Resort
- 24 November, Blues around town De La Soul, Thamel 9808074476; Attic Bar, Uttara Dhoka, (01)4442651; Places Restaurant, Thamel, (01)4700413, 7pm onwards
- 25 November, Workshop 1pm onwards, Nepal Music Center, Battisputali, Kathmandu, (01)4465643
- 25 November, Curilo Blues Opposite the British Embassy, Lajimpat, 6pm onwards, (01)4005079

# FIRST SIGHT

Sushmita, Pratigya, Khil Kumari, Surathi, Roda, and Ganga cannot hear but they have learnt photography through a series of workshop conducted at the Disabled Services Association in Lalitpur. Siddhartha Art Gallery invites you to their first ever photography exhibition.

11am to 6pm, 30 November to 3 December, Siddhartha Art Gallery, (01)4218048/4438979  
www.facebook.com/friendsODISA, matilda.branson@gmail.com, 9818209743



Shanti Patan, Lakeside, Pokhara-6, Tel: 00977 61 466760, Fax: 00977 61 466762, Email: info@atithiresort.com  
Kathmandu Sales Office: Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Tel./Fax: 00977 1 4002077/4002079, www.atithiresort.com

हिमाल  
ग्राहक योजना

मासिक उपहार  
TISSOT  
नाडी घडी



हिमालको साथमा उपहार हातमा



रु.१८००  
बराबरको  
SOLAR PANEL  
सहितको  
LED TORCH



रु.१६५०  
बराबरको  
LED TUBE



रु.१३००  
बराबरको  
LED BULB



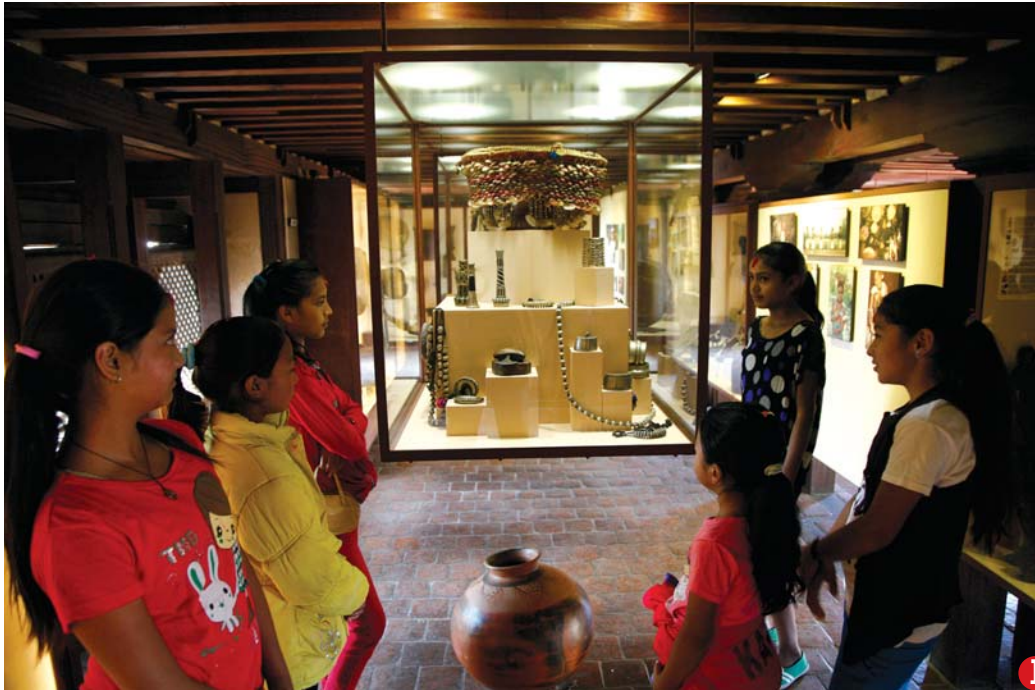
01-500 5601-07, Fax: 977 1 500 5518 | subscription@himalmedia.com | SMS: SUB <space> to 5004

१ वर्षे  
आवक शुल्क रु १०५० मा  
मगद छुट रु २५०  
मिडस इ-क्लास वा  
दुई महीना  
हिमाल खबरपत्रिका नि:शुल्क

२ वर्षे  
आवक शुल्क रु ३५०० मा  
मगद छुट रु ६००  
मिडस इ-क्लास र  
बी.एफ. डीयर हिल सूजको  
गिफ्ट भौचर

३ वर्षे  
आवक शुल्क रु ५२५० मा  
मगद छुट रु ८५०  
सोलार प्यानल वा एलईडी बल्ब वा  
एलईडी ट्यूब र साथमा ग्रीनसिटी  
हस्पिटलको गिफ्ट भौचर





LAWRENCE MILLER

Located at the Changu Narayan temple complex on a ridge above Bhaktapur, the Living Traditions Museum exhibits items collected from almost every ethnic group in Nepal. Though small in size, the gallery gives a rich sense of Nepal’s varied historic, ethnic, and geographic fabric. The museum’s aim is to display the country’s diversity of art and practices while celebrating its united identity.

Curated by Judith Chase and opened in March 2012, the museum showcases everyday objects from around Nepal in their ‘lived’ context. The collection includes bamboo butter tea churns from the Himalayas, various Newari brass pitchers from the Kathmandu Valley, and intricate ceremonial wall murals from the Mithila region. Pairing the objects with well-composed and often historical photographs, one gets a sense for what Chase describes as the ‘aura’ of everyday things, the sense of objects “enlivened by years of purposeful action in household and ritual life.”

The gallery separates the collection of objects into four sections based on Nepal’s four major geographic regions - the Tarai, Mid-Hills, Kathmandu Valley, and the High Himalayas. Each area exhibits a wide cross-section of objects representative of the variety of traditions practiced there, including religious objects, cooking items, painting, tools, and clothing. The experience of walking through the museum is like witnessing a mosaic of Nepali culture untenable at any other scale.

The museum’s offerings consist entirely of Judith Chase’s own collection, which she has accumulated over her 35 years in Nepal. In an email, Chase recalls the first object she was drawn to, a Gurung-fashioned umbrella that she saw on a hike around Ghandruk. Drawn by the its clever and elegant design, she carried the object, made of woven bamboo and spanning one and half metres across, overland by bus across India and Pakistan, and on a train to Paris. A year later, she was inspired to return to Nepal on a research visa to study traditional art. She spent the next 18 years traversing the country, familiarising herself with different practices and traditions and obtaining objects along the way.

The artefacts in the museum are as much a testament to the nation’s diversity as it is to Chase’s pluck. She tells the story of travelling into the Himalayas with one porter, only to return with three more, each one’s basket laden with goods. She would regularly go to villages to participate in wedding ceremonies and local pilgrimages, building personal relationships in addition to expanding objects in her collection.

In March 2012 in the Amatya Sattal wing of the Changu Narayan complex, the Living Traditions Museum was up and running after only seven months of planning and construction. With a grant from the US

Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation and various private donations, Chase, restoration project director Suresh Shrestha, and a dozen local craftsmen were able to restore another wing of the complex that will soon house the second gallery for the museum. Though awaiting additional funds, the Living Traditions foundation plans to rebuild the addition sattals of the complex, providing housing for three additional galleries of the museum and a much needed face-lift to the Valley’s oldest standing temple, which dates back to the Lichhavi period 1,300 years ago.

