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# Water torture



**H**ard on the heels of the landslide disaster on the Bhote Kosi on 2 August that claimed 145 lives, Nepal's mid-western mountains and plains suffered catastrophic flooding never seen before in the region. A monsoon cloudburst dumped over 500 mm of rain overnight on 14 August, unleashing flashfloods in the Surkhet and Dang Valleys, and the Babai and Rapti Rivers washing away settlements, bridges and highways. Many of the survivors lost family members, their homes and all their possessions. Sauni Tharu, 17, in Bardiya escaped with her 14-day baby daughter when the

Babai washed away her home. She has been surviving by the East-West Highway in a tent for the past week (*pic. above*).

Late-planted paddy fields across the mid-West have been destroyed. The government appears to have underestimated the scale of the disaster: with more than 100 killed, hundreds more missing, 30,000 homeless and up to 250,000 people affected. Now, disease stalks survivors in the affected region.

**IN AN  
UNRESPONSIVE  
STATE**  
HERE WE GO  
BY **TRISHNA RANA**  
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**FEDERAL  
EXPRESS**

## RECKLESS FEDERIFICATION

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BY **DAVID SEDDON**

## INCLUSION BY ANOTHER NAME

## BY THE WAY

PAGE 16

## FEDERAL FUNDAMENTALISM

BY **BIHARI K SHRESTHA**

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TARAGAON  
MUSEUM

Kathmandu's newest  
archive of the not-so-old

PAGE 7

# CONQUERING THE WORLD

## Nepali mountain guides talk about their ascent of K2

PAGE 10-11





# RECKLESS FEDERIFICATION

Nine months after the second CA was conceived leading to a phantom pregnancy, and six years after a barren first CA, things seem to be finally moving on the draft of the new constitution. We don't know what is causing this sudden progress, and if it is outside pressure, we don't want to know.

An informal summit of the top leaders of the three main parties (NC, UML and UCPN:M) that met on 10 August was itself a step forward. In fact, it was the first time since the November elections that the top leaders had even found time to meet to discuss the draft of a new constitution.

And they didn't just meet over tea and biscuits, they actually agreed to agree, taking 'decisive action to move forward on the constitution draft based on the decisions of the previous CA'. We are so desperate for good news on the constitution that we grasp at straws, and some hailed the meeting as a 'breakthrough'. That would be overdoing the optimism.

Still, there now seems to be an effort to create the right political atmosphere to take the document forward. Of the five committees set up to discuss various aspects of the draft, the Dialogue Committee chaired by ideologue of the Maoist party, Baburam Bhattarai, seems to be the most active. That is because the other committees need to have an idea of how far there is a consensus on the points of disagreement before they can sit down.

And the Dialogue Committee does what all committees do when they come up with an intractable problem: they set up a sub-committee. Many of the contentious issues are so substantial that they need intervention and agreement at the highest political level.

The CA has been working backwards from its self-imposed deadline of 22 January 2015, and the Dialogue Committee needs to come up with a broad agreement by early September. This is why the politicians decided to get cracking.

It doesn't take a Nobel laureate to see that Nepal is lop-sided and top-heavy in favour of dominant caste and ethnicities.



The job isn't easy because the distance between the various parties on state restructuring and form of governance is as wide as ever. You know when senior politicians start thumping their chests in the media that they are trying to improve their bargaining positions in close-door negotiations. Pushpa Kamal Dahal is characteristically playing to both

audiences by warning there will be no constitution if the NC and UML do not go along with his ethnicity-based federal model, and then saying his party was willing to be flexible on that issue.

One of the reasons the last CA lapsed, by the way, was precisely because Baburam Bhattarai abandoned an agreement on an 11-province federal model with mixed system of government that his party itself had proposed. It is now also accepted that for geopolitical reasons our neighbours were not so hot on ethnic enclaves on their borders. This time, there seems to be a broad consensus among the neighbours - and through them, in the international community - that the priority is a constitution that ensures stability. Politicians are also under pressure from public opinion to do it right this time.

This time, things are also diametrically different because the November elections showed that the public mood is against the formation of ethnic bantustans. As Bihari Krishna Shrestha and David Seddon argue in this issue (page 16-17), inclusion can be addressed without resorting to divisive and impractical federalisation.

To be sure, the monopoly on power by a centralised and self-perpetuating ruling class must be addressed not just as a matter of equity, but also to ensure future peace in this country. It doesn't take a Nobel laureate to see that Nepal is lop-sided and top-heavy in favour of dominant caste and ethnicities. A new inclusive and democratic constitution must level that tilted playing field.

Ironically, it is good news that the real reason there hasn't been faster progress on the constitution is because the political parties are too busy with intra- and inter-party feuds. It means there is reason to hope that they may realise the dangers of reckless federification.

As long as we keep egos, ambition and petty politics out of constitution-writing, we should be fine.

## YOUR SAY

www.nepalitimes.com

### EVERGREEN REVOLUTION

This is nothing new ('An Evergreen Revolution,' Editorial, #720). The centre has always neglected the periphery. Kathmandu has never been concerned about marginalised Nepalis, those living in remote districts, the poor, women. Small farmers are triply discriminated against because they are poor, small and live in remote areas. The new constitution is an opportunity to change all that, redefine what is important and reset priorities.

Gyan

Well-researched and thought provoking piece. Part of the problem is the media, when it does write about agriculture, it is mainly concentrated on commercial cash-crop farming. Everyone leaves the poor small farmer alone, including the government, even though much of Nepal's food production comes from small holdings. Poverty is a result of state neglect of family farms. Thanks for turning the spotlight on this.

Dave

### SUDDEN DEATH

No point blaming the Qataris, they are exploiting the desperation of Nepalis for jobs ('Sudden deaths', Pete Pattison, #720). And the first people to cheat the Nepalis are fellow-Nepalis themselves. This international spotlight on Abu Dhabi and Qatar lets the Nepal government and its immigration, security, and manpower agencies off the hook. We Nepalis are once more pawns in a western conspiracy to take the world cup away from Qatar. If that happens, where will us Nepalis in

Doha go to work?

Uday Lama

Very sad ordeals of Nepali migrant workers who are poorly paid and badly treated. There are three main causes for this: 1) Narrow minded politicking of labor unions in Nepal, causing closedown of factories and loss of jobs 2) Manpower agencies that seem to be above the laws of Nepal 3) Corrupt government officials in Nepal.

Tashi Lama

The symptom is the mistreatment of Nepali workers in the Gulf. The disease is in Nepal: lack of employment, exploitative recruiters, and a rent-seeking failed state.

G Petersen

The only thing worse than the deaths and pay of the migrant workers is the silence maintained by the world community over the issue despite the problem being out in the open. None of the stakeholders have taken responsibility for the deaths. While all the hype over the world cup is focused on how the players will fare in the hot, extreme climatic condition of a Qatar summer, it's time to take stock of the migrant workforce working there in the same conditions too. Qatar and FIFA should go for overall labour reforms guaranteeing living wages and the right to collective bargaining for workers.

Anil Karki

What is missing from these arguments is the number of go-between contractors, brokers who entice the innocent people to the scorching heat of the Middle East, paying peanuts.

Whatever



### FLOODS

All across Nepal: landslides, death and destruction ('Landslide survivors struggle to survive the aftermath,' Naresh Newar, #720). Millions have been spent on disaster preparedness - so where is the result?

DS

As a resident of Lamosangu, let me request the do-gooders in Kathmandu not to send any more second-hand clothing and food. The godowns are full, and there is nowhere to put them. Also, the victims and families don't need clothes; they need cash to rebuild their homes. They need the government to give them land and help to restart their lives. Send the food to Dang and Surkhet.

VJ

Hope Sabita Gharti and others will recover from all the trauma she's going through. God bless her.

Priti Gurung

A lot of Nepalis from Kathmandu and nearby towns have been visiting Sindhupalchok with tons of food supplies, clothes, medicines and milk products ('Adrift', Damakant Jayshi, #720). I was there and it was great to see that people were helping out in large numbers.

Nash

Why blame the leaders? Their behavior is reflective of our society in general. I don't see massive relief fund drives on street corners. My friends in the US have started better relief collection efforts. WHY? Because there is a collective social responsibility which is part of the general ecosystem in the west.

N

### EBOLA

I would be concerned if there was a mass evacuation of Nepalis from African countries ('Ebola', Dhanvantari, #720). Also, where are our UN Peacekeeping forces currently? Even one soldier who has the virus may cause havoc back home where we are so under-prepared to handle disasters.

Namah

Better safe than sorry.

Gandi Cheong

### ASS

The one who wrote this is a gem of a manhole ('Upholding Nepali manhood,' Ass, #720).

Alok Jaiswal

'This column proves we can get away with writing rubbish.' Truer words have never been spoken.

Alonsoftw

## Times WHAT'S TRENDING



**Most liked on Facebook**  
Devotees throng the Krishna Temple in Patan Durbar Square on Krishna Janmashtami on Sunday.

**Most shared on Facebook**  
Landslide survivors struggle to survive the aftermath by Naresh Newar

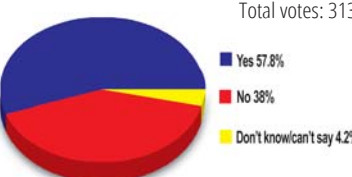
**Most popular on Twitter**  
Sudden death by Pete Pattison

**Most visited online page**  
Calling home Sunir Pandey

## Times nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll #721

Q. Will the UCPN(M) infighting affect constitution writing?



Weekly Internet Poll #722  
To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Which should not be compromised?







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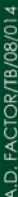
What comes first, crime or politics? Both.

raise funds by the tedious means of calling people up, asking for donations and hoping they give it to you without being forced, or by using generally accepted shortcuts to siphon money from the national treasury.

If you are a small-time politician, you try to earn extra by fibbing on your receipts. You hope that over the course of your tenure, you get to accumulate a fortune. If you are a medium-to-high-level politician, you ask the government for huge sums of money so that you can go to foreign countries for medical treatment. Again, do you need to submit your receipts? Who's to tell you?

But what if you are a national-level senior politician who has aspirations to head the government someday? You may exude gravitas, but you need the money too. You quietly outsource all the unsavory aspects of your


To be fair, the netas do have a point: Whatever one thought of the dead crook, he did not deserve to be chased down and shot. An investigation should be launched to bring out the truth behind what really happened in the encounter.



