

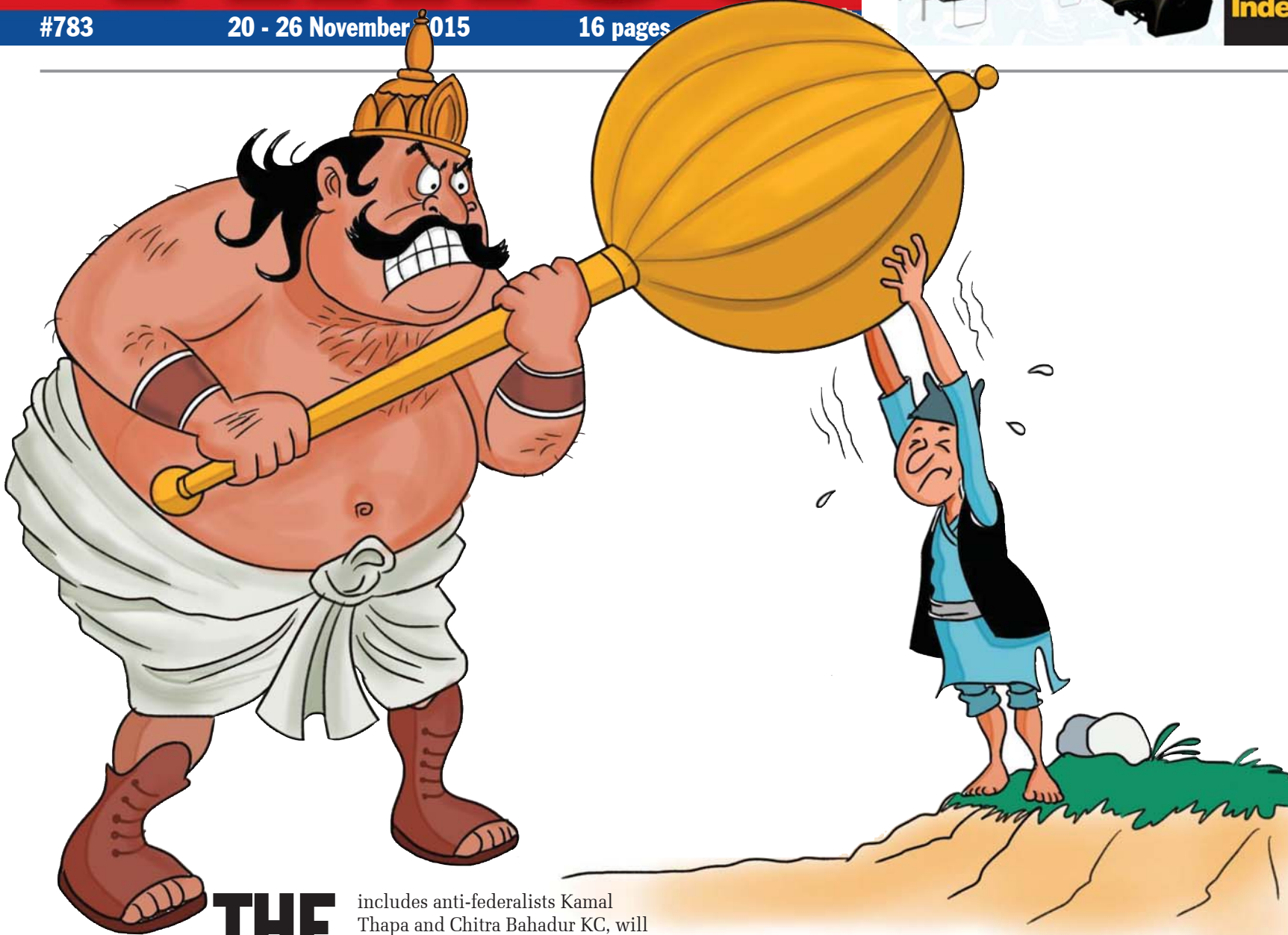
**Index**  
Bumper  
sale

16<sup>th</sup> Nov - 30<sup>th</sup> Nov  
get extra **10%** off  
on sale items

**LIKE US**  
facebook.com/INDEXFURNITURENEPAL

**FOLLOW US**  
instagram.com/INDEXFURNITURENEPAL

**Indexfurniture**  
STEEL TOWER, JAWALAKHEL  
5000270  
METROPARK, UTTARDHOKA, LAZIMPAT  
4415181



DIWAKAR CHETTRI

## THE SIEGE

Nepalis keenly waiting for a resolution of the Indian blockade were disappointed when post-festival talks billed as 'decisive' ended inconclusively on Wednesday.

Chief negotiator Pushpa Kamal Dahal proposed an all-party panel to redraw federal boundaries in return for Madhesi parties suspending their agitation, but this was rejected outright.

"Such panels are meant for immediate relief from the crisis, not for long-term solutions," said Manish Suman of Sadbhavana Party. "We are not ready to take the bait this time."

The Madhesi Front has instead asked Dahal to come up with a more concrete proposal on its demand for two provinces in the Tarai. The Madhesi leaders know that the ruling coalition, which

includes anti-federalists Kamal Thapa and Chitra Bahadur KC, will be divided over this which would add pressure on the UML.

Even Dahal seems to be waiting for the right moment to unseat Prime Minister KP Oli and lead a new coalition government with the NC and Madhesi parties. He is cosying up to the Madhesis and also India by projecting himself as more accommodative to their demands.

Oli is now trapped. He is convinced India will not lift the blockade as long he is in power. He is playing the nationalist card, but that will not work if the economic crisis caused by the blockade deepens.

With all sides engaged in political brinkmanship, the country is facing a humanitarian crisis and economic meltdown. Hospitals are running out of medicines, development has ground to a halt. This is not a blockade, it is a siege.

A country can only be politically independent if its domestic affairs are in order. India may be behaving like a bully, but Nepal's nationalistic bravado is not backed up by an ability to stand on its own feet.

## IN DEPENDENCE

EDITORIAL PAGE 2

## ..WHO WILL BELL THE CAT?

BY THE WAY  
BY ANURAG ACHARYA  
PAGE 6

## #MADHESPEAKS

AYESHA SHAKYA  
PAGE 6



## "We do not exist"

Seven months since the earthquake, what little help survivors in Sindhupalchok were getting to rebuild has been halted by the Indian blockade.

SAHINA SHRESTHA  
PAGE 14-15



## FSA '15

43 documentary films at South Asian film festival in Patan this weekend.

PAGE 7

**LAVAZZA**  
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE

Soaltee Crown Plaza - Tahachal  
Radisson Hotel - Lazimpat  
For Further Information Mail to:  
lavazza@subhashingalintl.com

FUN & FUN  
DIVINE WINE

4 LITER PACK  
Divine Wines

Step in for more varieties at

**LIFE STYLE**  
DESIGN & DECOR

SPECIAL DISCOUNT  
UP TO 40%

Show Room: SRD Building  
New Plaza, Putalisadak, Te:4425402

**TRANQUILITY SPA**  
Relaxing Body, Mind and Spirit

**BUY 1 SERVICE  
GET 1 FREE**  
AT ALL OUR OUTLETS

01-4420424

**VISIT OUR  
NEW  
SHOWROOM  
@ KL TOWER,  
Chabahil  
4-481902**

**F**  
FURNITURE LAND



EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS  
OF TURKEY AS YOU  
TRAVEL TO AMERICA  
AND EUROPE



WIDEN YOUR WORLD



During long transits our Nepalese patrons can now apply for e-VISA to Turkey at our sales office and get hotel accommodations or free tours\* (TOURISTANBUL)

For further queries please contact our sales office @ 01- 4438363/4438436  
Address: Turkish Airlines Inc/Naxal Naraynchour  
TOURS\* CONDITIONS APPLY





# IN DEPENDENCE

This is not an Indian blockade, it is an Indian siege

Nepalis are proud to proclaim that we are South Asia’s oldest nation state, that was never colonised. We fought off the East India Company, but when the British laid a siege to Kathmandu Valley in 1816 we sued for peace. The Sugauli Treaty amputated half of Nepal’s territory so the rest could remain independent.