Anish Bhatta, a resident of Changu Narayan and a regular face at the museum, says that the new museum has brought significant growth to the area by employing local people in construction, by giving jobs within the organisation, and attracting more tourists. People trust Chase, he says, because of her commitment to restoring the temple complex and her promise to turn the reigns of the museum over to a neighbourhood development committee after a period of 25 years. According to Bhatta, the project is clearly one for the Nepali people.

The second gallery, scheduled to open in 2014, will largely feature the history of Changu Narayan and other temples of the Kathmandu Valley. Another gallery will

## The recently opened museum in Changu Narayan is a testament to Nepal’s diversity

host rotating, year-long exhibits curated by ethnic groups featuring their own wares. The opening of the additional galleries and the restoration of the sattals will greatly increase the scope and magnitude of the museum and the larger Changu Narayan temple area.

With many cultures and traditions being lost to globalisation and modernity, the objects in the museum serve more and more as a reminder to a fading way of life. As important ethnic and cultural diversity is to a larger Nepali identity, the differences shown in the photographs and accompanying objects are indispensable. Putting the objects in the limelight, Chase hopes, will create appreciation and awe for this “vast capacity of the human imagination to create magical and magnificent variations out of a single idea.”

[www.livingtraditionsmuseum.org/restoration.html](http://www.livingtraditionsmuseum.org/restoration.html)

nepalitimes.com

In the land of gods, thieves have a field day, #63 Changu Narayan facelift, The Brief





# RETURN OF THE PAST



ALL PICS: MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

## Timeline



**1974** The Gurung umbrella is one of the first items in the museum's collection that Judith Chase obtained during a trek around Ghandruk.



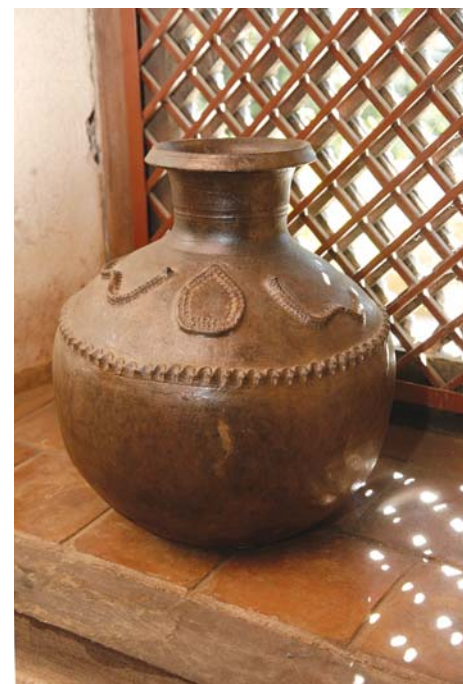
**1976** Chase was given the Tharu dress (left), worn by unmarried women, on a tour of the Tarai.



**1981** This Humla greatcoat from the Himalayas is used in ceremonies once a year.



**2012** Donated by Anish Bhatta's family, a local who helps at the museum, these Newari statuettes come from his home in Bhaktapur.



**2012** This vase was recovered from the Changu Narayan temple during its restoration. Although the bottom has since worn out, the vase is over 300-years-old.



4

**1** Girls gather around a case displaying jewelry from the Tarai region. Photographs in the background show the silver bracelets and wares in use.

**2** The Living Traditions Museum opened in March 2012 in the Amatya Sittal wing of the Changu Narayan temple complex. It is the first museum in Nepal to be lighted entirely by solar power.

**3** Maithili murals painted at the site of the museum. They were prepared by Maithili women before the gallery opening in February 2012 and depict a traditional marriage ceremony.

**4** A case near the rear of the gallery contains Newari vases and lamps from around the Kathmandu Valley. The museum regularly seeks donations of household items from around the country.





# The Wolverine

When *The Wolverine* came out in theatres earlier this summer, I missed it without too much regret thinking it would be a fun enough stay at home DVD to indulge in come the fall. I now regret not seeing it on the big screen. While clearly not 'unmissable' like *Gravity*, which



**MUST SEE**  
**Sophia Pande**

loses a major part of its essence if not seen on the big screen, *The Wolverine* is an example of the better kind of summer spectacle, set mostly in modern day Tokyo and fully utilising its \$120 million budget to jaw dropping effect. The film is adeptly directed by James Mangold whose most commendable film was the Johnny Cash biopic *Walk the Line* (2005), and the film stars, as most Marvel Comics fans will already know,

Hugh Jackman, as the eponymous Wolverine. Now Jackman has never been a favourite of mine, but even I cannot fault his seamless portrayal of this much beloved, much damaged, but terribly romantic comic book character. He brings the Wolverine's tortured soul to life without ever hamming things up, throwing in just the right amount of world-weary disdain and refreshing sarcasm into a character that has pretty much seen it all. If you want backstory, well, you need to go out and watch all the previous *X-Men* films (of which there are six including the previous *Wolverine* origins story, with a seventh due out next year) because the Wolverine is indeed a complicated character. Suffice to say that this film begins with Logan (Wolverine's real name) waking up to deeply disturbing nightmares involving his past love Jean (Famke Janssen) and his rescue of a Japanese soldier just before the bomb drops on Nagasaki.

Logan has given up on being the Wolverine, wandering the world lost in his own misery and wrapped up in the existential angst that comes from knowing that not only are you immortal you are also a manufactured and deadly fighting machine. Bearded and miserable he is found by Yukio (Rila Fukushima) a red headed samurai trainee who has been sent to find him by the very Japanese soldier he once rescued. Reluctantly taken to Japan to meet the dying but grateful Shingen Yashida (Hiroyuki Sanada), Logan finds himself suddenly embroiled in what is about to become an all out war involving the legacy of Yashida who is now the head of one of the richest business empires in Japan. The rest of the film involves some terrifically cool fight sequences between ninjas, samurais, with the Wolverine wielding his raw power, a particularly well-choreographed fight sequence atop one of Japan's famous bullet trains, a minor but subtly played out love story between Logan and Mariko, Yashida's granddaughter and heir apparent, and a few other nice little surprises that are usually non-existent once a summer block buster has passed the 90 minute mark. So sit back and distract yourself, it will be a welcome respite from this past week's election madness, that's exactly what this kind of film is for.

[nepalimes.com](http://nepalimes.com)

Watch trailer

the week in pictures brought to you by

**SHOE · A · HOLICS**

Ground floor Mayalu Center  
Jamal Sadak beside Samsonite  
Tel 4225627

Ground floor below Laxmi Bank  
Harihar Bhavan Pulchowk  
Tel 5524812

## HAPPENINGS



DEVAKI BISTA

**COUNT DOWN:** Election officials count votes from 10 constituencies in Kathmandu at the Birendra International Convention Centre, Baneshwor on Wednesday.



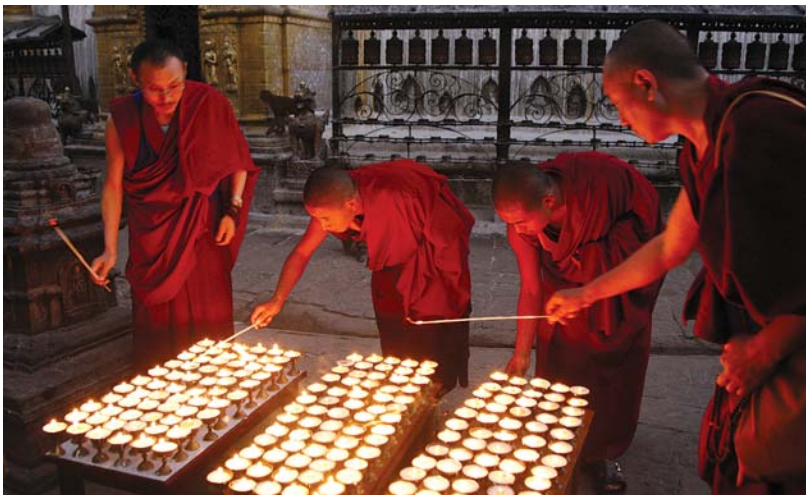
DEVAKI BISTA

**VIP VOTE:** Chairman of the Interim Electoral Council of Ministers Khil Raj Regmi casts his ballot at Sano Gaucharan on Tuesday.