But the public is not buying the politicians' fury. If you care so much about rights, they ask, where were you when a girl was raped in a bus in Nepalganj recently? Where's your concern for the Bhote Kosi survivors who are still fending for themselves, three weeks after the landslide?

fund-raising work to supporters who are known criminals. You provide them with protection so that they don't have to worry about the law enforcement authorities. On the other side of this equation is Nepal's positive social progress and anemic economic growth: With millions of healthy young people reaching working age (without dying early due to diarrhoea, cholera, etc), and then not finding gainful employment in Nepal, some of them turn to crime to sustain themselves.

Unaccountable politicians who need money for their parties and young men who can loot, rob and extort thus become familiar bedfellows in our colourful political landscape. When one dies, the other feels hurt. How to change this arrangement? There is no easy answer and the ones that come up have a chicken-or-egg problem.

Still, continuous yet strategic campaigns by independent civil society institutions for good governance, and an enabling environment for private sector companies to be born, grow and create jobs and bigger tax base remain two ways through which the state can provide political accountability to all. 

Meanwhile, the cost of doing party-politics in all the 75 districts is getting costlier and costlier. Every party needs big money to get going. They either

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#### A. विशेष समुह

##### १. सोलोफ्ट आवाज पुरुष

- अजर जगम  
जिन्दगीले हिसाब...  
जिन्दगीले हिसाब माछु, म्यानथाउन  
म्यूजिक
- प्रमोद खरेल  
सागरलाई...
- रामकृष्ण डकाल  
बाँचुन्जेल / रानी म्यूजिक
- सत्यराज आचार्य  
साँघो पन्यो
- सुमनकुमार श्रेष्ठ  
बालको कनम

यस विधामा अजर जगमलाई मत प्रदान गर्ने 1a, प्रमोद खरेललाई 1b, रामकृष्ण डकाललाई 1c, सत्यराज आचार्यलाई 1d र सुमनकुमार श्रेष्ठलाई 1e टाउप गरि 7879 मा send गर्नुहोला ।

##### २. सोलोफ्ट आवाज महिला

- अञ्जु पन्त  
खुशी मागे...  
समीर / सुरभा गीत संगीत
- दुर्गा खरेल  
धर यो ज्ञान  
सिंगल ट्यूबक रिलिज
- इन्दिरा जोशी  
जाऊँ कि नजाउँ  
सिंगल ट्यूबक रिलिज
- निशा देवार  
अनियन
- रिमा गुरुङ होडा  
माइ बडैन् / विद्यवासिनी म्यूजिक

यस विधामा अञ्जु पन्तलाई मत प्रदान गर्ने 2a, दुर्गा खरेललाई 2b, इन्दिरा जोशीलाई 2c, निशा देवारलाई 2d र रिमा गुरुङ होडालाई 2e टाउप गरि 7879 मा send गर्नुहोला ।

##### ३. सोलोफ्ट आवाज पुरुष

- बाबिन प्रधान  
सम्भन्गमा...  
सिंगल ट्यूबक रिलिज
- विश्व नेपाली  
विवाहलाई...
- धर्मेश सेवान  
माइ बडैन् / विद्यवासिनी म्यूजिक
- कलम खत्री  
सिंगल ट्यूबक रिलिज
- सुगम पोखरेल  
टुकोको मुटु

यस विधामा बाबिन प्रधानलाई मत प्रदान गर्ने 3a, विश्व नेपालीलाई 3b, धर्मेश सेवानलाई 3c, कलम खत्रीलाई 3d र सुगम पोखरेललाई 3e टाउप गरि 7879 मा send गर्नुहोला ।

##### ४. सोलोफ्ट आवाज पुरुष

- बुन राई मानन्धर  
म त सानी...
- सिने गुरुङ  
सानी सानी / सिनेल कियशन
- सहिमा श्रेष्ठ  
माया माया नै र / म्यानथाउन म्यूजिक
- सरीता प्रजापति  
मस्ती / बीणा म्यूजिक
- सुमी फामिङ राई  
हिउँ हरे...

यस विधामा बुन राई मानन्धरलाई मत प्रदान गर्ने 4a, सिने गुरुङलाई 4b, सहिता श्रेष्ठलाई 4c, सरीता प्रजापतिलाई 4d र सुमी फामिङ राईलाई 4e टाउप गरि 7879 मा send गर्नुहोला ।

##### ५. सोलोफ्ट आवाज महिला

- खम्वेत शाही  
मनरुला...
- ममिन शाक्य  
प्रतिबिम्ब / 12<sup>th</sup> notes
- निकिता थापा  
आवा रातमा...
- प्रवीण राई  
सिंगल ट्यूबक रिलिज
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...

यस विधामा खम्वेत शाहीलाई मत प्रदान गर्ने 5a, ममिन शाक्यलाई 5b, निकिता थापालाई 5c, प्रवीण राईलाई 5d र विवाहलाई 5e टाउप गरि 7879 मा send गर्नुहोला ।

##### ६. सोलोफ्ट आवाज महिला

- अमन प्रधान  
अस्ता अधिका...
- प्रवीण राई  
सिंगल ट्यूबक रिलिज
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...

यस विधामा अमन प्रधानलाई मत प्रदान गर्ने 6a, प्रवीण राईलाई 6b, विवाहलाई 6c, विवाहलाई 6d र विवाहलाई 6e टाउप गरि 7879 मा send गर्नुहोला ।

##### ७. सोलोफ्ट आवाज महिला

- अमन प्रधान  
अस्ता अधिका...
- प्रवीण राई  
सिंगल ट्यूबक रिलिज
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...

यस विधामा अमन प्रधानलाई मत प्रदान गर्ने 7a, प्रवीण राईलाई 7b, विवाहलाई 7c, विवाहलाई 7d र विवाहलाई 7e टाउप गरि 7879 मा send गर्नुहोला ।

##### ८. सोलोफ्ट आवाज महिला

- अमन प्रधान  
अस्ता अधिका...
- प्रवीण राई  
सिंगल ट्यूबक रिलिज
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...

यस विधामा अमन प्रधानलाई मत प्रदान गर्ने 8a, प्रवीण राईलाई 8b, विवाहलाई 8c, विवाहलाई 8d र विवाहलाई 8e टाउप गरि 7879 मा send गर्नुहोला ।

##### ९. सोलोफ्ट आवाज महिला

- अमन प्रधान  
अस्ता अधिका...
- प्रवीण राई  
सिंगल ट्यूबक रिलिज
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...
- विवाहलाई...  
म त सानी...

- विजेतर तपुङ्कर  
टुकोको मुटु...
- किष्ण कडेल  
कमल खत्री
- महाराज थापा  
साँघो पन्यो
- सुनील कर्माचार्य  
मेरो जीवन

यस विधामा अमन प्रधानलाई मत प्रदान गर्ने 9a, विजेतर तपुङ्करलाई 9b, किष्ण कडेललाई 9c, महाराज थापालाई 9d र सुनील कर्माचार्यलाई 9e टाउप गरि 7879 मा send गर्नुहोला ।

##### १०. सोलोफ्ट आवाज महिला

- फिरोज बजाज  
जीवन पढ्ने
- किष्ण कडेल  
साँघो पन्यो
- मिर्छ लामा  
साँघो पन्यो
- रमेश तपुङ्कर  
साँघो पन्यो
- सुनील कर्माचार्य  
मेरो जीवन

यस विधामा फिरोज बजाजलाई मत प्रदान गर्ने 10a, किष्ण कडेललाई 10b, मिर्छ लामालाई 10c, रमेश तपुङ्करलाई 10d र सुनील कर्माचार्यलाई 10e टाउप गरि 7879 मा send गर्नुहोला ।

##### ११. सोलोफ्ट आवाज महिला

- बाँचुन्जेल  
रामकृष्ण डकाल / रानी म्यूजिक
- दर्शन नमस्ते र  
रामकृष्ण डकाल / रानी म्यूजिक
- ज





PRAKASH TIMLSENA

# Expanding air links

The tourism industry is cautiously optimistic about the launch of a new joint venture private international airline, and a new domestic airline in Nepal.

Himalaya Airlines is a joint venture between Tibet Airlines of China and Nepali investors that include HIF Aviation Investment and Yeti Air International. At a signing ceremony on Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency, Himalaya Airlines announced it will start operations with Kathmandu to Lhasa and Chengdu flights on 28 October.

The company is acquiring two Airbus 319 Series 2 aircraft and has options for three more Airbus 320s as its network expands to

points in India, the Gulf and Hong Kong. The airline said it is also eyeing direct flights through wide body aircraft to Europe by next year if demand picks up.

“You may ask what a banker is doing investing in an airline,” Prithvi Bahadur Pande of HIF Aviation said at the ceremony, “but we have realised the vast untapped potential for tourism and aviation in Nepal.” Cheng Yiru of Tibet Airlines said his company specialised in ultra-high altitude operations on the Plateau and said it made strong business sense for the tourism development of Tibet to partner with a Nepali company. “The joint venture will build on the age-old trans-Himalaya connection between Nepal and

**VENTURING JOINTLY:** At the signing ceremony of Himalaya Airlines on 18 August are (from l to r) Vijay Shrestha of Yeti Air International, Chinese Ambassador Wu Chuntai, Prithvi Bahadur Pande of HIF Aviation and Cheng Yiru of Tibet Airlines.

China,” he added.

Chinese Ambassador Wu Chun Tai stressed that this was a business-to-business joint venture, adding that it would further enhance Nepal-China cooperation in investment, trade and tourism. “Just as the Himalaya is a monument linking Nepal and China, Himalaya Airlines marks a new monument in economic cooperation between the two countries,” he added.



## Domestic jet service

Meanwhile, Surya Airlines is starting domestic operations with Bombardier CRJ 200 jets that will cut current turboprop flight time to and from Kathmandu on trunk city routes nearly half. Surya's first 50-seater Bombardier CRJ landed in Kathmandu on Monday and will be connecting Kathmandu and Dhangadi, Nepalganj, Bhairawa, Biratnagar and Bhadrapur. The airline says it is adding another CRJ200 next year. The airline was launched with overseas Nepali investment, and former pilots of Buddha Air and Yeti.

### EVEREST BANK BIZ BRIEFS

#### Colourful offer

Berger Paints has announced their festive season offer 'Dhumdham Sanga Griha Prawesh'. Berger will provide colour consultation to customers who register for the campaign, free of charge.



#### Ncell Opera

In its first partnership in Nepal, Opera Software has joined hands with telecommunications company Ncell. Ncell will now offer a co-branded version of the Opera Mini web browser to its subscribers.

#### Reaching out

Bank of Kathmandu donated Rs 533,000 to Sunkosi landslide victims. The amount was collected from the staff and the organisation's fund.