Sovereignty is a relative concept. Independence is seldom an absolute, and is even less so in an interdependent, globalised economy. Small countries throughout history have devised pragmatic ways to accommodate belligerent larger neighbours.

Throughout the Cold War, Finland came up with a clever plan to coexist with the Soviet Union, winning its trust and profiting vastly from being the conduit for most of Moscow’s trade with the west. That relationship across the Iron Curtain came to be known somewhat derogatorily as ‘Finlandisation’, but it allowed Helsinki the elbowroom to exercise national sovereignty despite the Russian Bear breathing down its neck.

Other countries in Eastern Europe like Hungary and Czechoslovakia strained at the leash, and paid a heavy price for standing up to Moscow: they suffered full-scale military invasions in 1956 and 1968. Even after the Soviet Union broke up into little pieces Putin’s Russia is still using the iron fist approach in Georgia and Ukraine. The United States, too, has intervened covertly and overtly all over the Americas (and the world) to stop left-leaning governments from coming to power or to ensure oil supplies.

Closer to home, smaller countries on India’s periphery are all pulled by its gravity to varying degrees. Even leaving aside Pakistan, New Delhi’s relations with its neighbours have been characterised by chronic friction. Being too strategic for its own good, Sikkim got swallowed up in 1975. India midwived the birth of Bangladesh, but bilateral relations have always been rocky. Sri Lanka’s Tamil separatist war became an extension of Tamil Nadu state politics, sucked India into a military quagmire, and lead to the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi by a suicide bomber in 1991. Bhutan’s rulers have decided that India’s presence is a given, and have leveraged partial sovereignty for an economic bonanza from hydropower exports. Even so, the rulers of Druk Yul sometimes run afoul of Delhi as they did in 2013 when India flexed its muscles by blockading gas supplies.

Nepal’s Anglophile Rana rulers since Jang Bahadur



decided that Britain was too powerful to go to war with to regain territory lost in 1816. Independent India inherited some of the divide and rule tactics of the British in Kathmandu, but it must be said that they did it a lot more crudely. During the Nehru years, the 30-years of Panchayat, through the post-democracy period of the 1990s and the decade of conflict, India has behaved like an overbearing, arm-twisting, neighbourhood toughie. There have been only a few years during which bilateral relations could be termed healthy and harmonious. Most Indian politicians, bureaucrats and diplomats have come across as petulant and mean, while many Nepali leaders have been either utterly servile or thoughtlessly confrontational.

That there have been two Indian blockades before this, the last one in 1988-89 when the Indo-Nepal border was sealed for 13 months, should have given a succession of Nepal’s rulers sufficient time to implement a long-term strategy for self-reliance and import-diversification. We did neither. And the most glaring impact of those failures are here for all to endure: an economy hopelessly hooked to petroleum, electricity rationing in a country that should be producing a surplus for export, a highway artery linking Kathmandu to India that takes an absurd 200 km detour, maintaining only one tenuous highway link to the northern border, actively discouraging electric public transport, etc.

All we have heard from elected politicians over the last 25 years are wild promises to turn Nepal into Switzerland or Singapore. We have listened to platitudes about hydropower, hollow pledges about developing agriculture. No action, no preparation, no alternatives. A country can only be politically independent if its domestic affairs are in order and its economy is on a healthy growth trajectory. Which is why Nepal today is not independent, but in dependence.

India’s rulers may be behaving like the boors they are, but our nationalistic bravado is not backed up by an ability to stand on our own feet. A state may be weak, but it must compensate for its smallness with smarts. We must fix our domestic issues ourselves, and understand Indian sensibilities to negotiate for the concessions we need.

For its part, India should pick someone its size. This is not an Indian blockade, it is an Indian siege. Nepal’s hospitals are running out of emergency medicines, earthquake survivors haven’t got relief and an entire country of 28 million is being held hostage. The Buddha is not smiling.

Times

THIS WEEK

AYESHA SHAKYA (6,408 PEOPLE REACHED)

Facebook icon

**Most reached on Facebook**  
The trekking trails to Ghandruk and Ghorepani in the Annapurnas are surprisingly busy this season despite predictions of dismal tourist arrivals due to the April earthquake and ongoing Indian blockade.

Facebook share icon

**Most shared on Facebook**  
The best time to trek by *Ayesha Shakya* (28 shares)

Twitter icon

**Most popular on Twitter**  
In Dependence by *Kunda Dixit* (188 retweets, 192 favourites)

YouTube icon

**Most visited online page**  
Look south by *Om Astha Rai* (3,329 views)

Quote icon

**Most commented**  
Look south by *Om Astha Rai* (22 comments)

YOUR SAY

www.nepalitimes.com

**FLAG-WAVING**  
Whether official or unofficial, the blockade is illegal, has hurt the relationship between India and Nepal, and caused much pain to Nepalis ('Flag-waving', Editorial, #782).

**Bir Bahadur**

■ It seems that the Madhesi Morcha leaders, despite their claims, are not very popular on either side of the border. The blockade has disrupted businesses and livelihood of countless people on both sides and it is unlikely these people will vote for politicians that are bent on upending their livelihoods. It is a lesson that the Madhesi Morcha leaders failed to learn from the last election, and something the BJP hopefully learns from its humiliating defeat in Bihar.

**Dev Batsya**

**PREPARED FOR TAKEOFF**  
NAC is a classic case study on why governments of third world countries shouldn't attempt to do complex businesses ('Preparing to takeoff', Kunda Dixit, #782). Political interference, corruption, nepotism, incompetent management, complex bureaucratic regulations that prohibit efficient practices all plague NAC. The airlines industry is so technically complex, competitive and sensitive to economic-political changes that even competent managements struggle to keep airlines afloat. NAC with all the baggage it has to carry is designed to fail.

**Airline Guy**

**LOOK SOUTH**  
It's clear that people weren't asking any in-depth questions about the viability of bringing in fuel from China before rejoicing over the deal ('Look south', Om Astha Rai, #782). The plan to fly in petrol products also doesn't sound sustainable. It seems nobody

been on managing the situation and stopping it from escalating.

**Gaurav Sharma**

is applying the logic of supply chain management to this proposition either. By either of these methods, my estimation is that the permanent price of petrol will quadruple, who can afford that?

**Joe Niemczura**

**Hurray**

Times

nepalnews.com

Weekly Internet Poll #783

Q. What should the government do to resolve the current crisis?

Total votes: 334

Resume negotiations with Madhesi Morcha 44.31%

Acknowledge the blockade and talk to India 16.17%

Expedite the process of opening transit points with China 39.52%

Weekly Internet Poll #784

To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com

Q. Who do you blame for the current crisis?

Times

Nepali Times on Facebook

Follow @nepalitimes on Twitter

Follow @nepalitimes on Instagram

Publisher and Chief Editor: Kunda Dixit

Associate Editor: Tsering Dolker Gurung | Online Producer: Ayesha Shakya | 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.jagadambaprp.com



# Selective outrage

Some events are more important than others

This week the world mourned the victims of the Paris terror attacks which claimed 129 lives. The international community released statements condemning the massacres, monuments across the globe were lit up in the French tricolour and candlelight vigils were held, including in Kathmandu (*pic*).

On Facebook people used a feature which allows an overlay of the French flag over one's profile picture. On Twitter the solidarity hashtag #prayforparis went global. While much of the content on social media platforms were for solidarity with the French people, the level of attention given to Friday's attacks in the French capital also made many question the Western media's news judgement.



## BETWEEN THE LINES

Tsering Dolker Gurung

Why didn't a similar attack carried out only a day before in Beirut that killed more than 40 receive similar coverage? Why weren't the Kenyan flags flying on Facebook when an Al Qaeda attack in a university in Kenya killed 150 students in April? Where is the international outrage over attacks by Boko Haram which continues to kill and maim in Nigeria?