BIKRAM RAI

**TAKE ME HIGHER:** Young boys play with a helium balloon at Basantapur on Tuesday.



MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

**LIGHT 'EM UP:** Buddhist monks light oil amps at Swayambhunath on Monday evening.

**M-Series Printers**

**EPSON**  
EXCEED YOUR VISION

Get the most **ECONOMICAL B/W PRINTERS** ever  
Best for Office and Commercial purpose

Just **25 PAISA** per print

M200- PRINT / SCAN / COPY

M100- PRINT

Print upto **8000 PAGES** with initial starter ink kit

JUST 12 WATTS POWER CONSUMPTION

UPTO 1 YEAR OR 50,000 PRINTS

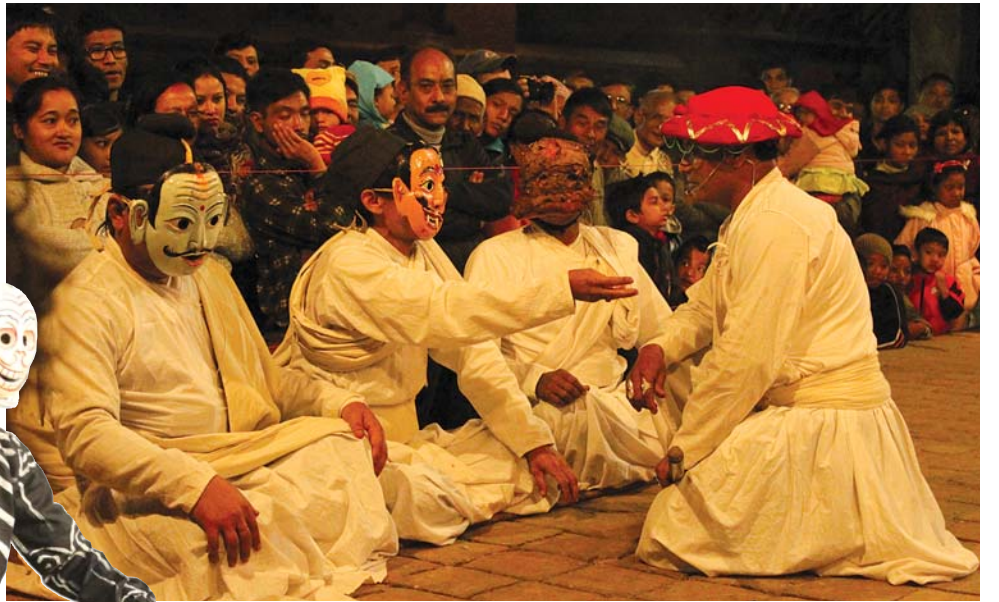
HIGH SPEED PRINTING 34 PPM

**MERCANTILE**  
OFFICE SYSTEMS PVT. LTD.  
Authorized Distributor  
Hiti Pokhari, Durbar Marg  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 1-4440773/4445920

**Kathmandu Valley Dealers:**  
Lazimpat : 4410423, New Road : 4220058  
New Road : 4227854, New Road : 4250173  
New Road : 4222384, Patan : 5536649  
Putalisadak : 4266820, Putalisadak : 4415786  
Putalisadak : 4227474, Putalisadak : 4436307  
Putalisadak : 4417050

**Outside Valley Dealers:**  
Bansga : 011-660968, Birnagar : 021-538729, Birnagar : 021-532000  
Biratnagar : 023-540150, Butwal : 071-545399, Chitwan : 056-571764  
Dang : 082-561022, Dhangadhi : 091-523601, Dhangadhi : 091-521392  
Janakpur : 041-525565, Lahan : 033-561205, Mahendranagar : 099-523872  
Nepalgunj : 081-527092, Pokhara : 061-525300, Surkhet : 083-522488  
Tulsipur : 082-562575





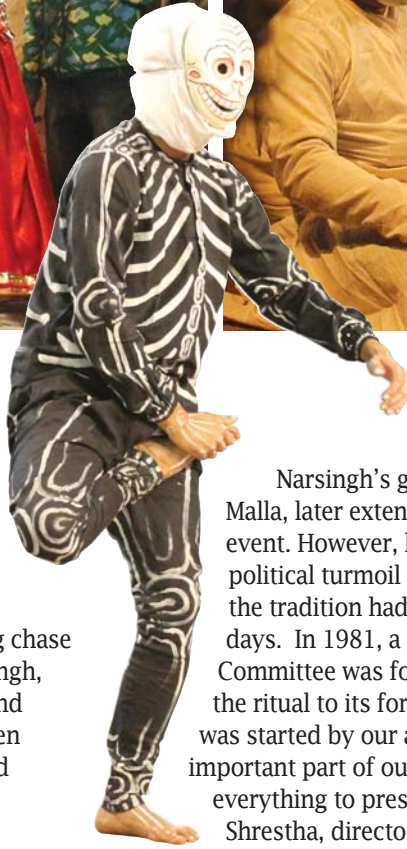
PICS: SANGAM SHILPAKAR

# The dance of gods

For eight days every year during the Nepali month of Kartik (October-November), Patan Darbar Square turns into an open air stage for a 17th century dance extravaganza started by King Siddhi Narsingh Malla. This year's event ran from 9-17 November and saw throngs of people

from Lalitpur and beyond gather in front of Krishna Mandir to enjoy the historic dance based on stories from the *Vishnu Puran*, which depicts various avatars of Vishnu.

On the last day of the naach, performers enacted a captivating chase and kill sequence between Narsingh, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, and Hiranyakashipu, the demon. When Narsingh hit his target, the crowd erupted in thunderous applause, bringing the show to a close.



While the original performance lasted for five days, Siddhi Narsingh's grandson, Yog Narendra Malla, later extended it into a month long event. However, lack of money and the political turmoil of the 1950's meant that the tradition had to be cut back to two days. In 1981, a Kartik Naach Management Committee was formed to help restore the ritual to its former glory. "The naach was started by our ancient king and it is an important part of our culture. We must do everything to preserve it," says Hari Man Shrestha, director of the committee.