#### New netbooks

Colors recently launched a new series of netbook premium tablets-XT751 and XT721. Both the netbooks have Wifi bluetooth proximity, accelerator, light sensor, G-sensor, Compass sensor, WAP/ EDGE/ GPRS/GPS, music player and video player.

#### Xcent out

Laxmi InterContinental, the sole distributor of Hyundai vehicles for Nepal launched its premium compact sedan Hyundai Xcent on 19 August. Ganesh Shrestha, chairman of Laxmi Group, said: “With this launch, we will further enhance our presence in the Nepali Auto Market.”



#### Discounted

Kunal Furnishing is offering upto 60 per cent off on select products as part of its Dashian special offer. This offer is valid for curtains, furnitures, sofa, flooring and other items.



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# In an unresponsive state

There is a danger resources meant for disaster relief will be spent on photo-ops for CA members in mid-western Nepal

At the behest of the UCPN (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, the CA has been adjourned for a week until Monday so as to allow lawmakers from disaster affected regions to return to their constituencies and



HERE WE GO  
Trishna Rana

help with rescue and relief efforts. From the landslide at Jure, Sindhupalchok earlier in the month to the devastating floods across the mid-western districts



TUFAN NEUPANE

**LUCKY TO BE ALIVE:** Indriya Tharu, 22, of Bardiya tends to her newborn son inside a roadside tent after escaping the flood on 14 August with her family. In Bardiya alone, 21 bodies have been found, 18 are missing and 14,000 people have been displaced.

of Surkhet, Bardiya, Banke, and Dang this week, August has been marred by tragedies. To make things worse, the state has been painfully slow in providing basic necessities to survivors and ensuring their safety. Even as families grieve the loss of their loved ones, thousands find themselves battling for survival: living on the roadsides in makeshift tents, with little to no food, among growing fear of cholera and other water borne diseases. For leaders who have insulated themselves from the average citizen, going back to the people who elected them will provide a much needed reality check. However, given our VIP culture, there is a real danger that resources and manpower meant for disaster relief could be channeled towards chaperoning CA members in the districts and the whole exercise might end up being just another photo-op. Also in the name of reaching out to victims in remote villages, senior party leaders might be tempted to charter helicopters at the expense of taxpayers like they did during their election campaigns last year. With five months remaining before the 22 January deadline to draft a new constitution, there is also a case to be made that the parliamentarians should have stayed in the capital and focused at the task at hand. They could have organised national donation drives from Kathmandu and pressurised the government to ease all bureaucratic hurdles so that authorities in the districts can do their jobs smoothly. Part of the delay in finishing the constitution arises from the fact that our CA and parliament are one and the same. In the absence of locally elected bodies, CA members also have to take on the role of being the sole representatives of their constituencies. But much of their misery is self-inflicted. Despite being the

second highest-paid government officials after ministers, parliamentarians have wasted precious time trying to arm-twist the government into providing Rs 50 million each as constituency grants and bickering over petty perks like personal laptops and internet connection. In June, the UCPN (M) along with other parties held the assembly hostage for nearly two weeks until their demands were fulfilled. Then the UML's extended general convention and party elections in July meant many of its parliamentarians simply excused themselves of their CA duties for weeks and the announcement of the budget also had to be delayed. This week, the UML created yet another distraction by embroiling in a meaningless argument over re-endorsing the president and vice president through the CA as stated in its seven-point deal with the NC. While the CA members are quick to stand up for their rights, fulfilling responsibilities does not come as easily to them. Even nine months after polls, it's a disgrace that the assembly is still 26 members short because the major parties are undecided on whom to nominate. Lawmakers are shamelessly ignoring the Supreme Court's order in May to fill the vacant posts within 15 days. Between three weeks of Dasain-Tihar-Chatth festivities in October and then the distractions of the two-day SAARC summit in Kathmandu in November, there really isn't much time left. And yet parties are still stuck in 'deliberation mode' over pivotal issues of forms of governance, number of states, electoral system, and establishment of a constitutional court. It's as though they want to stall the public until it's too late and we have no choice but to accept a document cobbled together through a 12th hour backroom deal like they tried in 2012. [@TrishnaRana1](#)



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माट्र-भटेनी सुपर स्टोरका नयाँ शाखाहरूमा पाल्नु मई हामीलाई  
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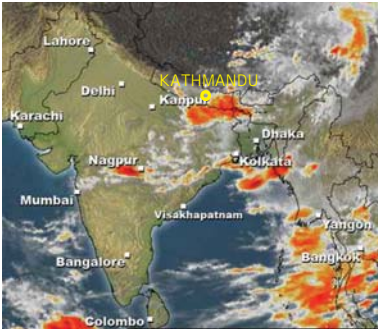
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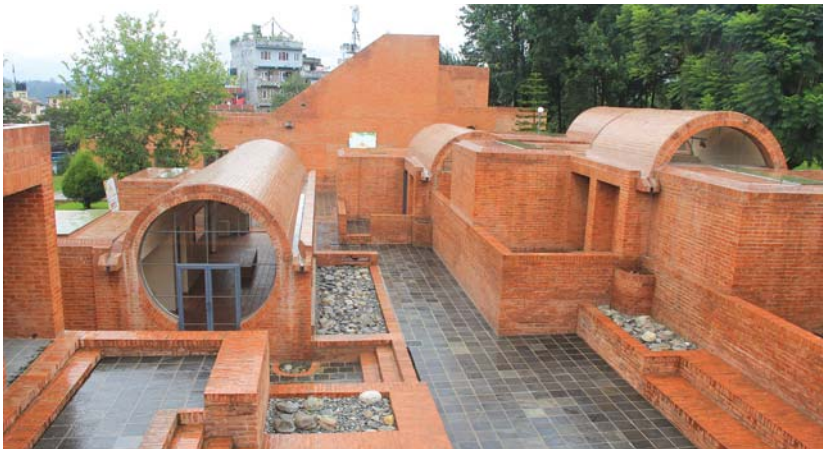


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DEVAKI BISTA

# Kathmandu's newest museum documents its recent past



ELVIN L SHRESTHA

Home to an ancient urban culture and an extraordinary concentration of elaborate monuments and temples, Kathmandu Valley's unique Malla-era architecture is a world heritage. But while most attention is rightly devoted to this, more recent buildings often escape the notice of preservationists.

The newly opened Taragaon Museum tries to correct that, and is devoted to the display and documentation of the valley's 19th and 20th century architectural heritage. The museum is itself housed in a restored modernist building built in the 1970s.

Located within the Hyatt Regency Hotel premises, the building was originally the Taragaon Hotel until it closed in the 1990s. It was designed 45 years ago by Austrian architect Carl Pruscha, who was also involved in Kathmandu's urban planning.

The Taragaon complex includes seven

unique arch vaulted brick buildings separated by brick-paved quadrangles. Before it was turned into the hotel, the complex served primarily as a hostel for foreign visitors, scientists and artists who were interested in the cultural wealth of the country and wanted to stay longer in the valley.

Arun Saraf, of The Saraf Foundation and owner of the property supported the museum's concept to document Nepali architecture since the 1960s, after Kathmandu opened up to the outside world. Pruscha was involved in the design of the annexe to the museum, and he was helped by his compatriot, Thomas Schrom who is currently involved in the restoration of the Patan Darbar.

Much of the former hotel has been tastefully adapted as a museum after extensive restoration, which included replacing small wooden windows with big steel-framed ones, changing the brick flooring, and fixing major leak problems.

Says manager Roshan Mishra: "The

first standout quality of the museum is the architecture and its distinct ambience." And one gets a sense of authentic Nepali architecture from the exterior, which deliberately uses red bricks and no cement plaster, yet the large windows and drum-like roofing are unmistakably modern.

"External influence of concrete architecture started to dominate new developments in the Kathmandu valley," says Pruscha, who worked with the National Planning Commission in the 1970s, "so it was my concern to remember that brick was and could further be the principle building material for the valley."

The museum focuses primarily on conserving and documenting the research undertaken by the wave of expatriate artists, architects, photographers, and scholars who have taken to Nepal since the late 1960s. The result is a remarkably rich collection that may surprise many, since most of the drawings and photographs on display are little known, and were formerly either stored abroad or in private collections.

Curated by the prolific architectural historian Niels Gutschow, the collection is much more than a compendium of drawings. It tells a story of the history of the valley by foreign eyes, suggesting that expatriates had an important role to play in the early documentation of Nepal. The museum has the digitised version of one of the very first modern city maps of the Valley by Erwin Schneider.

Apart from the three buildings that make up the permanent museum collection, there is the Bodhisattva Gallery with Newari art, the Pathivara Gallery displaying thangka paintings and a contemporary art gallery. "There is no other place that has three core galleries—all in one place—with such diversity", says Mishra. The museum also has a café and bar with free wi-fi.

9am to 5pm, Sunday to Friday  
Free entrance  
[museumdirect@taragaon.com](mailto:museumdirect@taragaon.com)  
[www.facebook.com/TheTaragaonMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/TheTaragaonMuseum)

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22 August to 21 September, 5.15pm, Mandala Theatre, Anamnagar, (01)4249761



Visual Artist Sujan Chitrakar will be talking  
about Mural Arts.  
*29 August, 4.30pm, Taragaon Museum,  
Boudha, (01)4481786*



Celebrate Teej and support Bihani Social Venture's Bazaar with music, food and laughter.  
*Rs 500, 23 August, 12.30 to 7.30 pm, Namlo Garden Restaurant, Pulchowk, 9851103087*

A presentation and discussion with  
Bina Sarkar about Nepali art history,  
publication, research and more.  
296 August, 5pm, Himalayan Bank  
Auditorium, Kamaladi, 986030887



support local filmmakers, skip the mall, and come enjoy an open-air film screening every evening for a week.  
*6 to 12 September, Janabahal, Kathmandu*

Join hands in attempting to break the Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Human National Flag' by bringing together more than 30,000 participants and breaking the previously held record of 28,957 participants.

*Rs 100, 23 August, 6 to 9 am, Tudikhel, Kathmandu, (01)6201888, 9813138024*



Kuch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai, a play about the journey to stardom, with Anupam Kher.  
22 August, 5 pm onwards, Army Officers Club, 9801074430

The Ends of Kinship: Depopulation, Education-Driven Outmigration, and Social Change in Mustang', a talk by Sienna Craig.  
25 August, 4.30 pm, Fulbright Commission Auditorium, Gyaneshwor



Celebrate Indra Jatra with a grand  
Newari feast.  
*Rs 1250, 9 September, 5.30pm,  
Jyatha, Thamel*

A conversation with visual artists Sujan Chitrakar and Manish Lal Shrestha on modern and contemporary art. *24 August, 4pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babar Mahal Revisted*

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*Hotel Annapurna, Darbar Marg*

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tucked in Chakupat this bakery offers homemade goodies like apple pie, pain du chocolat, and banana cake. *Chakupat, Lalitpur*

from lemon lassis to spicy pork stews, this is a great place to try continental dishes.