This is not to say that the media does not report on terror attacks outside the western hemisphere. But the truth is that when Beirut was attacked, it didn't get 24-hour saturation news coverage. When Kenyan students were slaughtered in school it received much less priority than Paris. TV pundits didn't do a minute by minute analysis of the Boko Haram attack on a mosque in September that killed 117 Muslims.

Closer to home, India's blockade of Nepal until recently was virtually ignored by the international press. Why is a siege that is much more devastating to Nepal's economy than the earthquake not newsworthy enough?

A terrorist attack in Lebanon or Iraq or Syria is not as shocking as one in London or Paris because it is far too common, journalists argue. Some even claim that despite their best attempts to push news items about non-European, non-American countries, readers are simply not interested and rarely click on such stories. Meaning, news is driven by what readers want to read. The measure of an importance of a life is the number of hits it will get online.

Then there's the factor of familiarity. The average news consumer in Europe will have little idea about political goings-on in Nepal, the reasons for the blockade are just too convoluted to be explained simply in inverted pyramid style. Nepal is unfortunately not strategically important enough for journalists and their readers in the West.

OK, we can understand the western press isn't bothered,

but why isn't the Indian media interested? Except a few op-eds by anti-Modi liberals, most coverage of the Nepal crisis in the Indian media reads like leaks dictated by the Ministry of External Affairs.

The result: Despite a blockade that has crippled the lives of 28 million people for two months, much of the world has no idea what is going on here. Hospitals have run out of medical supplies, businesses and schools have been forced to shut due to lack of fuel, earthquake reconstruction has come to a standstill. Shortage of essential commodities has caused

immense suffering and hurt the poor the most. There may not be blood and gore on the streets, but what Nepal is going through is an enormous crisis that should be newsworthy by any measure.

It took the world only few hours to read and hear about the attacks in Paris. Sadly it took an attack in Paris for many of us to learn about the bombing the previous day in Beirut. Therein lies the problem with the definition of news and the news cycle: it is selective compassion and outrage.

By now most of us have read the heartbreaking testimonies of the



NAVESH CHITRAKAR

survivors in Paris. We know who the assailants were and we know that France has now declared war on ISIL. We also know of Diesel, the French police search dog that was killed by terrorists on Wednesday's raid. Due to media's obsessive coverage of Paris, we

will never forget what happened there for a long time.

Wish the same could be said about the tragedies in Kenya and Nigeria and all the other countries that continue to escape the limelight. @Chenreeyang

## Explore More, Faster

Network modernization brings you faster Internet speed of up to 21 Mbps in Kathmandu and expanding throughout the nation. Explore more with faster Internet and a range of services.

Experience the speed yourself with Ncell.

Buy your favourite Internet pack \*17123#

Speed upto  
21 Mbps  
in  
Kathmandu



Mentioned Internet speed currently available in Kathmandu valley;



# Democracy and the demographic shift

The movement of Nepal’s population within the country is having a profound impact on its politics

SARTHAK MANI SHARMA

When a draft copy of the 2011 census report was shown to Nepal’s leading demographer, he was stunned. He thought there had been a mistake.

“Some of the figures were so surprising I asked the statisticians to check the whole report again,” Yagya Bahadur Karki, a former member of the National Planning Commission recalls.

The Central Bureau of Statistics eventually published the census report, which gave a glimpse of the tremendous movement of people from hills to plains, from rural to urban areas and migrations abroad for work. The figures have huge implications for public policy, politics and, in particular, appear to be at the root of the current unrest in the Madhes.

“The result of the 2011 census are more important than ever because they suggest that Nepal has seen tremendous demographic transformation in the last decade,” says Karki.

The most significant aspect of these changes, and one that appears to be fuelling protests in the Tarai, is the accelerated transmigration of hill settlers down to the plains. The number of hill Bahuns, Chhetris, Limbus and other ethnic groups as a proportion of Tarai’s population has risen sharply in the past decade. In 2001, lifetime migrants in the Tarai, who include people not born there, numbered 1.1 million, and ten years later, that figure had increased to 1.4 million.

“This increases the importance of assimilation and communal harmony between different ethnic groups,” says Pitamber Sharma, former Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission who

advocated including Jhapa in the Madhes Province 2. He says the current boundaries ignore the case for integration of hill and plains populations.

“The demand for proportional representation based on population is a justified one because of the increasing population of the Tarai,” he explains.

The other dramatic demographic shift is in the population growth rate, which hovered at slightly above 2 per cent for the early 2000s but dropped to a startling 1.35 per cent in 2011. Some took this to mean that Nepal had defused the population bomb, while others argued that the figure is misleading because the census excluded Nepalis who had been living abroad for more than six months.

But demographer Karki says that even if we include the absentee population in the calculations as was done in 1991, Nepal’s population growth rate has still plummeted.

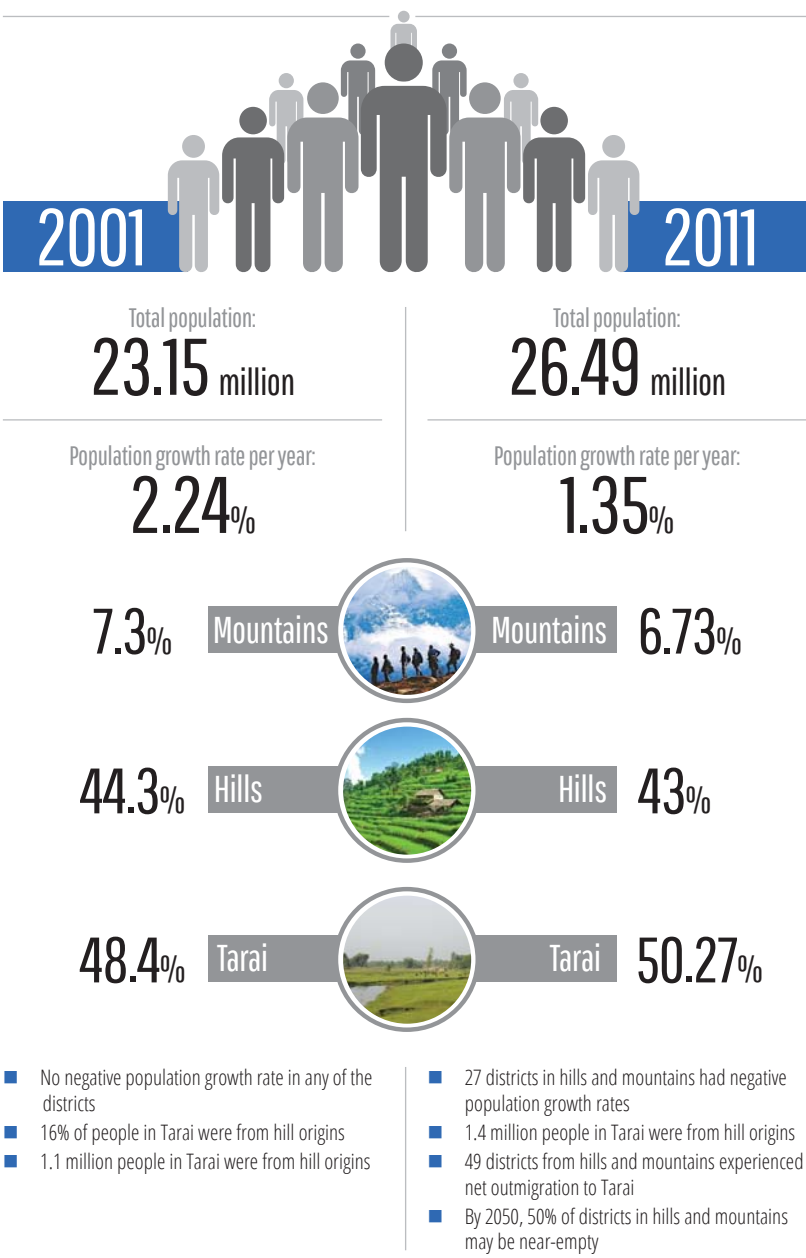
The average life expectancy of Nepalis is now 71, at par with countries like Indonesia, Egypt and Ukraine. “Growth in life expectancy is an outcome of investment made by the government in health and education sectors over the last two decades,” says economist Swarnim Wagle.