However, Shrestha and his team have a hard time finding artists every year and as result the same dancers have to perform several acts in a day, which makes their schedule extremely hectic. Currently the committee is being supported by the government, Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan city, Nepal Investment Bank, and other religious and cultural organisations. This year, the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation in partnership with Alliance for Ecotourism donated \$75,300 which Shrestha believes will go a long way in keeping the 400-year-old dance alive. Sangam Shilpakar

# Chinese Friendship Restaurant



try it today. Sufficiently wowed and more than a little stuffed, the whole fish served in a black bean sauce (Rs 495) was a visual and gastronomic treat. The rich black bean gravy was a little salty for our tastes, but I was impressed by how such strong flavours still didn't serve to overpower the delicate fish. Finally, we ordered the home-style tofu (Rs 190). This ginger-heavy plate, particularly following the overload of meat and fish, felt a little workaday and was not aided by what seemed like an overload of MSG. It became clear over the course of the meal that Chinese Friendship, like Chinese cuisine itself, caters primarily to carnivores. The thoroughfare's reputation for fanciness is not upheld in CFR, where the downstairs seating is more greasy spoon than gourmet, while upstairs is a little cosier. But this restaurant is about substance rather than style and perhaps our only criticism is that that substance is too often MSG, in sometimes-copious quantities. CC

I vividly remember my first visit to Chinese Friendship Restaurant, sometime in early 2005. Having exhausted Thamel and not yet having made myself acquainted with the other dining hotspots of Lajimpat and Jhamel, dining on Darbar Marg felt like something of an adventure. Eight years on, little has changed. Owner Udesch Man Singh still presides over the operation, holding court with friends in one corner while keeping a watchful eye on his polite and attentive waiters, who refill a pot of green tea throughout what proves to be something of a banquet. Leafing through the expansive picture-book menu, we wanted to try some of the more obscure items, including pork ear in red oil, beer-braised duck, and the delightfully straightforward hoof tendon. This review took place over Tihar, however, and it seemed



PICS: KZ

as though the festivities had prevented Udesch from acquiring some of his more obscure delicacies. Instead, we made do with more sedate Chinese fare. A snack of fried corn (Rs 180) was moreish, but lacked salt and spice. The fried eggplant stuffed with minced chicken (Rs 320), however, was perfect: a delicate batter gave way to the gooeyness of the aubergine and the viscose, sticky ginger sauce it had been tossed in made it a surprising highlight. Ordering sweet and sour pork (Rs 295) in a Chinese restaurant feels a little like an amateur move. The dish is a staple on takeaway menus back home and usually ordered by the over-cautious or unadventurous. But it can also serve as a litmus test and I knew from previous visits that here, this

item is not to be missed: battered slices of tender pork give way to your chopsticks and taste buds, melting with succulence and the more-sweet-than-sour coating. Taken with a plate of the restaurant's signature, done-to-perfection egg fried rice (Rs 110); the dish is elevated from menu mainstay to absolute must-have. I can't emphasise this point enough, and urge readers to head to CFR to

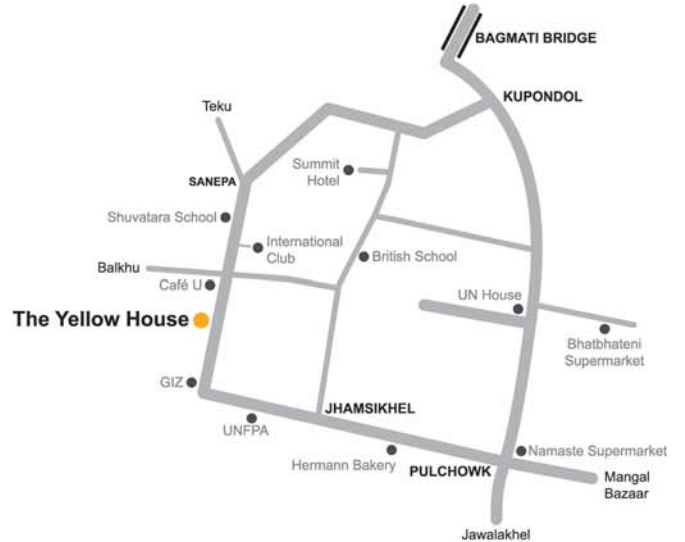
*How to get there: from the main entrance to Narayanhiti Palace, walk straight down King's Way. Chinese Friendship Restaurant is just after Nepal SBI Bank, through a small archway on the left.*

THE YELLOWHOUSE MARKET



9AM - 12NOON EVERY SUNDAY THE YELLOW HOUSE, SANEPA

FOR DIRECTIONS/ QUERIES PLEASE CALL 5553869 | 5522078 www.theyellowhouse.com.np







# Burden of the bottom billion

The poorest people on the globe, the bottom billion, live on less than \$1.25 a day making them highly vulnerable to diseases. This is especially true for simple worm (helminths) infestations like hookworm and roundworm, which are transmitted from the soil or by faecal-oral route.



**DHNAVANTARI**  
**Buddha Basnyat, MD**

Globally, about 600-800 million people, mostly children, are infected with soil-transmitted helminth infections. Hookworm infection causes childhood and maternal anaemia and results in great disability. Among neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), it causes the highest burden of disease.

What can be done to help young children who are infected with these worms, which in turn lead to malnutrition and anaemia? Improved sanitation is important, but this is a long-term process. In the meantime, mass drug administration (MDA), such as the use of the effective, anti-worm drug, albendazole, for whole

communities may be a simple answer. MDA utilises the concept that a certain disease is so common in the community that individual tests and diagnosis are unnecessary. Hence everyone is treated regardless of their infection status.

MDA for neglected tropical diseases like helminth infestation provides some of the highest rates of economic return in any public health program. Importantly, this kind of campaign also addresses fundamental human rights issues concerning health. For example, drug companies working with the World Health Organisation, World Bank, and other UN agencies help provide MDA like albendazole to millions of people every year. Not unsurprisingly, this has led to control and, in some cases, elimination of some of these diseases.

Nowhere is this kind of campaign better known than in sub-Saharan Africa, where a network of more than 16,200 community-based drug distributors administered mass treatment with not only albendazole, but also provided vitamin A, childhood vaccinations, and

anti-malarial bednets. There was also a national surveillance and monitoring system in place which improved operational research and even laboratory services in these impoverished areas. Clearly, this was a tremendous boost to the health services in sub-Saharan Africa.

The concept of MDA is certainly not new in Nepal, but perhaps the campaign needs to be more widespread. The best known MDA program here is with the drug diethylcarbamazine that is used to fight against filariasis (the disease that causes elephantiasis or 'hattipaila') carried out in certain districts across the country. Currently, MDA against filariasis has been stopped to conduct post-MDA surveillance.

There is every reason to think that this surveillance will show positive results as has been the case in other parts of the world where this MDA campaign has been instituted against filariasis. For example, 173 districts in India have completed more than five rounds of MDA against filariasis and have reached a rate of less than one per cent for that disease in the community. Many other diseases lend themselves to MDA. Trachoma, which is a very common bacterial infection of the eye that may lead to devastating complications, can be treated with the drug azithromycin. MDA campaigns against trachoma have been sporadically carried out in Nepal with good results.

Unfortunately, there are many other neglected tropical diseases in Nepal that cannot be controlled or eliminated by MDA. For example, WHO data shows that of the almost 55,000 cases of rabies worldwide, 22,000 (about 40 per cent) take place in the Indian subcontinent. A strong public health drive possibly including vaccines may be the only way to prevent this fatal and untreatable disease.

One of the most potent reinforcements of the poverty trap is the neglected tropical diseases and hopefully the new Nepali government will tackle these diseases with renewed enthusiasm and commitment. 🇳🇵

**GIZMO by YANTRICK**

## High five

Google's Nexus line of mobile phones and tablets have long been appreciated by critics and users alike due to their bloatware-free interface, killer specs, and a price that makes other manufacturers hang their collective heads in shame. Google's previous phone, the Nexus 4 offered specifications to rival then-flagship phones like Samsung's Galaxy S4, Apple's iPhone 4s, and HTC's one, while undercutting their prices by half. At Rs 50,000 (\$400 if you're lucky to get it from the US), the latest from Google is more expensive than its predecessor, but for mobile phone buyers who are used to dishing out a minimum of Rs 60,000 for top-end devices, the Nexus 5's price tag should be a bargain.