*Jhamsikhel*



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*

espresso, mocha, latte, frappuccino, cocktails, liquor, beer and flavoured shishas, with an outdoor lake-view terrace. *Lakeside, Pokhara, (061)463484, 9846210568, [www.saltandpeppernepal.com](http://www.saltandpeppernepal.com)*



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## MUSIC

**Under-ground Gig,**

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Rs 150, 30 August, 1 to 6 pm, Rhapsody Hall, Kumaripati

**Rock of Ages,**

A series of energetic tributes to rock legends like Van Halen, Nirvana and Tool by bands like The Maze, Newaz and Quinterval.

30 August, 1pm to 6pm, Purple Haze Rock Bar, Thamel

**Starry Night BBQ,**

Spend your Friday dinners listening to soulful numbers by Ciney Gurung.

Rs 1,499, Shambala Garden Cafe, Hotel Shangri-la, (01)4411999

**Lipan conjuring,**

Local musicians Kamero will be performing a tribute show to legendary prog-rockers Tool.

Rs 300/500, 23 August, 3pm onwards, Purple Haze Rock Bar, Thamel, 9843664132

## GETAWAYS

**MONSOON RETREAT**

In 1950, Swiss geologist Tony Hagen took a panoramic photograph of the Annapurna range from a spot in Pokhara. Four decades later, hotelier Shyam Sundar Pandey decided to build a deluxe hotel in the same area from where Hagen photographed his now iconic shot. And thus, the Shangri-La Village was born.

Take a quick tour of this expansive hotel and it's clear to see why the owners chose to forgo locations closer to the lake for the one in Gharipatan, a 15-minute drive away from the lakeside. The view of the Annapurnas that became representative of the lake city is unmatched and easily enjoyed from all sides of this beautiful property.

True to its name, the hotel is designed like a village. The hotel's 61 rooms are spread over a cluster of small cottages, providing both quiet and privacy to guests. Rooms are comfortable

with a perfect mix of modern amenities and traditional interior.

For those who don't want to venture out, the hotel offers a lot of facilities. There is a decent size pool, a spa, and a fitness centre. If you are into yoga, don't miss out on doing your pranayama in the cabana. An insider's tip: Get there early, as this one is a guest favourite and tends to get occupied for photoshoot sessions.

Whether it is the personal scroll with your name on it that greets you in your room or the hammocks that come out magically on sunny days, Shangri-La Village like Pokhara in monsoon, was a nice revelation.

*Tsering Dolker Gurung*

*Shangri-La Village is currently offering Monsoon Madness Package 2 nights/3 days for Rs 5555 per person on twin sharing basis Until 3 September, 4412999/4410051*

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Alice is a quintessential family restaurant because of the fact that one can spend quality time in a peaceful environment and well facilitated dining destination. Secluded from the hustle and bustle of busy streets, the location was cautiously thought of considering the fact that the restaurant was set up not too long ago.

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# “CON

## PASANG LHAMU SHERPA AKITA

I, Maya Sherpa and Dawa Yangzom Sherpa are mountain guides. I am from Solu Khumbu. Maya is from Okhaldunga and Dawa is from Dolakha. We became guides because we saw an increasing number of women becoming pilots, engineers, doctors and drivers, but few wanted to become guides in Nepal's mountains.

In our jobs, we have taken dozens of climbers to the top of Yala Peak, Lobuche Peak, Ama Dablam, and Everest among others. It was on one of these expeditions that we heard about Mt K2 in Pakistan, the second highest mountain in the world. It wasn't just its height, it is also the most dangerous mountain to scale. Out of the 317 people who attempted to climb K2 before us, 80 had died. Somehow, we knew we had to climb it.

So, the 'First Nepali K2 Women Expedition' set off with the goal of spreading awareness of climate change and its impact on the mountains. Even more difficult than climbing was the challenge of fund raising. Despite cutting down on expenses, we needed a minimum of Rs 7 million, and fortunately we got our Nepali sponsors.

It was a long, seven-day walk to the Base camp. Unlike Everest Base Camp, K2's base camp was isolated: no lodges, no crowds. The weather turned bad and we were stuck at Base Camp for a week. On the seventh day, the weather got better and we started going back and forth to Camp 3 to acclimatise.

On the afternoon of 26 July we finally reached the top of K2. We hugged each other and cried and remembered all those who helped our dream come true. We felt like we had conquered the world.

Pemba Sherpa, Lhakpa Sherpa, Ming Dorji Sherpa, Min Gelyu Sherpa were the other Nepalis on our team who kept pushing us to our goal and we are thankful to them. 🇳🇵

 [nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)  
■ Ketis on K2, #718



  
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# CONQUERING THE WORLD"



## Mountain woman



Diku Tamang always wanted to be a nurse and serve the sick and needy. She trained as an Auxillary Nurse Midwife, and spent two years in Denmark. Back in Nepal, she worked at a private hospital in Chabahil but couldn't bear to see the corruption, and quit.

It was then that the 29-year-old Solu Khumbu native found her second calling in life: to be a mountain guide. Diku Tamang first worked at her uncle's travel company in 2005, taking clients in the Everest region. After learning she was back home, some of her Danish friends contacted Tamang to help organise their Nepal treks.

"Whenever I showed pictures of home to friends in Denmark, they used to tell me they were dying to visit Nepal," says Tamang.

Now, Tamang (*pic, left*) is a full-time trekking guide taking visitors to Solu Khumbu, Langtang, Annapurna, Mustang, and Gosainkunda. Sometimes she even goes off the beaten path and takes her clients to Humla, Jumla, Rara, and the far-West.

"Some of my clients want women guides, so even other trekking companies recommend my name," says Tamang, who currently works for Destination Nepal.

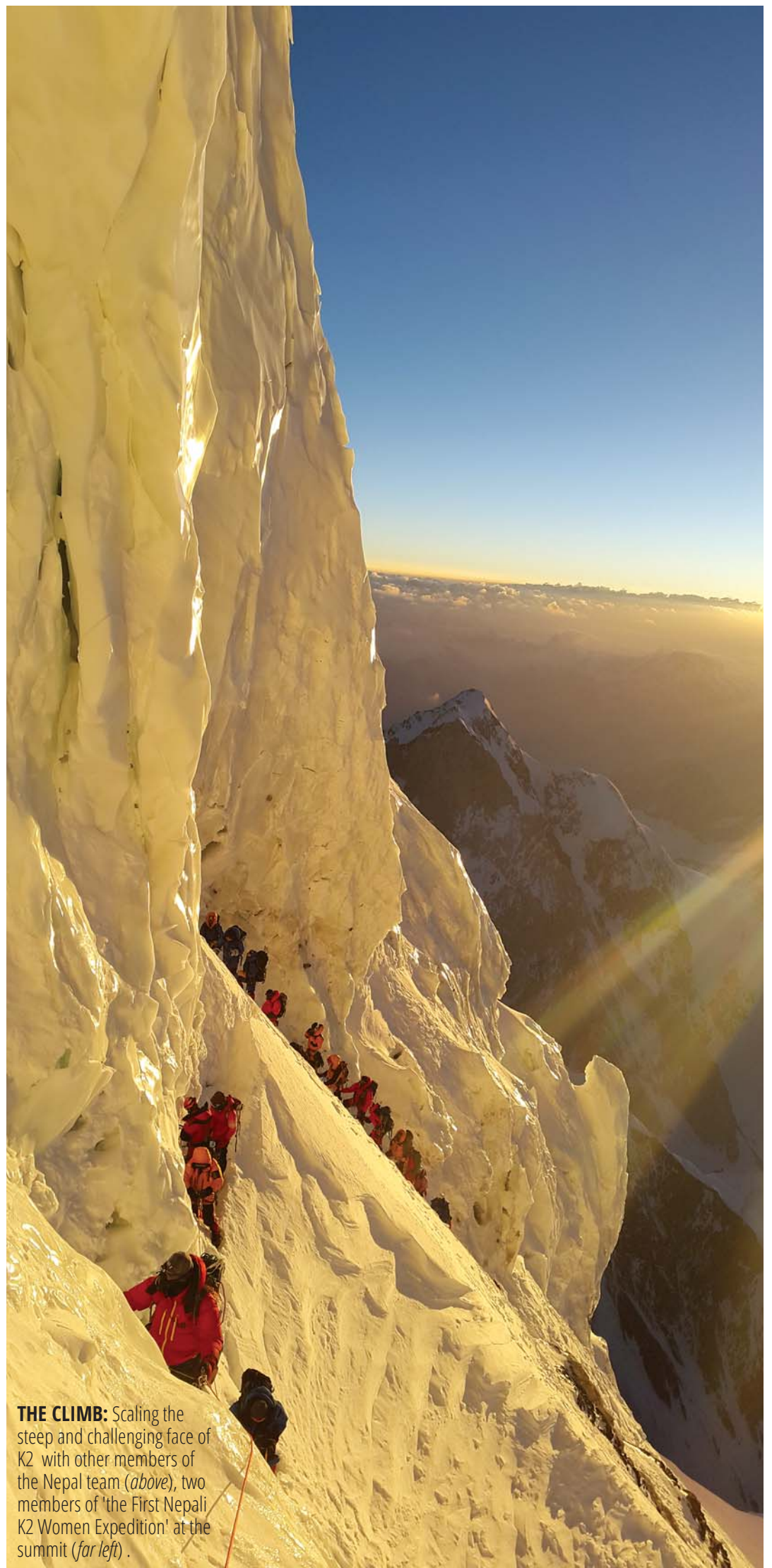
Often it is hotel owners and national park authorities who question her credentials when she takes guests around the country. Nevertheless, she is content to have carved a niche in an industry populated by men.

Rishiram Kattel



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

■ Women show the way, #433, ■ Three sisters, #26,  
■ Seven women, seven summits, #613,



**THE CLIMB:** Scaling the steep and challenging face of K2 with other members of the Nepal team (*above*), two members of 'the First Nepali K2 Women Expedition' at the summit (*far left*).