Meanwhile, twenty-seven of Nepal’s hill and mountain districts showed a negative population growth rate between 2001 and 2011. Demographers say that if this trend is not reversed and jobs are not created, more than half the districts in the hills will be nearly empty in 50 years.

Experts call this the period of ‘demographic dividend’ for Nepal — a duration of 20 to 30 years during which the working-age population is



## Demographic shift



slightly greater than the population of the dependent age. A demographic dividend can spur economic growth if the government can spend on education, health and training to develop the skills of the workforce.

But if the population growth rate continues to decline Nepal may soon go the way of countries like Singapore and China with their ageing population. According to the United Nations Population Fund the average life expectancy of Nepalis could reach nearly 80 years by 2050 and the fertility rate will tumble down to 1.75 — far below the replacement rate of 2.1.

Demographers refer to the ‘population pyramid’ to describe the country’s age structure. By 2050, Nepal’s will look less like a pyramid and more like a tree, top heavy with the elderly.

Is Nepal prepared to cope with these transformations? Economist Keshav Acharya has a qualified yes. “Only if the state spends more on pension and medical care of the elderly and re-thinks the retirement age,” he says.

Like many developing countries, Nepal can also reap the demographic dividend by spending to enhance the productive capacity of its working-age population. Without that, the youth bulge will be out of work and may choose increasingly to migrate, which will trigger further demographic imbalances in the country.

More than anything else, though, the government must use demographic figures as crucial tools to form public and economic policies. Karki concludes: “The numbers aren’t just numbers. They bear important messages.”

FLY  
ON TIME

Yeti Airlines operates 7 Jetstream-41 advanced turbo prop aircrafts catering to widest network sectors every day.

KTM-MTN-KTM Daily 5 Flights•KTM-PKR-KTM Daily 8 Flights•KTM-BIR-KTM Daily 7 Flights•KTM-BDP-KTM Daily 3 Flights•KTM-BWA-KTM Daily 2 Flights  
KTM-KEP-KTM Daily 2 Flights•KTM-JKR-KTM Daily 2 Flights•KTM-DHI-KTM Daily 1 Flight•KTM-BHR-KTM Daily 1 Flight•KTM-TMI-KTM Daily 1 Flight

Yeti Airlines Domestic Pvt. Ltd. Corporate Office: Tilganga, Kathmandu, Tel: 4465888 Fax: 4465115 Reservations: 4464878 (Hunting Line), Kathmandu Airport: 4493901 Email: reservations@yetiairlines.com Sky Club: 01-4487020/4465888 (223/418) Email: skyclub@yetiairlines.com  
Bhadrapur: 023-455232•Biratnagar: 021-536612•Tumlingtar: 029-575120•Janakpur: 041-520047•Bharatpur: 056-523136•Pokhara: 061-464888•Bhairahawa: 071-527527•Nepalgunj: 081-526556•Dhangadi: 091-520004

For any service suggestions, call 977-1-4465888 (Ext. 621) or email us at feedback@yetiairlines.com

Yeti Airlines  
You come first





GOPEN RAI

# Electrified transportation

The blockade should be a wakeup call for the government to actively promote electric transport

SAHINA SHRESTHA

One would have thought that with the petro shock of the two-month Indian blockade, the government would get moving double quick on a campaign to introduce electric transport.

After years of lobbying by energy activists, the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport had finally drafted the Environment-friendly Vehicle and Transport Policy last year. But, as with most previous plans promoting use of clean energy vehicles, it never got off the ground.

What's worse, there is no sense of urgency even with the current fuel crisis.

On paper the policy looks great. It advocates the production and use of zero emission vehicles for public transport, establishing charging stations and infrastructure for electric vehicles, and conversion of petrol cars to electric.

It also proposes setting up 11 electric charging stations with double feeders around Kathmandu's Ring Road and establishing battery-recycling centres, plants to manufacture EV parts and developing better road infrastructure.

No surprise that implementation has been nil. The Department of Transport Management says it is currently working on the guidelines for policy implementation but activists believe the delay is intentional: the government is dragging its feet due to pressure from powerful car dealers and revenue from taxes on vehicles and fuel.

A review of various transport plans of the government over the years shows the same story: lots of promises on paper but very little results. The sixth, seventh and eighth five-year plan all mention expansion of trolley buses. The tenth five-year plan says environment friendly and battery operated vehicles will be promoted. Apart from exempt the excise duty on electric vehicles, not much else has been done.

Despite immense popularity, the government cut the trolley bus service in 2001 and formally shut it down in 2009. In 2005, it refused to let Safa tempos run on more popular commuter routes and began actively promoting diesel-based private cars.

The National Transport Policy of 2001-02 stated that electric

vehicles and solar chargers would be 'expanded throughout the country'. It also suggested that zero emission vehicles would be exempt from customs duty.

To be sure, the government did cut customs duty on electric vehicles by half in this year's budget and zero emission cars are exempt from the Rs 30,000 road tax. these are yet to be ratified by the Cabinet.

The government charges one percent custom duty for import of SAFA Tempo chassis, engines, motor, battery, and battery charger making it cheaper to import EVs rather than manufacture them in the country.

Umesh Raj Shrestha, president of Electric Vehicles Association Nepal (EVAN) says: "The government needs to be more serious and work towards implementing the policies in place."

Ganga Bahadur Thapa of Nepal Economic Concern Society (NCES), who lobbied for the policy, agrees. "Lack of coordination and commitment between various sectors of the government is the main reason nothing happens," he says. "If nothing else, the current fuel crisis should be a wakeup call."

In a recent media interview the newly appointed Minister of Commerce Ganesh Man Pun said: "In the long term it is important to reduce consumption of imported fuel by developing hydro electricity on our own and promoting the use of electric vehicles."

But gauging from the government's foot dragging in implementing EV friendly policies, that may be a long time coming.

"If we can generate enough electricity, going electric is not a farfetched dream," says Shrestha. "It is not too late to start developing the infrastructure and to promote EVs."

This is not the first time Nepal has faced an Indian blockade. We didn't learn from the 1988-89 embargo, and it doesn't look like we are learning from this one either.

## EV POLICIES

- Excise duty cut
- Customs duty halved (proposed)
- Annual vehicle tax waived
- 50% off on road development and maintenance tax (proposed)

**Mahindra e20**

Price in India:  
NPR **800,000**  
(after government incentive)

Price in Nepal:  
NPR **2.4 million**  
(even after 40% off on customs duty)

**Mahindra Scorpio**

Price in India:  
NPR **1,280,000**

Price in Nepal:  
NPR **4,000,000**

### prabhu BANK BIZ BRIEFS



**Tap & Pay**  
Global technology company, Nuspay has launched Nepal's first multipurpose Tap & Pay card in association with Nepal Bank Limited and transportation company, Sajha Yatayat. Commuters on Sajha Yatayat can now pay for their travel using electronic smart cards.

**Freight Expansion**  
One of the fastest growing names in the global air cargo industry, Turkish Cargo has taken another leap forward. This week it announced an expansion of its freight destinations to include Atlanta, New York, Kinshaha, London, Amsterdam and Doha. This increases the freighter's coverage to 280 destinations in 110 countries.



**Etihad awarded**  
Etihad Airways has received an award from Airlink, a humanitarian nonprofit organisation for its efforts to help with the Nepal earthquake disaster in April this year. Etihad Airways had provided 54 flight tickets for aid workers from the USA, Europe and Australia to fly into Kathmandu. The airlines also donated cash, relief supplies and waived excess baggage fee for passengers bringing in emergency and relief aid.