Manufactured by LG, Nexus 5 retains the familiar minimalistic aesthetic of previous models, which is set in a curving, matte rubberised case, and is available in either black or white. The gadget boasts a beautiful 4.95 inch full HD screen which packs in a retina-piercing 445 pixels per inch and the Gorilla Glass 3 screen is impressively scratch-resistant; a blessing for those among us who have a habit of keeping our phones and keys/coins in the same pocket. Icons and small texts look sharp and high resolution photos, videos, and games appear remarkably bright and vivid.

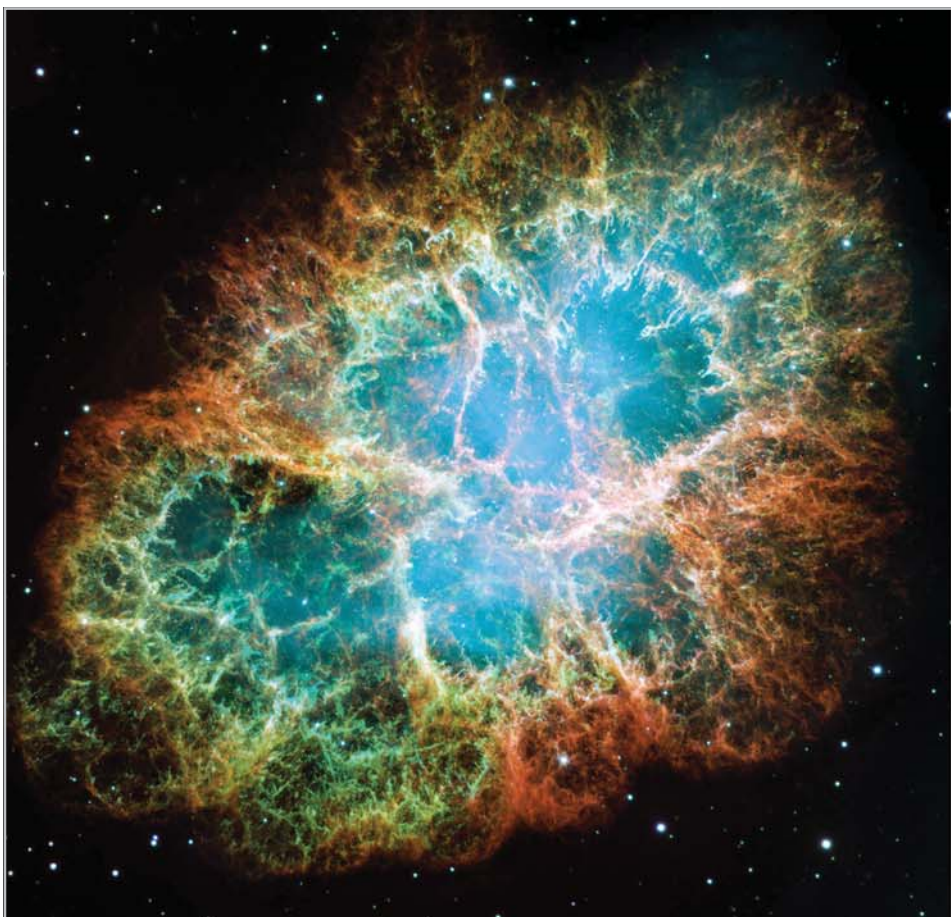


Under the slick exterior, Nexus 5 runs on Android Mobile Operating System's latest KitKat (4.4) version, which preserves the look and feel of previous Android versions, and the operating system is as user-friendly as ever, with the added bonus of Nexus lines of mobile devices

always being the first ones to receive future Android updates. The phone is powered by a 2.26 GHz quad-core Snapdragon processor which runs on 2GB of RAM, resulting in your memory-intensive, multi-tasking, multimedia needs being handled with ease and a 2300mAh battery on board should last a day of fairly intensive use.

A couple of areas where Yantrick feels Nexus 5 can do better are its 8MP rear camera (the norm for latest flagship devices is a minimum of 13MP) and its rather limited maximum storage space of 32GB (no microSD card slot). However, he is willing to overlook these 'indiscretions' given the high-end specifications that Google is offering at such a reasonable price. 🇳🇵

**Yantrick's verdict: Google's Nexus 5 is gentle on your pocket and easy on your eyes. If you're upgrading, then give the Nexus a high five.**



## Out of this world

As Nepal's most-modern printing facility, Jagadamba Press ensures reliability, precision and speed with its state-of-the-art Mitsubishi Diamond 3000 press that can print five colours in 40" format with inline coating.



Tel: 5250017-19 | Fax: 5250027 | Email: info@jagadambapr.com | www.jagadambapr.com



ANURAG ACHARYA and  
NAVIN JHA in BIRATNAGAR

Twenty-five year olds Parbata Mormu and Phul Kumari Hembram walked out of their polling station in Morang ward no 9, elated at having cast their votes for the first time. The two women from the marginalised Santhal community were among thousands who had been left disenfranchised during the last CA elections. “I am very happy, I finally got to vote,” said Hembram with a grin.

After travelling from Mahottari in central Tarai to Morang in the east, through remote villages of Sarlahi, Dhanusha, Siraha, Saptari, and Sunsari districts, we were amazed by the level of anticipation among the locals. From tea shops to the buses we took, towns were abuzz with election fever. To be sure, those we met did express their frustration at the political stalemate and individual leaders, but said they would still cast their votes.

Jhagru Mahato, 56, has been selling tobacco in Malangwa bazar for the past 30 years. He has seen and heard promises made and broken every election. Yet, he seemed remarkably committed to his duty as a



ANURAG ACHARYA

# Voting in majority

From Mahottari to Morang, voters were openly receptive to elections and showed up in record numbers

citizen. “Neta sab beimaan bha geli ta ki bhele, janta sab ke vote khasa ka apan kartab mein paacha nahi parat chahi,” he said. Three days after our conversation with Mahato, the Election Commission declared that Nepal witnessed a historical turnout of more than 70 per cent and Sarlahi district was not far behind.

In the last CA elections, there were at least a dozen reported incidences of violence on the

day of polls in Sarlahi, but this time only two incidents were reported. “We have received complaints of violence and fraud in Dhankaul and Balara area and have sent our report to the EC,” Chief District Election Officer Krishna Kamal Adhikari told us over telephone from Malangwa.

Travelling deep into Sunsari district, we came across well-organised and peaceful polling stations in Tammuna, Bhaluwa,

and Chitaha VDCs of constituency-3. Enthusiastic voters – young and old – queued outside booths in large numbers in this ‘sensitive’ locality which was under heavy army and police security the whole day. President of the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum (Democratic) Bijaya Kumar Gachchhadar and Bhagwati Chaudhary of the UML had fought fiercely during campaigning in this constituency of 10,000 voters.

**MADE IT:** A senior citizen arrives at his polling centre in Sunsari’s remote Chitaha VDC. The government’s restrictions on vehicle movement made it difficult for old and disabled voters to travel to their polling stations.

There were reports of booth capturing in Siraha-5, where high profile candidates UCPN (M) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal and UML’s Lila Shrestha were contesting. However, the rumours were refuted by Purna Chandra Joshi, the district superintendent of police. A local journalist also said he was unaware of any problematic incident. A few days ago, however, the UCPN (M) was violating election codes by distributing free petrol to hundreds of motorcyclists during a mass meeting in Siraha bazar addressed by Dahal.