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It should have been immediately clear to me that the trailer for the film I saw starring a young, callow Scarlett Johansson who is forced out of circumstance to become a rather extraordinary force of nature was a film by none other than the French director Luc Besson. After all, he has made



**MUST SEE**  
Sophia Pande

his name making films that have more or less immortalised Anne Parillaud in *La Femme Nikita* (1990), a 12-year-old Natalie Portman in *Léon: The Professional* (1994), Milla Jovovich in *The Fifth*

*Element* and now Johansson in *Lucy* as female characters who transcend the ordinary. While *Lucy* is not quite the classic like *La Femme Nikita* and *Léon*, it is still much more riveting than any old Hollywood action flick. Perhaps the secret lies in the fact that Besson made the film as pure self indulgence: he was fascinated by the idea that we may only be using a fraction of our brains (this notion is fairly mythical according to most neurologists today) and decided to make a film that would play out his fascination with the possibilities inherent in this premise. We meet Lucy, Johansson's character, just as she is duped by her good-for-nothing boyfriend Richard (Pilou Asbæk) into delivering a briefcase, contents unknown, to a Taiwanese gangster in Taipei. All manner of things

must go wrong in order for Lucy to end up ingesting a large quantity of CPH4 - an experimental drug that has the extraordinary capacity to enhance human brain function when taken in large doses. Throw science out the window as Lucy careens through Taipei and Paris, becoming more and more omniscient as well as scarily stronger, practically telekinetic really, in her search for answers to what she is becoming. While this film maybe structured as a fairly conventional action thriller, including Lucy dodging the gangsters that initially forced her to carry the CPH4 - Besson is far more interested in the question of what really might happen if humans truly had the capacity to become godlike, and he pursues this question with almost no real regard to maintaining any semblance of a truly cohesive plotline. Don't let this put you off though. While Johansson has a few off moments, her onscreen persona is powerful, the visuals captivating, and the pseudo philosophy moving enough to keep you in your seat. It helps that Morgan Freeman and Amr Waked (from the wonderful *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*) are part of a cast that just about manages to hold this crazy little film together. If you are a fan of Luc Besson, you cannot miss *Lucy*. If this is the first time you've heard his name - what better way of being introduced to his oeuvre.

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**HAPPENINGS**



**SPEED UP:** UCPN(M) lawmaker Agni Sapkota hands over letter of memorandum to PM Sushil Koirala on behalf of lawmakers from Sindhupalchok asking the government to speed rehabilitation efforts for the Bhotekosi flood victims at his residence in Baluwatar on Wednesday.



**UNBLOCKING:** The Nepal Army this week continued to use excavators to try to widen and deepen the channel to drain the lake impounded by the Bhot Kosi landslide.



**HARE KRISHNA:** Devotees throng the Krishna Temple in Patan Darbar Square on Krishna Janmashtami on Sunday.



**NEPALI STEPS:** Nepali workers who repaired stone steps leading up to the summit of Gaustadtoppen in Norway dance to the tune of "Resham Firiri" during its inauguration on Saturday.

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# A guide to what is left

In Hemanta Mishra's new guide book to Chitwan, there is a striking aerial view of the Inner Tarai valley probably taken from a flight to Meghauli in the 1970s. The tropical jungle and riverine grassland stretch far into the hazy northern horizon. And rising improbably into the sky like a distant cumulus are Himalchuli and Manaslu. This is an image that does justice to Nepal's topographical and biological diversity - nowhere else on the planet is there such a treasure trove of plant and animal types in such a small area.

Mishra was a young wildlife biologist, straight out of the Indian Forestry Institute in Dehradun, when he was assigned to Chitwan in 1967. Five years later, Nepal's first national park was set up by royal edict in a valley which had been decimated by trophy hunting and faced the threat of habitat destruction due to the government's mass transmigration program.

Despite its rich habitat, Chitwan's charismatic mammals didn't stand a chance against royal hunting expeditions. In 1850, Jang Bahadur Rana killed 30 tigers in just one hunt. In 1911, Nepal's royalty hosted King George V in Chitwan and the 600-elephant hunting party massacred 36 tigers, 18 rhinos, leopards, bears and even porcupines in one



**FIRM GRIP:** Hemanta Mishra with a gharial bred in captivity in Chitwan in 1977 before releasing it into the wild.

day. Juddha Shamsheer was even worse: between 1933-40, he personally slaughtered 433 tigers.

Hemanta Mishra Nepal, in a career spanning three decades, was instrumental in protecting what was left of Chitwan. And in

doing so, the park managed to bring back the tiger and rhino from the brink of extinction, and was listed as a World Heritage Site. There are now over 200 tigers, and 500 rhinos in Chitwan alone. As the park got overcrowded, Mishra spearheaded the translocation of tigers and rhinos to other national parks like Bardia. He started the collaboration with the Frankfurt Zoo to set up a breeding centre for the endangered gharial crocodile in 1977.


## REVIEW

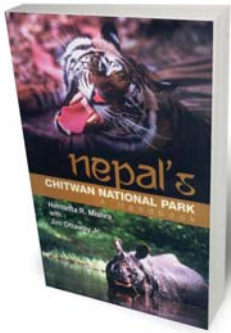
Mishra admits: 'My western academic knowledge of forests and ecology was not good enough in Chitwan ... decisions had to be politically palatable to rulers, socially acceptable to Chitwan communities, and economically viable.' This is why *Nepal's Chitwan National Park: A Handbook* is a guidebook like no other - your guide to the flora and fauna of Chitwan is the person who is personally responsible for Nepal's great conservation success story. The book is a must-have for everyone going to Chitwan, serves both as a background to the history and geography of the place, but also a book that you carry on safari so you can reference what you see from elephant back.

For example that Chitwan is home to 60 per cent of the 860 species of birds found in Nepal, one-third of the butterfly types, 60 kinds of mammals (two of them aquatic), 55 amphibian and reptile species, and 125 types of wild freshwater fish. But this book is not just a listing of flora and fauna, the chapters draw heavily from the

personalised accounts of Mishra's previous books *The Soul of the Rhino* and *The Bones of the Tiger*. The threats to Chitwan are not over. Poachers thrive in Nepal's unstable political transition when wildlife smugglers have political protection. The population explosion of the Nepal Tarai puts increasing pressure on Chitwan's habitat. There is also the threat of the new

East-West Railway bifurcating the park. Pollution, overfishing and dam construction on the Narayani threaten the fresh water dolphin, Nepal's most endangered mammal.

It is to the credit of pioneer conservationists like Hemanta Mishra that unlike in Africa and India, the national parks of Nepal have become models for eco-tourism and sustainable nature protection. And Mishra's book is a primer on why Chitwan is so important to protect.  Kunda Dixit



**Nepal's Chitwan National Park: A Handbook**  
Hemanta R Mishra with Jim Ottaway, Jr  
Vajra Books, Thamel, 2014  
238 pages  
[www.vajrabooks.com.np](http://www.vajrabooks.com.np)

# Koyla Lounge and Bar

Home to dozens of hole-in-the wall places it may be, but New Road has always been a bit of a stretch for those of us living on the other side of the bridge. But still, we get into packed buses to sample its many delicious and cheap eateries. Whether it is the hot and piping, absolutely yummy samosas of the now infamous Tiptop or a glass of refreshing chilled lassi at the always-crowded sidewalk stall on the lane leading towards Thaiti, New Road is a true food haven for the gastronomically adventurous, who are willing to fight crowds to find standing space which somehow all these eateries offer in minimum.

And yet, there are times when even the most easy-to-please foodie demands to dine in peace, feet well rested, good ambience and all. In the frenzy of New Road, unsurprisingly, there is a shortage of such places. Nearby Basantapur does boast of restaurants, lounge and bars, some of them dating back to the Freak Street days. But today they are places only frequented by young students who are on drinking binges while the sun is still high in the sky.

The newly opened Koyla Lounge and Bar seeks to fill that void. Right from the entrance (the elevator walks you straight into



the restaurant located on the eight floor of a business complex on the town's main street), it is the restaurant's ambience that strikes the first-time visitor. Low tables and mats on one side, comfortable looking leather sofas on the other, and a fairly stocked bar at a corner, Koyla has got the lounge look down to a T. The seating area at the upper deck of the lounge is where you get the best view of the chaotic 'Mandu cityscape, and if you are lucky you will find an empty table.

So far, so good. A quick look at the menu however confirmed my presumption that Koyla's forte was more ambience than culinary. The menu, a combination of Sino-Nepali, Indian, and continental, had the favourites: chicken chilli, cheese



balls, fish finger, et all. Which didn't make this place different from thousands of others on the strip.


Like the owners, we were also not in a very adventurous mood, so we ordered what a group of Nepali girls sharing food would, lots of finger food: cheese finger (Rs 260), Mustang aloo (Rs 150) and chicken chilly (Rs 275) to start. Our first appetiser Mustang aloo took exactly 25 minutes to arrive.

But, the others came up slightly faster. Koyla's Mustang aloo is a plateful of big pieces of potato wedges, crisped, and sprinkled with masala. Though late to arrive, it had us all in good spirits. Our other two appetisers unfortunately failed to match it in taste, and while ingestible, were forgettable.

After a round of naked sunrises (Rs 200), we chose to order another safe bet: Prosciutto Pizza (Rs 340) which turned out to be cheese

pizza with meager servings of ham. Again, eatable but didn't generate any excitement at the table.

By the end of the meal, we knew we would be paying Koyla another visit soon, yes, despite the average offerings. Why not? The location is perfect, and prices are pocket friendly.

Koyla is where you go when you need an equidistant place for all your friends to gather, when the food is less important as the view and company.  Tsering Dolker Gurung

*How to get there:* Walk straight from New Road Gate. Koyla Lounge and Bar is located on the eighth floor of the Kesha Plaza, opposite Ratna Park Paun Bhandar.



# Great Food Deserves Carlsberg

That calls for a 



# Vitamin D deficiency

Vitamin D is related to calcium absorption by the body, and its deficiency leads to rickets and osteomalacia. In our part of the world rickets is seen in children who are not exposed enough to sunlight which is a rich source of vitamin D. In crowded areas of Kathmandu such as Asan and Indrachok where there may not be enough play areas for exposure to sunlight, rickets may develop more easily. The child may develop a pigeon chest, a crooked spine and become bow legged. Osteomalacia, on the other hand, is the adult form of childhood rickets and is seen usually in women of child-bearing age mostly in the first pregnancy. Similar to rickets, mothers living in areas with poor exposure to sunlight are vulnerable to this disease. The pelvic bones and ribs may become soft and deformed



**DHANVANTARI**  
Buddha Basnyat, MD

with a significant pain. The gait may also change. Even without tests for vitamin D level which are expensive to perform and may not be routinely available, rickets and osteomalacia have to be kept in mind when patients present with the above symptoms as vitamin D and calcium can be easily prescribed and more



some studies have shown it may be important as an adjunctive (add-on) treatment for tuberculosis, and prevention of certain forms of cancer. Even cardiovascular diseases like hypertension may increase with vitamin D insufficiency. However, the importance of the exact physiologic role of vitamin D, if any in these non-skeletal diseases has not been clarified with any evidence-informed proof. But there are many ongoing studies attempting to show the usefulness of vitamin D for other causes besides the prevention and treatment of bony fractures, rickets and osteomalacia.