**Shareholders Awarded**  
In what is sure to be a welcomed move, a Board of Directors meeting of Himalaya Bank earlier this month has decided to provide 35% Bonus Share Dividend to its shareholders. The decision however, is still subject to the approval of the upcoming annual General Meeting and Nepal Rastra Bank.



**PUREST PRODUCT OF NEPAL**  
NEPAL'S FIRST ISO 22000:2005 CERTIFIED COMPANY - DNV NETHERLANDS (FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)

**Godawari Natural Spring Water**

**FORBES SPRING**  
Processed Drinking Water

**Free Home Delivery: 6221656, 4227536**  
**Toll Free No.: 1660-01-02424**

**BE NATURAL, BUY NATURAL, CONSERVE NATURE**

**REMO**  
Research & Monitoring System

GENERATE INFORMATION ON MAPS

DATA COLLECTED IS CENTRALIZED SIMULTANEOUSLY

SAVE EFFORT TIME MONEY

redefining research

REMO is Research and Monitoring System that can capture, analyze and visualize data together. Tremendously useful and cost effective, REMO opens a new frontier on how surveys are conducted. Smartphone-enabled and tablet-compatible, surveys can be created in a fly and modified on the go. Data Collected gets seamlessly aggregated on the system allowing web-based access that dynamically produce meaningful reports in real time. Using complex algorithm, data is instantly converted to intelligence.

rooster logic

Rooster Logic Pvt Ltd.  
Campus Marg, Chakupat,  
Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur, Nepal

T : (+977 - 1) 526 1530  
M : (+977) 9851164335, (+977) 9860307694  
E : info@roosterlogic.com

"1st Nepali System to be deployed in all 75 districts; 200,000+ sample size"



Both the government and the protesters realise this stalemate is not helping anybody, but ...

# ... who will bell the cat?

On the evening of 3 November, Mihir Karna from Birganj was on his way to a hospital to attend to his ailing sister-in-law. There was a curfew but Karna was carrying medical documents to convince the police in case he was detained. Unfortunately, he was given no opportunity to explain. Near Panitanki, a group of APF personnels beat him an inch short of life and threw him into a pile of smouldering tyres. Had his neighbours not rescued him, Karna could have been burned to death.



**BY THE WAY**  
Anurag Acharya

“I don’t remember exactly how long they kept beating me because I fell unconscious,” Karna recalled, his anger and pain easy to see, “when I woke up I was lying in a hospital bed. The kind of abuses they hurl at you for being a Madhesi makes you wonder if you belong to an inferior category of human race. You work in the media, tell me, do the majority of hill people doubt our loyalty to this nation?”




ANURAG ACHARYA

The fact that people like Mihir should ask such uncomfortable questions is a blot on Nepali democracy. It exposes the pretence of an inclusive society we have been putting up since a Madhesi was elected first president of the republic seven years ago. And we have continued with this hypocrisy, electing women as president and speaker of parliament but don’t yet confer equal citizenship rights to their children. Let us accept that if 45 people have died and thousands of those agitating in the streets for three months believe this constitution is flawed, they may have good reasons to be angry. Or are we going to live in denial and say

that the personal interest of a few Madhesi leaders is forcing hundreds of thousands onto the streets? A journalist from Saptari recently emailed me a video clip of a UML supporter saying on camera: “I am a UML cadre and have nothing to do with the movement but when police enter our house, beat up women and children and fire at us indiscriminately, you cannot blame us for coming out on the streets.” Unfortunately, the national discourse has now been overshadowed by the undeclared Indian blockade. The mainstream blames India for enforcing the blockade and sheltering the protesters, but the protesters in

Birganj were actually desperately trying to save themselves from indiscriminate police firing which had already killed dozens. The government is understandably irked by the growing public support for the movement, but the way Kathmandu’s civil society and mainstream media has been inconsiderate towards the genuine demands and suffering of innocent civilians like Karna at the hands of the state, has added fuel to fire. When BP Koirala and GP Koirala used Indian soil and support to launch their movement against an autocratic regime, we called them freedom fighters. Now, when Madhesis are doing the same thing to bargain with Kathmandu we call them traitors. It makes no difference to us, after so many deaths and months of protests that not one senior member of the cabinet has bothered to go to Tarai and express regret for their loss. It is a political crisis, not a law and order problem. To be sure, the Indians are pushing their own interests through the blockade, but KP Oli should realise by now that flirting with Chinese oil diplomacy is not in Nepal’s long term interest either. Our public diplomacy has been even more disastrous. Instead of asking the Indians to #Backoff or cribbing

against #IndiablockadesNepal, had the media and civil society collectively pressured government to reach out to the dissenting groups while opening diplomatic channels with New Delhi things would not have deteriorated to this extent. We may have run out of cooking gas, be forced to take overcrowded buses to work, our hospitals may have run out of essential medicines. But in Bara, Parsa, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Siraha, Saptari, Sunsari and Morang, Madhesis have been faring far worse for much longer. If Dasain and Tihar were painful in the hills, Chath in Madhes has not been exactly a celebration. Yet, if they have resolved to stay on the streets for so long, we better believe they have genuine grievances. The smartest thing K P Oli has done in the last three months is to convince the Madhesi parties to sit for talks this week. There seems to be a sombre realisation on both sides that the stalemate is not benefiting anybody. But finding a mutually agreeable solution will still take a lot more political will.  @Anurag\_Acharya

 **nepalitimes.com**

■ Audio and video clips  

## #MadhesSpeaks

A social media campaign aims to bring voice of everyday Madhesis to the forefront


AYESHA SHAKYA

Much of the news coming out of the Madhes in the past three months has been centered on protests, violence and the blockade. In the midst of all this, while the demands of political leaders are reported widely in the media, the voice of the silent majority of Madhesis has been lost. Ravi Kumar of Code for Nepal wanted to change that with his #MadhesSpeaks campaign and bring the views and frustration of Madhesis to the forefront. “#MadhesSpeaks is more than just a hashtag, it is a platform to share constructive views,” he explained, “when messages from ordinary Nepalis in plains are shared widely on social media, people all over this country will likely be more empathetic towards the genuine demands of Madhesis.” Kumar partnered with the online platform Madhesi Youth and Madhes Adhikar Sangharsh Samiti, a local youth group, to organise #MadhesSpeaks in his hometown of Janakpur. The campaign was kickstarted at the Janaki Temple, where people were asked two questions:

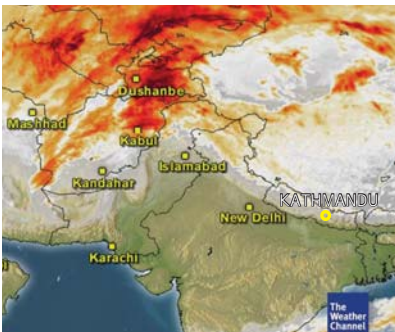
1. What do you want in Nepal?
  2. What needs to be done to resolve the crisis?
- People were asked to use any language they preferred, so long as their responses contributed to a dialogue in a constructive manner. Over 100 locals wrote their thoughts on a piece of white paper and their photographs were shared over social media. From children to senior citizens, a common thread running through the



DAVID CAPRARA

responses was: the desire for equality and dignity. Apart from the frustration over not being able to resume with their daily lives, people do not support the Pahadi-Madhesi divide and want to bring an end to this crisis together. Furthermore, as a self-directed and decentralised campaign, the organisers have aimed to make the campaign as inclusive as possible. “In a patriarchal society as ours, it is the women who are the most marginalised, and it was important for us to include their views and sentiments,” says Kumar. The response to the campaign has been largely positive, with people from the entire political spectrum engaging in constructive discussion. While changing perceptions is a gradual process, the solidarity expressed in the campaign is a positive sign to move forward. “When people do not travel to Tarai, there is a lack of knowledge and information, and social media can be used to bridge that gap. It was used in a positive manner during the earthquake to disseminate information, it can now help us to increase pressure on the government to act fast,” adds Kumar. Another hashtag trending online is #KTMwithMadhes, where people of Kathmandu have expressed solidarity with the people of Madhes. Although the campaign has garnered some backlash for being patronising, Kumar disagrees: “We are going through a critical time and any and all support ought to be constructive.” After Janakpur, the campaign was organised in Birganj and Lahan and the final leg of the campaign, called #NepalSpeaks, will take place in Kathmandu on Saturday, November 21. 