The central and eastern Tarai belt has always been a hotbed of Nepali politics. It was the flash point of the Madhes movement in 2007-2008 and in the following years, the region has seen a resurgence of armed groups. But on Tuesday, hundreds of thousands made their way to polling centres in what was one of the most peaceful elections of our times.

As the preliminary results begin to trickle in, celebrations have begun in some camps. But whichever party or candidate wins the race this time, it will be a collective victory for the Nepali people and the democracy they have fought so dearly for. 🇳🇵

## It’s Facebook time. Every time.

Introducing Ncell’s Facebook Pack

Dial \*17115# to buy Facebook Pack at just Rs. 9 and use Facebook on your mobile for 24 hours. Facebook Pack includes 10 MB data.

For more information & to activate:

17115



Ncell, Here for Nepal  
www.ncell.com.np

Rs. 9  
for  
24-hr

facebook®



Rate exclusive of taxes. Conditions apply.





# MAKING IT COUNT

Nepalis have voted and in what numbers. After ballot boxes were sealed at 5pm on Tuesday, the Election Commission announced that more than 70 per cent of eligible voters had shown up, a record high in the country's history.

In Dagnam, Myagdi, all voters showed up, whereas it was a no show at a booth in Thawang, Rolpa. Polling was halted in two election centres in Jumla because CPN-M cadres seized PR ballot papers. They will have re-elections on Friday.

But it's safe to say we weren't this sure about CA-II polls even a month ago. Jaded by the last five years of shameless politicking, double-speak, and the failure to write a constitution, Nepalis were as disillusioned this year as they seemed steadfast in 2008. Regardless, 50 per cent voters turned out by midday.

This year's elections also faced, ever since it was conceived, the danger of secluding a political force from democratic practice. Despite its repeated attempts to distance itself from the violence meted out on innocent travellers, including children, on election eve and day, the CPN-M knows its reputation and number of sympathisers, have taken a deep blow.

Eight-year-old Samir Khadgi was playing with friends on Tuesday when he picked up a bomb after mistaking it for a toy. He lost his right hand and suffered injuries to his head. In Satungal, dash Maoists threw a petrol bomb at a bus heading to Rautahat injuring many, among them five-year-old Prajun Khatun. Manju Shrestha, also five, was inside a microbus in Samakhusi when the vehicle was set on fire.

Police have repeatedly said that they

have enough evidence to prosecute the guilty, but the state is too busy counting ballots at the moment to pay attention to this. Any decision taken now will in all likelihood be covered up by whichever party or alliance leads the next government.

The latest preliminaries show that the Nepali Congress and UML lead in more than two-thirds of the constituencies in the FPTP race. As we go to press, both parties have won fourteen seats each, while the biggest winner from the previous elections, UCPN (M), has claimed only two. And in an embarrassing turn of events for the Maoists, its Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal was defeated by the NC's Rajendra KC in Kathmandu-10 by a margin of more than 7,000 votes.

To save face, the UCPN (M) demanded a total recount on Thursday

morning, saying "all kinds of fraud and conspiracies had prevented the true will of the people from being reflected in the results." After the EC refused to budge, Dahal is threatening that his party will sit out of the Constituent Assembly if the vote count is not investigated by an independent body. Meanwhile, with mounting accusations of electoral fraud and voter suppression in Gorkha-1, senior leader Baburam Bhattarai, took to Facebook to categorically dismiss these claims.

Bhattarai is not the only one having to defend the actions of his cadres though. As Anurag Acharya and Navin Jha reported from east Nepal (*see page 15*), locals are alleging the NC of booth capture in Sarlahi-6.

On Thursday afternoon, the EU released a statement saying the right



9



8



7





to vote was secure in 97 per cent of the polling booths they had monitored and that the elections were peaceful and participation. The Carter Centre soon followed claiming the election environment was far improved than what it was five years ago.

A total of 12,147,865 Nepalis were registered to vote this time round. 6,128 candidates are in the FPTP race for 240 seats in the assembly. The remaining 335 seats will be picked from 10,709 candidates in the PR list and 26 will be nominated. A total of 128 parties took part. 🇳🇵

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)

For live election result updates and photo gallery

**1 OLD IS GOLD:** A senior citizen casts her ballot at a polling centre in Bhaktapur.

BIKRAM RAI

**2 FOOTING IT:** A family walks from their home in Patan to the ballot station in Basantapur.

MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

**3 LONG LINE:** Women await their turn to vote at Paknajol, Kathmandu-7.

MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

**4 HIGH ALERT:** The Nepal Army patrolling around Thamel.

MIN RATNA BAJRACHARYA

**5 CRIME SCENE:** A bomb was planted approximately 200 metres from a polling booth in Bhote Bahal. Eight-year-old Samir Khadgi mistook the bomb for a toy and lost his right hand as a result.

BIKRAM RAI

**6 IN ANGUISH:** Sister (left) and mother (right) of Samir Khadgi are seen here after the boy was taken to Bir Hospital for treatment. Two others were injured in the blast.

DEVAKI BISTA

**7 MAKE WAY:** Ballot boxes are transported from Basantapur to the Birendra International Convention Centre in Baneswor for counting.

BIKRAM RAI

**8 DAY AND NIGHT:** Officials from the EC start counting votes from 8am onwards on Wednesday.

DEVAKI BISTA

**9 WE DID IT:** NC cadres celebrate Rajendra KC's victory in Kathmandu-10 outside the BICC on Thursday.

BIKRAM RAI





# Should we care?

Milan Timilsina, *Ujyaaloonline.com*,  
17 November

Ujyaalo Online

After Dasain and Tihar, the country’s third biggest festival is right around the corner: elections for a second constituent assembly. The government, Election Commission, political parties, and organisations have been trying very hard to get Nepalis to participate in the festivities. And the campaigns seem to be paying off as throngs of people are heading home despite the transportation strike called by the 33-poll opposing parties, spearheaded by Mohan Baidya’s CPN-M.

But while hundreds continue to take dangerous bus rides home amidst acts of terror, there are many in the capital who have opted not to partake in elections this time. Most of them are daily-wage earners who say they are

voter cards,” say both friends.

Prakash Shahi, 23, of Dang has never voted in his life. And he never felt the urge to register for the new voter’s ID. “The politics of this country has left me frustrated. I feel like it won’t matter who I vote for. They are all the same,” he explains.

Sita Lama and Ramila Thakuri of Kabhre make a living running a small roadside shop in Jawalakhel. Like the rest of the nation, election fever has gripped the two. Both are eager to reach their village on time for polls, but are clueless as to how to get there during the strike. “There are very few buses plying on the road and those that are, are being targeted by bombs. Although we want to vote, we don’t want to risk our lives,” they say.

For the past 30 years, Indra Bahadur Maharjan of Siddhipur has been working as a gardener in Tribhuvan University. The 62-year-old is not a keen follower of politics and says he is undecided as to who to vote for. “On the day of election, I will get up early, go to my polling booth, look at the list of candidates, and whoever I like best at that moment, I will cast my vote for them,” he says.

Sixty-one-year old Mankumari Thapa of Kusunti, Lalitpur has been a footpath vendor for the past 29 years. Thapa has witnessed tremendous transformations in her neighbourhood, city, and country, but no matter which party is in power, her condition has remained the same. “Nobody seems to care about the poor, those on the footpath always seem to stay there,” she laments. “My vote will go to the candidate who genuinely cares for poor Nepalis.” Although she is bitter about political leaders, she still manages to muster some enthusiasm for the upcoming polls: “Let’s see what happens this time.”