An example of this is a recent major study published in *JAMA* (Journal of the Medical Association) led by David Murdoch from

New Zealand who is a frequent visitor to Patan Hospital where he is closely working with the paediatric department to help with the treatment of pneumococcal bacterial diseases in young children. This *JAMA* study is a well-conducted trial in New Zealand to see the efficacy of vitamin D in the prevention of upper respiratory tract infection (URTI). Murdoch and his team gave adequate doses of vitamin D to healthy adults to see if this would prevent the problem. Unfortunately, it did not. This study was published in a major journal, and one reason for this publication may be the optimistic outlook by the medical establishment on vitamin D supplements.

But for now, all Nepalis can start with enjoying the free sunshine available to us to prevent vitamin D deficiency. 🇳🇵

generous exposure to sunlight can be strongly suggested.

For both of these conditions, prevention is possible with adequate exposure to sunshine, and diet which includes fish (a rich source of vitamin D) and vitamin D-fortified food (milk) for mothers and young children. Importantly, many elderly people with inadequate amounts of vitamin D have been known to be susceptible to bony fractures. Even to avoid these kinds of fractures, it is best to have enough sun exposure for this vulnerable age group. Taking vitamin D supplements may also be very useful in the elderly age group of people besides mothers and young children as discussed above.

Lately, vitamin D is in the news not just because an ex-prime minister of Nepal reportedly has the condition, but also because

GIZMO by YANTRICK

## Lap-Tab

Recently, Yantrick's back has been taking a bit of a beating having to lug around a laptop and an iPad in the bag. While tablets are handy and great for entertainment and media purposes, laptops and desktops are still required owing especially to the much higher RAM that they provide. What Yantrick yearns for is a capable device, powerful enough to handle the most memory-consuming of Excel worksheets, while at the same time, is lightweight enough to carry around. With the Microsoft Surface Pro 3, Yantrick might just have discovered the holy grail of a tablet-PC hybrid.

The third edition of the Microsoft Surface series, the Pro 3 is not only thinner and lighter than its predecessor, but also boasts a larger, higher-resolution screen. A seductive and sleek silver slab, the Surface Pro 3's chassis is made of a sturdy magnesium alloy. At just 0.36 inch thick and 800 grams weight, the device has got the feel of a tablet just right. A kickstand adorns the back, which can be easily adjusted to nearly any angle between 22 and 150 degrees, depending on your need.

Also built into the thin body are: a full-size USB 3.0 port, microSD card reader, Mini DisplayPort, 5-megapixel and 1080p HD front- and rear-facing cameras, stereo speakers with Dolby Audio-enhanced sound, as well as a Bluetooth 4.0 capability. The touch screen that the Surface Pro 3 packs in is 12 inches diagonally, and has a display resolution of better-than-HD (2,160 pixels x 1,440 pixels), equating to pixel density of 216 PPI. The IPS screen looks clear and bright, while excellent viewing angles make the screen perfect for reading, watching movies or viewing photographs.



Internally, the Surface Pro 3 boasts specs to rival any current generation premium laptop. Particularly adapted to run on Microsoft's full version of Windows 8.1 operating software, and available in Core i3, i5 and i7 CPU processor variants, the Surface Pro 3 packs in an impressive RAM of up to 8 GB, along with a built-in Intel HD graphics card. It is thus easy to see why Microsoft is touting the Surface Pro 3 as a laptop or notebook replacement.

Microsoft ships the Surface Pro 3 with a super fast SSD internal storage of 512GB, which can be further enhanced by 128GB via the microSD slot. All of this equates to a device capable of handling memory and graphic intensive applications -- ideal for using worksheets, presentations, videos and games. And thanks to the excellent Type Cover, an accessory that doubles as a keyboard as well as a beautiful cover, you won't even notice you're not on a PC. 🇳🇵

**Yantrick's Verdict: With the base Core i3, 4 GB RAM and 64GB SSD internal memory, Microsoft Pro 3 tablet is available at Hamrobazaar.com and at gadget shops for approx. Rs 90,000. The Surface Pro 3 is well worth the price, because the Surface Pro 3 is essentially a tablet and a laptop fused brilliantly into one device.**

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## Phone engaged

When Anu Lama, 19, of Ichok of Sindhupalchok went to Kuwait in 2009 to work as a maid, she bought a cell phone so she could keep in touch with fellow Nepalis there. Within a few months she started getting calls from a young Nepali man also working in Kuwait. Eventually they fell in love, and got married on return to Nepal. They had never met in person in Kuwait, only talked on the phone.

Marriages in Nepal are going high-tech as boy meets girl on the Internet or by phone. Adolescents now no longer wait for their parents to match-make, which suits the bride's family fine because they no longer have to arrange a dowry. Studies show the median age of marriage in Nepal has risen from early to mid adolescence.

According to a 2012 study by Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision International, parents in 15 sample districts blamed mobile phones and mass media as a reason why teenagers are finding their own partners.

"Children have no reservations about eloping with their classmates. School teachers, even principals, are powerless to prevent their brightest students from getting married," says Raj Kumar Mahato of BHOE Nepal which works on child marriage and dowries in the eastern Tarai. To avoid complications, both families then sanction the 'love marriages'.

In Majhgaun, Sindhupalchok, it is also the poor, uneducated, and marginalised youngsters who are more affected by mobile marriages. Parents and village elders try to discourage them, but peer pressure prevails.



Isha Danuwar (pictured) decided to buy a cell phone because most of her girlfriends had their own sets and were already talking to boys they had never met. Isha also found her future husband this way and eloped with him. Now 17, Isha is the mother of a two-month-old son, barely has enough to feed the family, and also dropped out of school.

Ola Perzcynska of Her Turn Nepal, an organisation that works to educate young girls in Gorkha and Sindhupalchok, says more child marriages now happen based on the girl's decision. "We've met girls who were married by choice by the time they turned 14," says Perzcynska. "But there are also others who learn about the negatives and swear they will keep studying and not marry before they turn 20."

Sunir Pandey

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- Stunted development, #719,
- Let's talk about girls, # 677,
- No time for school, #629,

# Marriages made in Facebook

There used to be arranged marriages or love marriages, now there are Facebook weddings



**MERILIN PIIPUU**  
in POKHARA

After waiting for an answer for three months, 28-year-old Kumar Acharya finally blocked Bandana on Facebook. He had sent her 23 messages a day, having no clue if the girl was interested at all in marrying him.

Bandana did not update her status, and gave no indication if she was interested. But Kumar did not give up his Facebook courtship. He sent her a new friend request, and suddenly the relationship blossomed and the two got married.

"I read all the messages, but did not answer any of them," Bandana, 24, recalls with a smile. "I was playing hard to get."

Kumar and Bandana are among a growing number of married couples in Nepal who first met through social networking sites. Kumar's mother



introduced him to various prospective brides, but Facebook gave him the right choice he needed.

Social networking has therefore become the new match-maker for Nepali youth, and with the number of Facebook users crossing 4 million, there are

**CYBERWEDS:** Kumar Acharya and Bandana (left) married after a brief Facebook courtship. Suresh Gurung proposed to Shanti (below) on Valentine's Day though they had never met face-to-face.

plenty of matches waiting to be made.

Facebook also means the end of the geography, it doesn't matter where you are in the world anymore to matchmake.

Even so, it is not always so easy to approach people on Facebook, since friend requests from strangers are often rejected. One may still need help from a family member or a relative.

"My cousin knew Bandana and in this sense he acted like a go-between," says Kumar. And, just to keep to tradition, Bandana and Kumar also consulted an astrologer to find out if they were suited for each other before getting married.

Suresh Gurung, 24, was also helped by his sister to become Facebook friends with his future wife, Shanti. It was much easier for Suresh since Shanti was an avid Facebook user, and replied to all his messages.

"After looking through her profile, I knew that I want to marry her," says Suresh who proposed to Shanti on Valentine's Day on (where else?) Facebook even though he had never met her face-to-face.

Suresh and Shanti describe their match as a "love marriage", while Kumar and Bandana consider their marriage to be an "arranged marriage". But both are actually "Facebook marriages".

Kumar and Bandana giggled and held each others' hands during a recent meeting, and it

was clear they were very much in love. But with matchmaking made easier through social networks, the paradox is that Facebook also makes it easier to break up.

Bandana says she has now prohibited Kumar from spending time on Facebook. "I do not like him talking to other women," she says with a wry smile.

Suresh Gurung, on the other hand, still follows his wife's activity through Facebook. "When somebody comments on her photos, I always ask who is that guy?" he laughs.

Another negative of social networking sites such as Facebook is the ease at which people can fake identity and use it to harass others. Police on Wednesday arrested Ram Kumar Shyangbo, 30, of Sindhupalchowk after receiving a complaint from a woman, who Shyangbo had befriended on Facebook. Shyangbo had been sending her vulgar messages including nude photos and solicited for sex.

With social life in Nepal moving into the virtual world, it looks like the hyper-reality of Facebook is becoming more real than actual people. Kumar and Bandana both admit their partner is quite different in real life.

"In the pictures she looked more innocent," says Kumar. "And he was very serious on Facebook," says Bandana.

Facebook is a mask, enabling people to live their dreams and put out an idealised version of themselves. But it has allowed Nepalis separated by distances to meet up, and even young men and women living in the same neighbourhood to make the first contact. 🇳🇵

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# Federalism for the sake of it

DAVID SEDDON

Now that Nepal's political parties have managed to agree that the title of the new Constitution should be, simply, 'The Constitution of Nepal' without further elaboration, they may also have gathered the courage and realism to agree that federalism is the wrong response to rightful and legitimate concerns regarding the re-structuring of the state to ensure that democracy expresses the will of the majority of the people and safeguarding the rights of all minority groups.

A new, democratic Nepal should hold free and fair elections to a national assembly on a regular basis, probably adopting some form of proportional representation, perhaps combined with first-past-the-post, as in the case of the elections to the first CA. The slate of candidates should be identified in advance by the parties rather than selected after the event, and with candidates standing in only one seat each. Constituencies in the Tarai could be re-structured to give stronger representation of Madhesis in the national assembly. It is not at all clear that there should be a second house, but if so this also should be largely elected rather than selected.