The thick haze this past week over central Nepal was due to prevailing winds from the southwest blowing in Indian industrial pollution and smoke from crop fires in Punjab. However, a circulation pattern associated with a low pressure system over the Bay of Bengal will change the wind direction slightly, which means there will be cleaner, crisper air over Kathmandu over the weekend. The fact that we are only burning 20 per cent of the usual diesel because of the Indian blockade will also make the air feel cleaner. The cool, dry air will send minimum temperatures in the Valley into the single digits for the first time this winter.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
24° 9°	24° 9°	24° 10°



# DOCUMENTING SOUTH ASIA

## Film South Asia returns for the tenth time

It's documentary season once again as Film South Asia (FSA) returns for the tenth time. With 42 films from all over South Asia vying for the coveted Ram Bahadur Trophy, FSA 2015 promises to be a visual treat.

This year the festival opened with a special curated package of eight student films.

Besides films from the subcontinent, the festival will also showcase films on South Asian subjects from Myanmar and the UK.

A three-member jury will judge the films. The Ram Bahadur Trophy, awarded for best film, carries a cash prize of US\$ 2,000. The second best film will receive US\$1,000. The Tareque Masud Award for the best debut film carries a cash prize of US\$ 1,000.

All films will be screened at the Yala Maya Kendra in Patan Dhoka from 19 to 22 November.

[www.filmsouthasia.org](http://www.filmsouthasia.org)



### Drawing the Tiger

Filmed over seven years, *Drawing the Tiger* is an intimate portrait of a family in Nepal who get a chance to break their cycle of poverty. Their brightest child is awarded a scholarship to attend school in the city. When she doesn't return home, the family is forced to survive without her and the opportunity they believed would change their fate.



### Castaway Man

Dor Bahadur Bista, one of Nepal's most controversial intellectuals in modern times, disappeared without trace in 1996. The film tracks his life and beliefs and tries to understand his sudden disappearance.



### Being Bhaijaan

*Being Bhaijaan* explores Indian masculinity by mapping the emotional, spiritual and philosophical contribution Salman Khan makes in the lives of three men in small-town India, who find themselves increasingly disassociated with a changing country,

its competitiveness, and its new women. They seek solace in a notion of manhood, constructed brick-by-brick, through a superstar's perceived personality, which is as old-world as Salman Khan's films.



### News from Jaffna

A young reporter dares to cover press freedom in one of the world's most dangerous places for journalists — Sri Lanka. Despite the dangers involved in working for the Tamil newspaper *Uthayan* in Jaffna, young journalists like Thadsa still join their ranks. Apart from its Chief Editor, *Uthayan* does not have a single news journalist over the age of 40. But as they grow older, young journalists come under family pressure to find safer jobs. Thadsa is passionate about reporting and wants to cover a story on a journalist who disappeared in 2007, and look into the ongoing restrictions to press freedoms in Sri Lanka.



### Saving Mes Aynak

An archaeologist races against time to save a 2,000-year-old Buddhist archaeological site in Afghanistan under threat from a Chinese copper mining company and Taliban attacks. Only 10% of MesAynak has been excavated and experts believe future discoveries have the potential to redefine the history of Afghanistan and of Buddhism itself. The film presents a conflict between cultural preservation and economic opportunity.



## SCREENING SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY

#### 20 November MAJLIS

**10AM** Saving Mes Aynak (50')  
Dir. Brent E. Huffman | Afghanistan  
An archaeologist races against time to save a 2,000-year-old Buddhist archaeological site in Afghanistan.

**11.15AM** What the Fields Remember (52')  
Dir. Subasri Krishnan | India  
Revisiting the Nellie massacre, where 1800 Bengali Muslims were killed in the state of Assam.

**12.30PM** A Political Life (20')  
Dir. May Htoo Cho | Myanmar  
Aung San Suu Kyi's retired bodyguard bows out of politics and finds new forms of employment.  
News from Jaffna (28')  
Dir. Kannan Arunaslam | Sri Lanka  
A young reporter dares to cover press freedom in one of the world's most dangerous places for journalists.  
Anjaan Rastaay (23')  
Dir. Umair Ahmad Khawaja | Pakistan  
Debating the logic behind renaming popular landmarks and streets in Lahore.

**2.30PM** Muzaffarnagar Baaqi Hai (136')  
Dir. Nakul Singh Sawhney | India  
Exploring the social-political dynamics that led to India's worst communal riots since independence.

**4.30 PM** On and Off the Records (55')  
Dir. Pratik Biswas | India  
Evolution of Hindustani classical music and recording formats that affected one of the oldest musical traditions of the world.

**5.45 PM** Bishkanta (The Poison Thorn) (40')  
Dir. Farzana Bobby | Bangladesh  
A historical account of three survivors of rape during Bangladesh's Liberation War.

### BAGGIKHANA

**10.15 AM** Love Marriage in Kabul (84')  
Dir. Amin Palangi | Afghanistan  
Abdul enlists the help of Mahboba to help convince Fatemeh's father to let them get married.

**12.15 PM** Tashi's Turbine (57')  
Dir. Amitabh Raj Joshi | Nepal  
Tashi and his friend travel to Namdok in Upper Mustang to install a wind turbine, where they encounter unforeseen challenges.

**1.30 PM** Silence in the Courts (53')  
Dir. Prasanna Vithanage | Sri Lanka  
A story of a woman's search for justice after being raped by a corrupt judge who was presiding over her husband's case.

**2.45 PM** My Name is Salt (90')  
Dir. Farida Pacha | India  
Chhanabhai and family live in the desert without provisions to extract salt from its arid landscape.

**4.30 PM** Behind the Screens (35')  
Dir. Aung Nwai Htway | Myanmar  
A son dissects his actor parents' marriage through their on-screen roles hoping to find answers on why they separated.  
Brief Life of Insects (22')  
Dir. Tarun Bhartiya | India  
In Umpohwin, friends thresh paddies and sing while working on the fields.

### COURTYARD

**6.30 PM** The Journey Within (86')  
Dir. Mian Adnan Ahmad | Pakistan  
Look inside the musical world of Coke Studio.

### SATURDAY

#### 21 NOVEMBER

### MAJLIS

**10 AM** Hockey in My Blood (53')s  
Dir. Sandhya Kumar | India

Families battle it out on the hockey field for bragging rights for the rest of the year.

**11.10 AM** 3 Shamans (77')  
Dir. Aurore Laurent and Adiren Viel | Nepal  
Three Shamans in Nepal explore the beyond to relieve human beings of their pain.

**12.45 PM** Tomorrow We Disappear (84')  
Dir. Jimmy Goldblum, Adam Weber | India  
Three performers from Kathputli Colony have mixed outlooks on their impending eviction from their neighbourhood.

**2.30 PM** Japan in Nagaland (42')  
Dir. Hemant Gaba | India  
Exploring underground anime subculture in Nagaland through COSFEST, an annual costume festival.

**3:30 PM** Koti Waale Superstars (75')  
Dir. Anuj Adlakha, Farah Alam | India  
Children from a community in the mountains show what friendship, honour and redemption can mean.

**5PM** Footprints in the Desert (80')  
Dir. Balaka Gosh  
Marks left by passing travelers along the desert border between Pakistan and India lead to real stories and emotions.

### BAGGIKHANA

**10.15AM** This Road I know (58')  
Dir. Yirmiyan Arthur Yhome | India  
A personal journey through Nagaland and Manipur that captures the changing complexities of the region's reality.