It has been 20 years since Ganga Dhakal of Dolakha first moved to Kathmandu. Since then she has been living in a rented apartment with her family. The money that she makes selling nanglos is just enough to pay rent. Although Dhakal would love nothing better than to make use of her vote, she cannot afford the Rs 500 bus ticket to her hometown and won’t get to exercise her democratic right.



not opposing the elections, but are simply not in the mood to cast ballots. Some say their dissatisfaction with the previous CA to draft a constitution is the cause for their disinterest, while others don’t want to take risks during the strikes and bear the extra expense of travelling back home to vote.

Twenty-year olds Krishna Rana and Purna Pariyar of Surkhet came to Kathmandu two years ago in search of work. The two earn just enough to make ends meet and are now looking to migrate abroad for employment. Even though many of their friends from their village have returned home to vote, Rana and Pariyar are staying back. “We didn’t want to vote, that’s why we didn’t even bother registering for our



# Shaktikhor, v2.0

Leaked audio tape of UCPN (M) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal speaking to Maoist cadres in Kirtipur in his Kathmandu-10 constituency before elections, *YouTube*, 17 November

YouTube

... we are taking part in elections for the same objective, therefore, we are still in battle and we must win this war at any cost. I had raised this issue fervently with the central committee and the extended plenum had come to a unanimous conclusion that we simply have no option of losing. If we lose, it will be a great calamity. Everything will be ruined. We must win at any rate.

We are still at war comrades. We must win this election battle. Forget about individual candidates, we as a party must win, otherwise we will be destroyed. That is why I repeat to you again: forget everything else, until 19 November let’s focus only on winning. Money, might, retribution, whatever it takes, we must win. Those of you in leadership positions, please take note.

Some idealists among you might ask, does winning at any cost mean buying votes? Yes, if there is money use it to win.

I have said it earlier as well. Other parties, they slaughter bulls, distribute alcohol, hand out money or motorcycles. If we can, we will capture [land] and tell the people this is yours.

If we get fewer votes in Kathmandu-10 this year, it will not be good. Reactionaries in and outside of the country will compare our numbers with 2008 and the message it will send them is that the popularity and stature of the Maoist party and its leaders have declined.

Baburam Bhattarai won 46,000 votes from Gorkha-2 in 2008, the highest number by any candidate. After the introduction of voters list with photos, there are not even 40,000 voters in the whole of Nepal. That is why he is running from Gorkha-1 this year. Why reduce the numbers in the old constituency, rather we will increase numbers in the new constituency.

So I appeal to you once again. Money, might, retribution whatever it takes, let’s win the election. Thank you.

nepalitimes.com

Listen to the complete speech



smart  
paani

"Conserve every drop"

- Rain Water Harvesting System
- BioSand Filter
- Grey Water Recycling
- Waste Water Treatment System



ONE PLANET  
SOLUTION

**SmartPaani Pvt. Ltd.**  
GPO Box 13989, Campus Marg, Chakupat  
Patan Dokha, Lalitpur, Nepal  
+977-1-5261530, 5260506  
info@oneplanetsolution.com  
www.smartpaani.com  
For inquiry please SMS us through TYPE  
'SMARTPAANI<space> & YOUR NAME;  
Send to 5002



# Nepal 1, Baidya 0

Bidhan Shrestha, *Ratopati.com*,  
Bidhan Shrestha, 20 November

रातोपाटी

As tens of thousands of Nepalis lined up to vote at polling booths across the country on Tuesday, the Mohan Baidya-led CPN-M's attempt to foil elections turned out to be a major failure. From organising strikes to resorting to violence, the party did everything in its power to obstruct elections in the run up to D-day. Their strategy backfired. Except for a centre at Thawang in Rolpa, almost all places registered record high turnout. Young Nepalis, most of them first-time voters, seemed particularly excited about elections and were posting photos on Facebook and other social networking sites throughout the day.

Years of political bickering have dragged Nepal down and election was the best available option to give the

country a fresh start. However, Baidya and his comrades overlooked people's aspirations for a prosperous and peaceful Nepal and tried to force their violent ideologies. It is now abundantly clear that the dash-Maoists are out of touch with public sentiment and the party now faces an uncertain future in national politics as it contemplates ways to reach out to the people after all the anti-election drama. CPN-M leader Netra Bikram Chand had a tough time during an interview yesterday when the host asked him why his party was unsuccessful in its plans to prevent elections.

The only way the dash Maoists can resurrect their tarnished image is by reuniting with the UCPN (M) and returning to mainstream politics. It is time Baidya and his men accept defeat, apologise to the Nepali people for their mistakes, and join hands with all the parties to work for a better Nepal.



Box: Elections

कान्तिपुर Batsyayan, *Kantipur*, 17 November

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ There has been fraud in vote counting. Our representatives have been isolated. We won’t say we’ll boycott the Constituent Assembly, but if the EC does not restart the counting from scratch, we will be forced to return to the 12-point agreement and attempt to go for political consensus. ”



UCPN(M) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal talking to journalists after his loss in Kathmandu-10, Nepal Television, 21 November.



FRACTURED NEPAL

New York Times, 6 November

The principal disagreements among the parties are whether to adopt the American, French or British governance models and how to split the country into states.

The Cashists want an executive presidency similar to that in the United States, although none would admit to copying the United States since, well, they are Maoists. The Marxist-Leninists want a French system with shared power between a president and prime minister, but they, too, denied any hint of foreign influence.

Whether the parties will reconcile these divergent visions in the next Constituent Assembly after failing to do so in the last is anybody's guess. In multiple interviews, Nepalis expressed a mixture of hope and despair about their future.

HIMALAYAN CHAOS

The Financial Times, 7 November

The apathy is palpable. Yet the November 19 election for a new Constituent Assembly is seen by Nepalis and foreigners alike as the only sensible way forward after the traumas of civil war, the murder of the royal family which led to the abolition of the monarchy and the failure of the previous assembly to write a new constitution after 2008.

NEPAL IS THE BEST

The Express Tribune, 14 November

Bitter political differences, pre-poll violence, lack of consensus over just what and how the political system of the country should be — that is the impression you would get if you were to follow the news from Kathmandu ahead



BIKRAM RAI

of the elections next week. These are the second elections for a constituent assembly, after the previous constituent assembly could not finalise a new constitution for Nepal after four years of deliberations. The picture may look grim.

But take a long view and you will be amazed by Nepal. My Nepali friend, Prashant Jha, says that Nepal has gone from war to peace, monarchy to republic, theocratic to secular state, a monolithic hill-centric nationalism to inclusive citizenship, and possibly, from unitary to federal state. In fact, it is mainly the issue of federalism that remains to be resolved.

RETURN OF MONARCHY

The Hindustan Times, 15 November

But restoration of monarchy and the world's only Hindu nation tag are issues that still resonate among voters as the country heads for another constituent assembly election next week. Most believe nothing of that sort will happen, but pro-monarchist Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal hopes to win seats by rooting for these two issues. In its manifesto RPP-N proposes constitutional monarchy and naming of Nepal as Hindu state with equal respect for all religions.

# In the eyes of the beholder

Snippets from the foreign press on Nepal's 19 November elections

DISILLUSIONMENT IN SPOTLIGHT

The Washington Post, 17 November

Nepalis go to the polls Tuesday to choose a special assembly to write a new constitution and try to end a period of political drift. But many here fear that no single party will get a clear majority and that the deadlock will last for years to come.