## Federalism is a distraction from the other important aspects of state re-structuring and reform of political representation

Federalism is a diversion and a distraction from the other important aspects of state re-structuring and reform of political representation. Firstly, it remains unclear what it entails as the parties have consistently failed to agree on the form, number of federal entities and the basis of their definition.

But it would be extremely expensive (buildings, personnel, salaries, allowances etc) and would add more layers of bureaucracy and self-interested politicians. More importantly, it would divide Nepal into a number of inevitably competing political-economic-cultural entities, with diverse resources, populations and


interests, each of which will seek to maximise their own interests against those of the others. This will weaken the capacity of the central government not only to maintain and defend the integrity of the nation and pursue sensible foreign policies, in trade, security, in the national interest, but also would significantly weaken its capacity to allocate resources so as to reduce the inequalities between regions.

If the definition of these new federal entities is to be on the basis of caste or ethnicity, then this risks creating or worsening social and cultural divisions, politicising them, and encouraging inter-caste and ethnic tensions if not outright conflict, both within the new federal entities, and across the country more generally.

This is a worst case scenario, but a very real possibility. The genuine concerns of minority groups cannot be met satisfactorily in this way. Janajatis and Madhesis may find themselves in conflict with other groups, but they will also discover and worsen the internal divisions and conflicts within these categories, as neither of them are homogeneous. Women and Dalits will have to fight for representation in other ways as there is no suggestion of federal entities based on gender or caste – or indeed religion. So Muslims, like many other marginalised and poorly represented social groups will have no voice in this proposed federal system.

The defence of the interests of minorities is of vital importance in a democracy, but these would be better served by a commitment to universal human rights and the right of each

individual to be treated equally as a citizen, supported by the rule of law, effectively enforced, than by a divisive system in which some vested 'minority' interests are privileged above others. Proportional representation would allow smaller parties representing minority groups and interests to participate fully and have a chance of seats in the national assembly. If devolution of power to local government is one of the objectives of federalism, then the districts (whether the present 75 or some other number of reconstructed districts) are the ideal scale for effective, accountable and transparent local government. VDC elections will enable people to have truly local representatives if the electoral system allows the views of minorities to be heard and to have a proper response.

It is more than a decade since Nepal had democratically elected local governments, and this is a priority instead of a futile debate over an irrelevant proposal for 'some kind of federalism'. Federalism is not just a distraction, it will almost certainly promote social and political division. 



David Seddon is co-author with Arjun Karki of *Nepal in Crisis: Growth and Stagnation in the Periphery and the Struggle for Basic Needs in Nepal*.

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

■ A dangerous racism, #619

## Inclusion by any other name

The last six years have not been wasted, we have zeroed in on institutionalising inclusion

Six years after the first Constituent Assembly promised us a new constitution and nine months after the installation of the second CA, we finally seem to have arrived at the crux of the debate: what kind of nation do we want to be?



**BY THE WAY**  
Anurag Acharya

It may seem like a wasted six years. After all, we did embark on a federal republican course without charting the political and technical path of how to get there.

The sole role of the first CA was to bring an armed rebel group into the democratic mainstream. Ultimately, the

disagreements over form of governance, electoral system and state restructuring proved too contentious. The divided media stoked public sentiment, threatening communal and ethnic harmony.

Those were testing times, but eventually, we grew stronger and matured as a nation. Today, the political parties and dissident groups that were bitterly divided over, say, federalism, are coming together. There are at least two reasons this is happening.

First, there seems to be a sobering realisation among major forces that they cannot elbow each other out of this process, and will sooner or later have to negotiate. The Maoists who were the largest party in the first CA tried to bull-walk the opposition and undermine their role in the constitution drafting. That fuelled differences and paralysed the CA, ultimately leading to its dissolution.

The NC and the UML, who together lead the government and the second CA, don't want to repeat that mistake. They know, getting the statute passed through the CA is useless if it is disowned or torched by forces inside or outside, who claim a stake in the process.

"We have spent precious time trying to play each other out. It is time for mutual compromise now," says Mahesh Acharya, who along with party colleague Ram Chandra Poudel, is tasked by the NC to find a breakthrough on contentious issues with other parties.

Acharya is keeping his cards close to his chest, and says the parties must refrain from battling it out in the media until they arrive at a workable compromise. Similar sentiments by the Maoist chairman of the Dialogue Committee Baburam Bhattarai is also hopeful.

The second reason for the


change is that the parties are waking up to a reality that they have been fighting over various models of democracy without realising that the nation is close to developing an inclusive model based on its own unique experience. This may still not be perfect, but rather than sitting at the table with an imported blueprint, the parties must work together to build on this evolving model. For that to happen, it is important that all political forces inside and outside the CA see their contribution and own the achievements made thus far.

Similarly, the political parties are also narrowing down the debate on the name and number of federal states. As the debate progresses, there will be a tendency to retreat to entrenched positions. We could once again get stuck on the names and numbers of future federal units rather than making them inclusive.

While the number and physical boundaries of the future federal units must indeed be determined based on geography, population and resources, the proposed federal states must also

have inclusive socio-economic and political character.

In the case of Madhes, a region with mixed population but a distinct way of life, regional autonomy in the form of at least two federal units can be a politically and economically viable solution. Similarly, rather than carving out ethnic states in the hills, an autonomous region or a protected tribal zone within various states where a community's ethnic, linguistic and cultural traditions are protected and promoted, will address the issue of identity more effectively. Reservation for the marginalised at all levels of the state, based on affirmative action can help us become a more inclusive nation.

It was exclusion and the structural violence of the state that fuelled the conflict. In the past eight years the political debate on the constitution has tried to find a solution to ensure peace and social justice. The new constitution must institutionalise these gains and structure the country in a way. 

@Anurag\_Acharya



# Federal fundamentalism

Question the merits of federalism and you are accused of committing blasphemy

When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was addressing Nepal's Constituent Assembly-Parliament recently, he must have wondered about its sheer size. His country is 40 times bigger than Nepal, but has only 543 members in its Lok Sabha.

The CA2, like its earlier model, remains a national embarrassment and this pampered and profligate assembly must be terminated



## OPINION

Bihari K Shrestha

as soon as possible. This has become a matter of urgency because the CA2 is stuck in the same rut as CA1 over the issue of federalisation.

To assuage the growing impatience of the people, the CA2 is said to be hurrying things up by inheriting the work completed by CA1. But in the case of federalisation, that assurance is fraught with even greater danger, primarily due to the extreme frivolity with which the UCPN(M)'s Pushpa Kamal Dahal,

then head of State Restructuring Committee, had handled the issue.

To recap: in November 2011 Dahal abruptly departed from consensus-based course in his committee, won over the seven UML members by agreeing to their demands of Sherpa and Mithila provinces, and voted down the NC and its 7-province model with his own 14-province formula of which four were created at the spur of the moment 'in a span of a mere half an hour' according to news reports on 26 November 2011.

The absurdity of the 14-province scheme was highlighted by the inclusion of a province named 'Jadaan' in northwestern Nepal. While the new region of that name remained exotic for a while, the people living there were livid because they thought the word 'Jadaan' was derived from Nepali word for locally-brewed beer, implying that the it was going to be 'the province of the drunkards'.

That is how ad hoc and flimsy the whole federalisation agenda has been from the beginning. For the Maoists, ethnic autonomy was a slogan designed to help in recruiting fighters for their revolution among educationally and economically disadvantaged Magars of the Rapti Zone. No



Maoist, including Baburam Bhattarai, PhD, has made any credible analysis as to what federalisation entails in terms of governance structures and their costs. And just how would it contribute to enhancing the well-being of the chronically impoverished people of Nepal?

Similarly, the other two major parties, the NC and UML, never talked about the need for federalisation during their 1990 revolution and thereafter. It was

only in 2006 that their total alienation with the people forced them to cohabit with the Maoists on condition that they converted to federal fundamentalism. While the NC and UML can boast of more educated people in their ranks, they too have not written anything objectively on the subject. What we have is only lip service. Therefore, in order to rescue the constitution-making process this time around, it has become morally imperative for these parties including the Maoists to urgently disavow federalisation once and for all.

As for the leaders of the Madhesi parties -- including those who once called New Delhi "the Mecca and Medina of Nepali politics", threatened a blockade on Kathmandu at Birganj, kept mum when an Indian diplomat in Birganj exhorted them to "make the Tarai burn", and lately branded their defeat in CA2 polls as "India's defeat" -- still have to tell their fellow Nepalis how a man from Jhapa would have more in common with another in Kanchanpur and not with their immediate neighbour in Ilam.

As things stand, Nepal's geography would yield extraordinary value-added only if dealt with in harmony with its unique diversity. For instance,

the Chure problem can be solved only by dealing with its east-west strip in its entirety. Similarly, the irrigation benefits for the west Tarai regions and electric power for the entire country can be generated only by damming parts of Dadeldhura and Baitadi for Pancheswor project, or Doti, Dadeldhura, Baitadi and Bajhang for the West Seti project.

In short, while capitalising on one's comparative advantage is the lifeblood of economic progress and people's prosperity, in the case of Nepal it makes sense only if its unique geography is taken as an integrated whole. After all, Nepal did not need to federalise to become an internationally-recognised model for community managed forestry and top MDG achiever in child and maternal mortality reductions among developing countries. They happened due to devolution of authority to elected user groups. And despite these successes, question the merits of federalism today and you are accused of committing blasphemy.

We have proved that grassroots democracy and self-governance work, we don't need to experiment with something called 'federalism'. 🇳🇵

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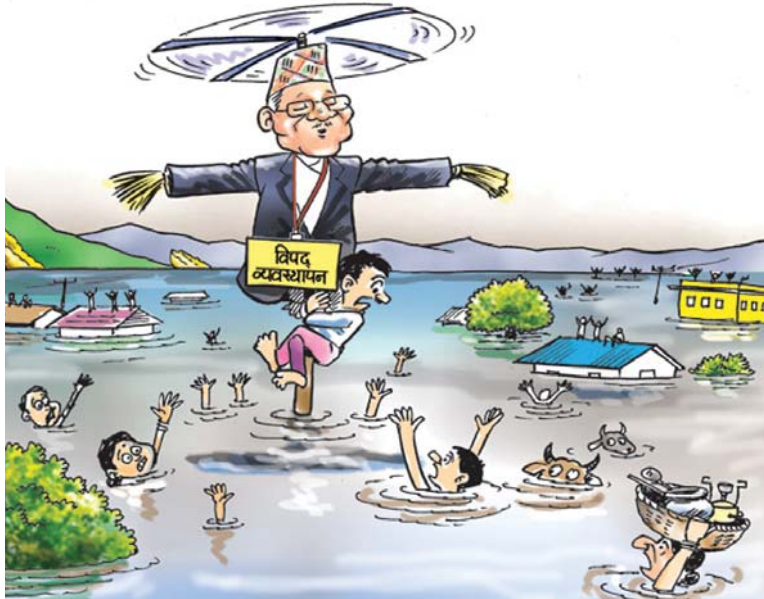
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Sign: Disaster management

नेपाल  
Rabindra in Nepal, 17 August

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“We can compromise on form of governance, but not on state restructuring. If the NC and UML don't compromise, there will be no constitution.”