**11.30AM** Cities of Sleep (74')  
Dir. Shaunak Sen | India  
Delhi's homeless negotiate the political economy of sleep.

**1:15PM** Red Ant Dream (120')  
Dir. Sanjay Kak | India  
Maoist insurgency in India explored through the Maoists in Chhattisgarh, tribals in Odisha and protesters in Punjab.

**3:30PM** Blood Leaves its trail (93')  
Dir. Iffat Fatima  
Memory as a mode of resistance for those narratives ruptured by violence and undermined by the official 'truth'.

**5.15PM** I Cannot Give you my Forest (45')  
Dir. Nandan Saxena, Kavita Bahl | India  
Kondh Adivasis and their relationship to the forest explored through lifestyle, conversations and melodies.

### COURTYARD

**6:45PM** Drawing the Tiger 92'  
Dir. Ramyata Limbu and Amy Benson | Nepal  
An impoverished family sends their brightest child to the city to study on scholarship with the hope of breaking their cycle of poverty, and are changed forever.

### SUNDAY

#### 22 NOVEMBER

### MAJLIS

**10:15 AM** Phum Shang (52')  
Dir. Haobam Paban Kumar | India  
Fishermen battle state government for their right to live on the floating islands of lake Loktak.

**11.30 AM** Accsex (52')  
Dir. Shweta Ghosh | India  
Notions of beauty and sexuality through the eyes of four women with disabilities.  
Big Time - My Doodle Diary (11')  
Dir. Sonali Gulati | India  
Maya writes in her diary about her obsessions, budding sexuality and being a teenager.

**1:00 PM** The F Word (52')  
Dir. Saba Rehman | India  
A narrative of struggling with health and body image issues.

**2.15 PM** Castaway Man (82')  
Dir. Kesang Tseten | Nepal  
The life of Dor Bahadur Bista, Nepal's most controversial modern intellectual who disappeared without a trace.

**3.30 PM** A Walnut Tree (81')  
Dir. Ammar Aziz | Pakistan  
Longing for a home lost to war, an old man and his family try to find their own place in the world.

### BAGGIKHANA

**11AM** Feet Upon The Ground (175')  
Dir. Vipin Vijay | India  
A guided tour of celebrated filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan's creative topography.

### COURTYARD

**5.15 PM** FSA AWARDS + CLOSING





**HANNAN LEWSLEY**

Even though several of its temples and monuments were destroyed in the April earthquake, the Patan Museum has become a major attraction in a town that is itself seeing a cultural rebirth.

This month, Patan hosted Nepal's first international festival photography, Photo Kathmandu, and many of the annual Jazzmandu concerts. Next week, it will host the Film South Asia festival of documentaries. Patan has emerged as not just a day trip for tourists visiting Kathmandu, but one with a rich cultural event calendar, classy new pensions and cafes that have made it a destination in its own right.

But the star attraction of Patan is the Museum with its priceless collection of Hindu, Buddhist and Tantric artefacts all housed within the grounds of Keshav Narayan Chok: the residential palace of the Malla kings. Earlier this year, the Museum added the Mulchok and Sundarichok courtyards to

its original exhibits at the Keshav Narayan complex.

The monuments of the Patan Darbar had been strengthened during renovation by the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT) and survived the earthquake. However, the east wing of the Sundarichok, which was in the process of being restored during the quake, collapsed and is currently being rebuilt.

Each section of the Museum has separate galleries specialising in particular aspects of Nepal's Buddhist and Hindu heritage, all tastefully arranged within historic buildings that are themselves museum pieces.

The galleries outline the history and the spread of Buddhism, an explanation of Tantricism as well as the various manifestations of Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu. The detailed written accompaniments to all exhibits provide a fine balance of introductory information and comprehensive history. A gallery on the 'lost-wax' process of bronze craft has step-by-step displays that are educational as well as aesthetic.

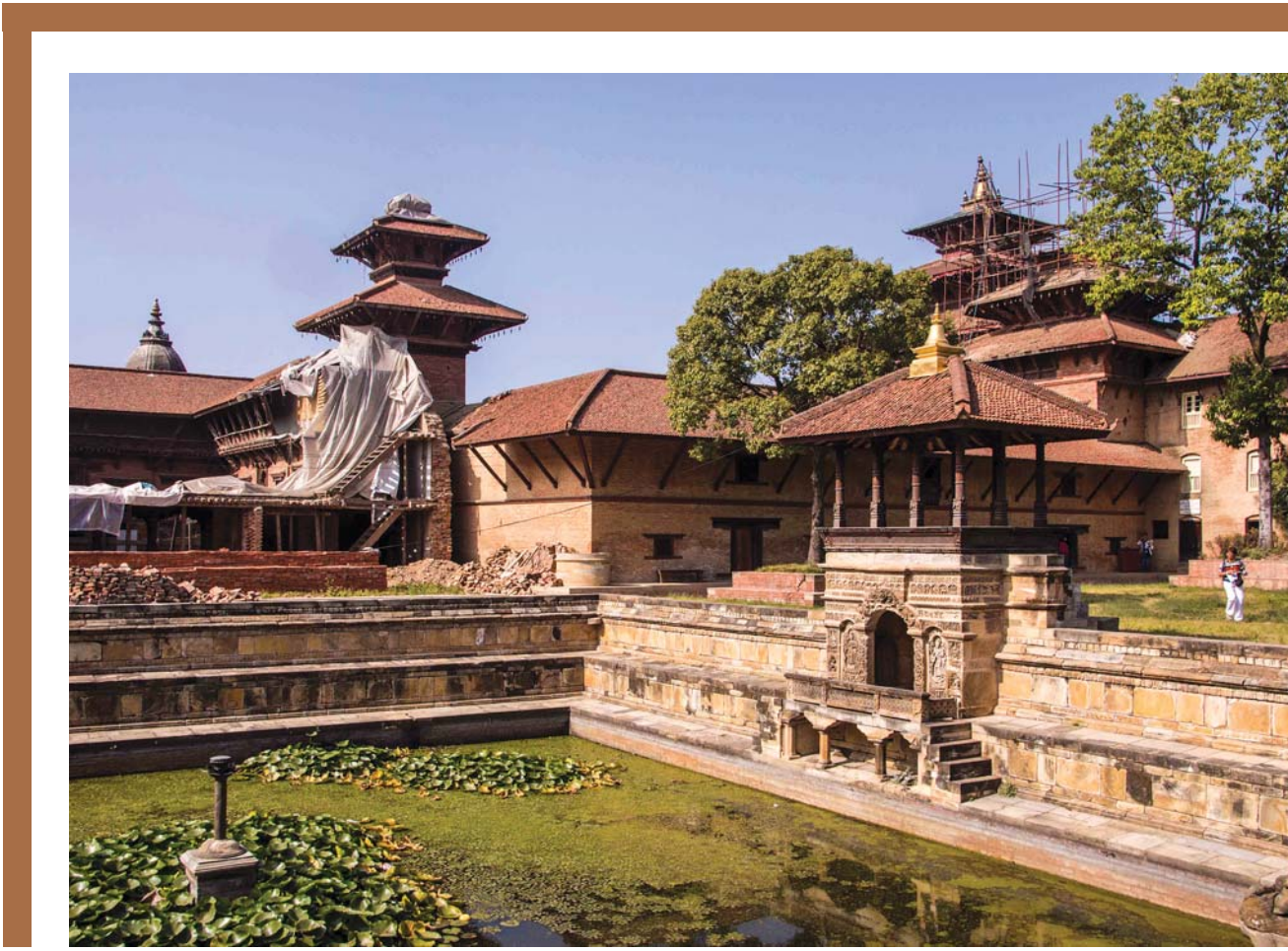
Since its refurbishment, visitors can also access the newly-opened Mulchok Courtyard with the resplendent Yantaju Shrine as well as the Sundarichok showcasing the ornate details of the immaculately

carved 16th century Tusha Hiti Step Well. The courtyard also houses KVPT's own exhibit explaining the restoration and an Architecture Gallery with fascinating insights into the building principles of Kathmandu Valley monuments.