As they did in the last election, the Maoists have cast themselves as the party of the poor and insist they can fix the country if they win a clear majority.

In an interview at his residence, Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who goes by the nom de guerre Prachanda, said his party fought hard for the little political change that has taken place in the country, and that is why it should win a clear margin this time.

PRESS RELEASE FROM

THE INDIAN EMBASSY,


19 November

The successful conduct of free and fair elections today in Nepal for the Constituent Assembly-cum-Parliament is an important step towards realising Nepal's goal of a democratic and prosperous future. The people of Nepal, political parties, Government and security forces and the Election Commission of Nepal deserve to be congratulated for this achievement. The impressive turnout reflects the faith that the people of Nepal have reposed in the democratic process.

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)


Read the complete articles

**FREE WI-FI ZONE**  
Visa & Master card accepted



Subarna Shamsher Marg,  
Gairidhara, Kathmandu  
Tel: 01-4429207  
[alicegairidhara@gmail.com](mailto:alicegairidhara@gmail.com)

Blackstone Supermarket  
Way to Bala Water  
Sanku International College  
Gairidhara Chowk  
Police Head Quarter  
Lainchaur



**WELCOME TO A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY HOME IN THAILAND**



**'Baan Aarami' on Ko Samui Island Sleeps up to six, all modern facilities.**  
**Rate US \$ 80 per night**

For more information  
contact: Robin or Wendy Marston  
e-mail: [marston@wlink.com.np](mailto:marston@wlink.com.np)

**Mahindra XUV 500**

**MANY WILL OWN IT.  
FEW WILL TAME IT.**

THE CHEETAH INSPIRED MAHINDRA XUV 500



TECHNOLOGY.  
AT ITS LUXURIOUS BEST.

GOOD MUSIC-GREAT DRIVE.

LEATHER WRAPPED LOUNGE.

ELEGANCE IN FORM.  
ELEGANCE IN FUNCTION.

ONE PART SANCTUARY.  
ONE PART FORTRESS.

**Mahindra Rise.**



Agni Incorporated Pvt. Ltd.

Uttardhoka, Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel : 4414626, 4414628, 9801085500, 9802095500, Fax : 4416718, Email : [marketing@agniinc.com.np](mailto:marketing@agniinc.com.np), URL : [www.agniinc.com.np](http://www.agniinc.com.np)

Branch : Birgunj, Tel : 051-521456, Workshop : Balaju Industrial Area, Tel : 4350994, Spare Parts Outlet : Kuleshwor, Tel : 4277140,  
Authorized Service Centre : Balkhu : 4277864, Jorpati-5 : 4910533, Balkumari : 5520460,  
Authorized Dealers: Dhangadhi : 091-522058, Nepalgunj : 081-551599, Pokhara : 061-532468, Bhairahawa : 071-522929, Dang : 082-560278, Dharan : 025-520397, Rajbiraj : 031-522666,  
Surkhet : 9857830462, Jumla : 087-520151, Birtamod : 023-541114, Butwal : 071-541433, Biratnagar : 021-461178, Banepa : 011-664302, Chitwan : 056-522168, Janakpur : 041-528881,  
Kanchanpur : 099-520854, Sindhuli : 047-520094







Love is love, no matter  
what the color



roÿale **PLAY** | Love thy Color

For more information email to: [royal.play@asianpaints.com.np](mailto:royal.play@asianpaints.com.np)



# Donkey votes for Monkey

Good thing E-Day has come and gone and as far as we know, no one voted for Pressure Cooker. When some political anal-yeasts described Kiran Kaka’s election disruption campaign as ‘suicidal’, they may not have meant it in the way it turned out for two ex-gorillas in Baneshwor on Monday. They nearly ended up being martyrs on a fast track to the workers’ paradise as a pressure cooker they were transporting went off prematurely. Other party faithful from across the political spectrum endured broken limbs, third degree burns, fractured skulls, perforated abdomen, and dislocated hips, which is why we can proudly proclaim that this election has fulfilled the minimum threshold necessary to be declared a Fair and Lovely Category 5 Election. Wonder if observationists who were here last time also noticed that the number of voters in BRB’s constituencies this time is less than the number of votes he got in 2008.

ॐ

Nepal’s immigration people classify all foreigners entering Nepal as ‘tourists’ which is why our visitor numbers have been soaring as Kathmandu becomes the workshop and seminar hub of South Asia. But with 70,000 election observers fanning out across the country, some of them farangs, Nepal now has the highest per capita number of election observatories compared to any of the other countries having elections now, viz: Chile, Maldives, and Delhi. This year, there was so much observation going on that it boosted the tourism industry, keeping hotels packed and domestic airlines busy. In fact, the inflow from election observers more than compensated for the last minute



cancellations by tour groups because of fears of violence. Nepal’s tourist arrival figures will see a spike in 2013 and we may even hit the magic 1 million mark in 2014 if we can squeeze in local elections.

ॐ

No single nation on earth can beat Nepalis in acronyms and some of them belong to the nearly 6,000 domestic non-gubernatorial organisations involved in the act of observing election observers. As is customary in Nepal, even the election monitoring group NEOF has bifurcated into Revolutionary and Non-revolutionary factions. Then there is DEAN and NEMA, which are fairly wholesome acronyms compared with the more x-rated orgs like INSECT, HERPES, FUCKOFUN, FEDUP, and even NASTI.

ॐ

Nepal’s election exercise has been met with overwhelming support from



friendly countries around the world. While the Indians donated 180 jeeps and pickups as well as loaned us two ALH choppers, the Chinese gave us paper clips, erasers, and mouse pads. Many of you on Tuesday must have noticed inside the voting booths the multifunction pads came from the Tiang Xian company of the People’s Republic of China which has even thoughtfully left its email address attached to the pad ([shuli58@163.com](mailto:shuli58@163.com)) just in case we need to hold another election soon. The Koreans sent a planeload of indelible ink which doesn’t seem to have deterred some polling centre officials from adulterating them with tap water.

ॐ

One suggestion to the EC for the next time round, please also spell out the names of the parties besides their symbols. Not everyone in Nepal is illiterate, you know. It wasn’t just the Ass who was

flummoxed by the pink and blue ballot papers on Thursday which was a toss-up between Duck and Monkey. And now it can be disclosed in the strictest confidence and off the record that the Donkey voted for Monkey.

Just to be safe and in order to keep both sides happy, a lot of Nepalis voted for the extreme-left and the extreme-right so that politics will be a half-way compromise between dai and gai. It was cow in the PR and hammer and sickle in the FPTP. Some cash voters seemed so confused, one was overhead asking party mentors outside: “Do I put my stamp on hammer or sickle?” Interesting that while most other parties have to make do with symbols of domesticated wildlife and astronomical bodies, the Cash is the only party whose election symbol is the same as its party logo. Remember, they threatened to boycott elections in 2008 unless they got hammer and sickle as the election symbol?

ॐ

Cow boy Kamal Thapa seems to have finally realised that being for both Hindu state and restoration of monarchy may have just cost him a better showing that he got. Jettisoning monarchy from his manifesto would have made him even more popular, but give him credit for sticking to his principles and calling for Sri Ek Maharajadhiraj to be reinstated on the throne when he knew full well how this would bomb at the box office.

The Ass





With your miles, you can  
**now fly further**  
in a bigger world.

Qatar Airways - Proud member of oneworld

[qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com)  
World’s 5-star airline.