UCPN(M) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal  
quoted in Kantipur, 20 August

# Fake encounter

Shital Tuladhar in Himal Khabarpatrika, 17 August

On 30 August 2011, Shital Tuladhar (*pictured*) was shot in a police encounter at Thamel's Sailung Guest House and was assumed dead. He lived and now claims he was framed. His story:

I come from a well-to-do family, we own a hotel in Dharan's Putali Lane. Six years ago I went to Singapore for holiday and stayed with a friend from Chitwan, Govinda Bahadur Karki Chhetri. He had married a local girl there and was now known as Eric.

We decided to invest in a business: it would start as a restaurant and later become a hotel. He guaranteed to use his connections to get me a permanent residency visa, I was tempted and borrowed Rs 5 million from three people. But six months later my tourist visa ran out and I had to return home. Eric showed no signs of hurrying for my PR, and didn't even pick up my calls.

Later I learnt from another friend in Singapore that he was in Nepal to take part in the mourning rituals after his father's death. I called him. On 20 August, he called me back and told me to meet him in Baneshwor on the 29th. He was waiting with his brother and four other friends when I went there.

Then we went to Thamel, where I had a shop. He told me he would return Rs 3.5 million the next day. The others went away while he stayed with me. The next day, Eric's brother called to ask where I wanted the money delivered. We were in Sailung Guest House at the time. Eric said he had a headache, so he suggested going to the room to rest. He was on the phone talking to someone who, I could hear, was talking about money and location.

We were watching tv when the door was kicked open and a group of seven or eight people entered the room. One of them fired at me. I was hit below my chin on the



SOHAN SHRESTHA

spine and fell. I was still conscious and could make out the shooters were policemen in civvies led by a sub-inspector. They were going to shoot me again as I lay bleeding on the floor, but thinking I was dead, left me alone.

They tied up Eric and punched him until he looked like he had been roughed up by a kidnapper. They dragged him out and then broke bottles in the room and even smashed the windows. I could hear a policeman talking into a walkie-talkie: "The kidnapper is dead, we've rescued the captive."

Later I was taken to a morgue by a policeman in uniform. The doctors found out I was still alive but bleeding heavily. I lived, but am now a paraplegic.

The police charged me with kidnapping and possession of illegal weapons. The newspapers gave their version: that police fired back in self-defence. The name of the policeman who shot me is Mata Pratap Thapa.

The Kathmandu District Court jailed me for nine years. Two innocent boys, framed by the police, who happened to be in the hotel, are still in jail. While I am making the rounds at the appellate courts, Eric, who planned all this, is in Singapore, running a Korean restaurant in Bugis, Victoria Street.



# Justice under threat

TUFAN NEUPANE  
in NEPALGANJ

Radio journalist Dekendra Thapa was fearless, fair and respected in his profession, but he also used to serve as a mediator during the brutal conflict that had engulfed his beloved home district of Dailekh.

In June 2004, the Maoists blocked the pipe that brought water to the district capital, and Dekendra Thapa and other journalists walked to the Maoist-controlled area to try to persuade them to open it. Instead, they were kidnapped by the rebels, and while the others were released, Dekendra was detained.

A month later, eyewitness reports started coming in about the Maoists torturing him by hanging him upside down and beating him until he died. The Maoists put up posters claiming responsibility for killing him. Dekendra's wife Laxmi lobbied hard and got forensic experts to find and exhume his body after the conflict ended in 2006. When they found the body, his mouth was wide open, his left leg and right elbow were broken. He had been buried alive.

Fast forward to 2012: police inspector Binod Sharma had kept the investigation open and finally arrested four of those accused of Dekendra's torture and murder. One of them was Lachhiram Gharti, who confessed to the torture and asked to be detained because he was wracked by guilt.

By this time, Maoist ideologue Baburam Bhattarai had become prime minister in Kathmandu, and got his handpicked Attorney General Mukti Pradhan to call off the investigation. Prosecuting the guilty would have set a precedent for the investigation of other war crimes. Senior Maoists leaders are implicated in other cases, including the torture and murder of Krishna Adhikari, whose parents are on an extended hunger strike in Kathmandu.

Back in Dailekh, key witnesses in the prosecution of Dekendra's killers have all retracted their testimonies one by one. Chandra Bahadur Gharti had told investigators that on 11 August 2004, he and Man Bahadur Sunparai heard screaming at the Nepal Rastriya Primary School and went to find out what was happening. "We saw Lachhiram Gharti and eight others beating journalist Dekendra Thapa with sticks. When Dekendra couldn't speak anymore, we saw them drag him to Lachhiram's house," reads Gharti's testimony.

However, recently Chandra Bahadur Gharti made the following deposition at the District Court: "I was away working in India when the event happened, and returned only four or five months later. I don't know who killed Dekendra, where or how." Another witness, Amrita Sunakhari, had told the same investigator: "A Maoist named Bam Bahadur Khadka alias Mukti, Lachhiram and others had kidnapped journalist Dekendra Thapa and kept him in our house. After questioning, they took him towards Dwari, and I later heard that they killed and buried him." But Sunakhari withdrew her statement and told the court recently: "I don't know Dekendra Raj Thapa, I don't know where,



## JUSTICE FOR DEKENDRA

- **June 2004** Radio journalist Dekendra Thapa abducted from Toli VDC
- **11 August 2004** Dekendra Thapa buried alive in Dwari after month-and-half of torture
- **28 August 2008** Laxmi Thapa lodged FIR at Dailekh Police about her husband's murder
- **2012** Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai and his handpicked attorney general Mukti Pradhan order police investigation quashed
- **5 January 2013** Police arrest Lachhiram Gharti and five others for the murder of Dekendra Thapa
- **28 January 2013** State lawyers file case against accused and on 31 January court ordered them arrested
- **4 July 2013** The Appellate Court in Surkhet upholds verdict against accused
- **5 August 2013** The Supreme Court overturns the verdict and orders the accused to be freed
- **20 August 2014** District court schedules to have the final hearing on the Dekendra case. Hearing postponed to 3 November 2014 due to recent floods which has disrupted mobility in the district.

when and how his death occurred. I don't know if the accused killed him, the accused should not be punished."

Other government witnesses, including Jamuna Thapa, Sashiram Gharti, Man Bahadur Sutparai and Devi Lal Gharti have similarly withdrawn statements, considerably weakening the case against the accused. Another witness Balbir Ramjali had earlier testified that he had seen the accused beating up Dekendra in the school. But now, he has made a statement saying he was in India on that day. "I don't know anything about the incident. I don't know anyone involved. I only found out that Dekendra was killed after the police took me in."

Prakash Adhikari is a Dailekh based journalist who has been covering his colleague's torture and murder for the past 10 years. He says: "Maoist leaders had gathered all the witnesses from Naumule, Dwari and Baluwater in a hotel in the district capital, forcing the accused to retract their statements."

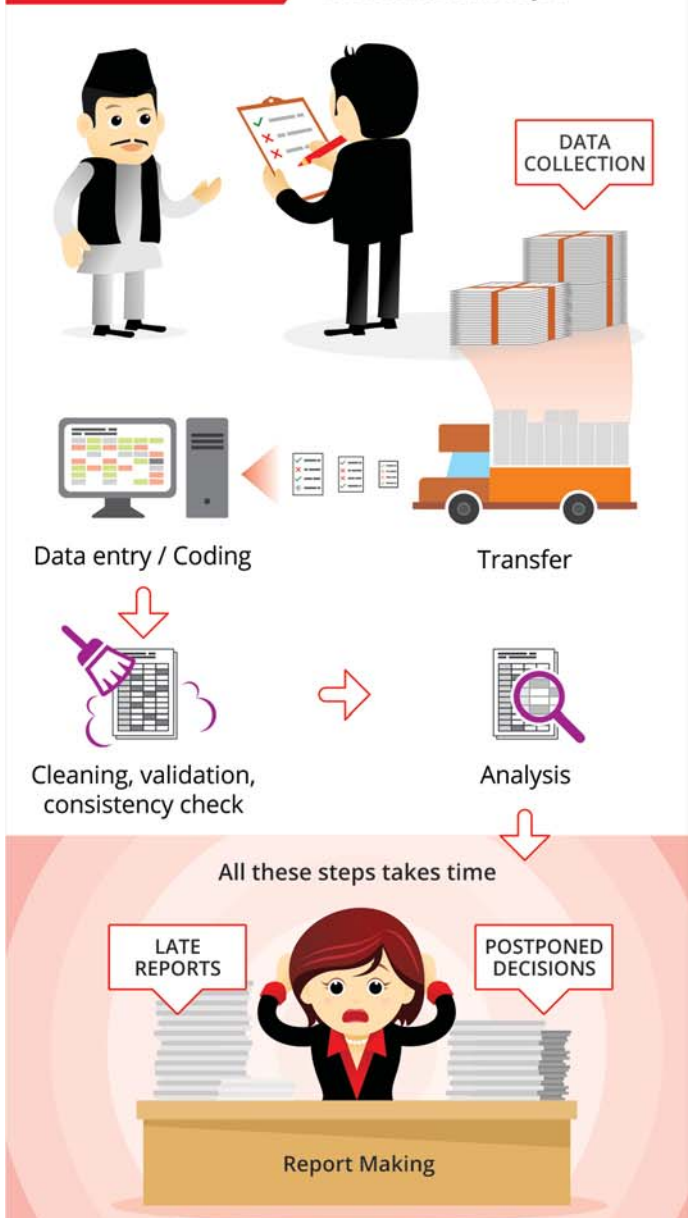
Lawyer Basanta Gautam, who has been representing Dekendra, also confirms that witnesses withdrew the case because of threats. Lawyer Govinda Bandi says the reason witnesses have retracted their testimonies after threats is because of the lack of witness protection laws. He adds: "This makes it difficult to get justice for the families of the victims." 🇳🇵

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

- See music video of Dekendra Thapa singing Karnali song
- Dekendra's grave, #408
- Transitional injustice, Kunda Dixit's blog
- Reign of terror in Dailekh, Damakant Jayshi

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