Also accessible is the royal garden of the Patan Palace with the exquisitely restored Bhandarkhal Tank with views of the Taleju Temple whose roof suffered earthquake damage and is currently being repaired.

The Museum's self-claimed

goal is 'the interpretation of sacred art, culture and iconography of Hinduism and Buddhism through preservation and exhibition'. The Patan Museum achieves this both for tourists as well as Nepali students with information about the very core of Nepali culture. 🇳🇵





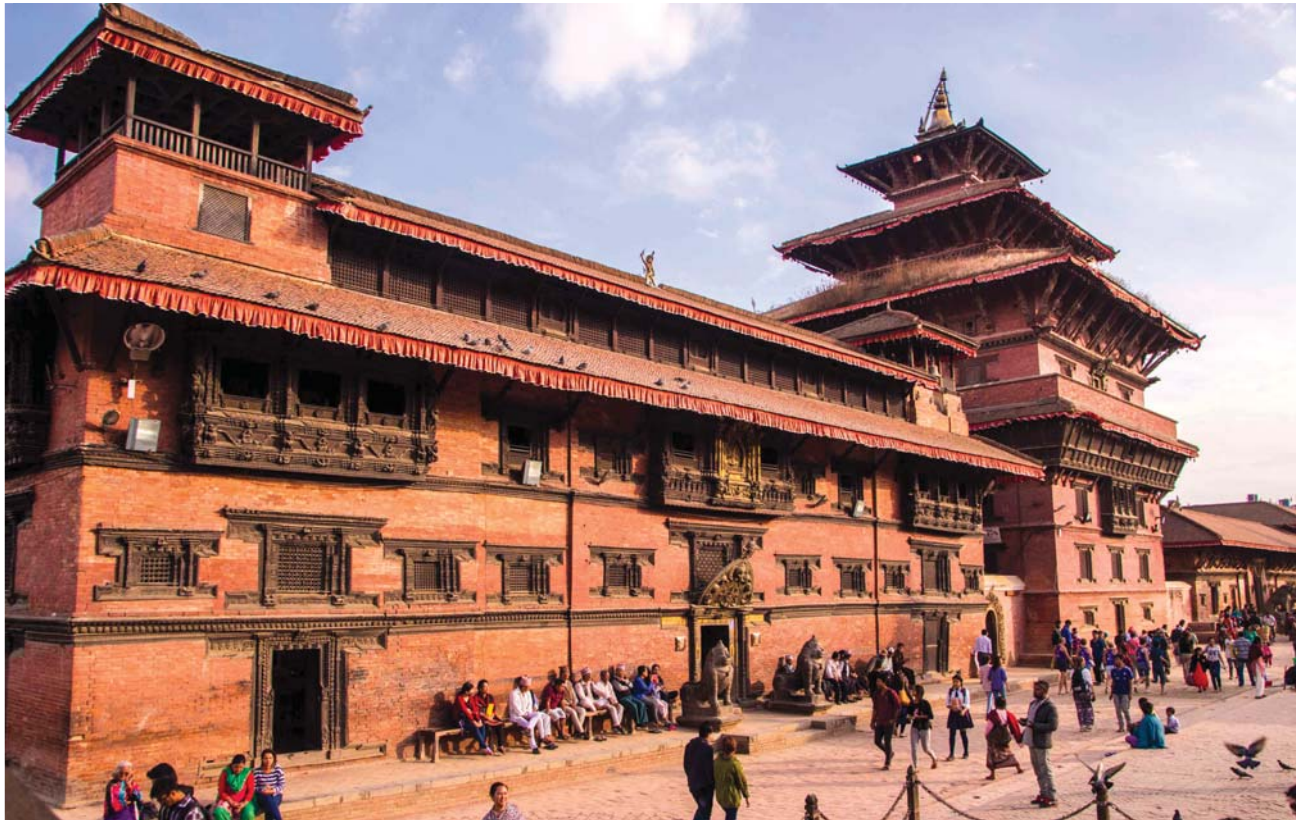
# A town as a museum piece



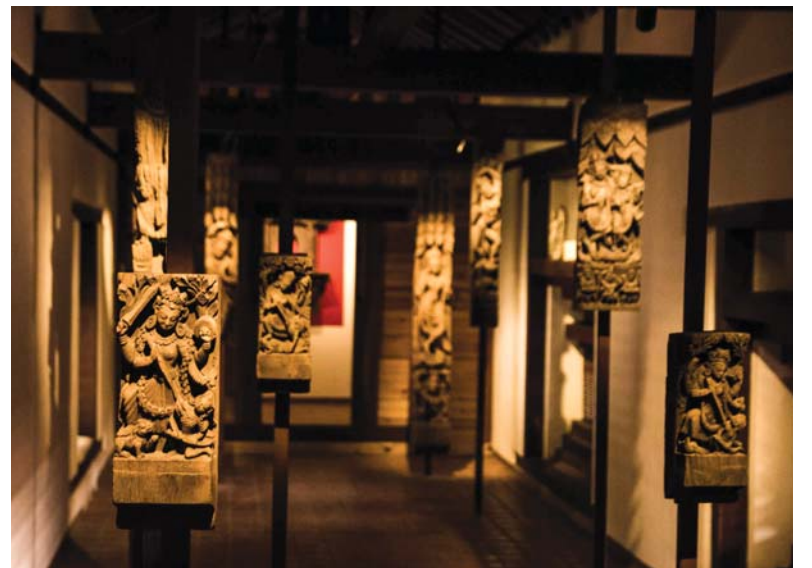
Monuments destroyed in the April quake are circled

## PATAN MUSEUM

Open daily 10.30AM to 5PM  
 Foreigners Rs 400  
 Foreign students Rs 300  
 SAARC Rs 250  
 Nepalis Rs 30  
 Annual multi-entry ticket: Rs 1000  
[www.patanmuseum.gov.np](http://www.patanmuseum.gov.np)



Patan Museum has become the main tourist attraction in the town's cultural rebirth



## Rebuilding from the ground up



On 26 February this year, work started on the reconstruction of the Bhai Dega Temple in Patan Darbar Square (*left*). The original three-tiered Shiva temple which was built in 1678 collapsed in the 1934 earthquake, and had been hastily rebuilt in a mughal dome style.

It is an indication of just how long reconstruction can take in Nepal that Bhai Dega started being rebuilt 82 years later, just before another major earthquake struck Kathmandu Valley in April. Bhai Dega will now be rebuilt along with three other temples within Patan

Darbar Square that were destroyed on 25 April. Several other temples suffered serious structural damage in this year's earthquake and will have to be torn down to be rebuilt.

KVPT (Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust) has taken responsibility for the reconstruction of these temples as well as the damage to the Patan Museum and several of the monuments in the palace square.

"The museum is a key historical and cultural centre and has now become one of Patan's major attractions," says Rohit Ranjitkar, the organisation's director since its establishment in 1991. Most of the repairs at the museum involve retrofitting for structural stability. The Museum has also become the repository of the carved columns and religious figures that were salvaged from the collapsed temples after the quake. These original items will be used in reconstruction, allowing the damaged structures to be

returned to their original state.

"Originality is a key aspect of KVPT's restoration," notes Ranjitkar, "many buildings were rebuilt with only a façade of original style after previous earthquakes, we try to preserve their original look in its entirety."

For the few items that require replacing, mostly intricate woodcarving, the KVPT has a skilled base of local craftsmen who have been working with the Trust in previous restoration work. The main problem now is the lack of resources and official apathy about the reconstruction of monuments. KVPT is trying to overcome this by sourcing funding from private businesses and organisations.

KVPT's restoration of historic buildings preserves more than the physical monuments themselves, but also the festivals and culture of Kathmandu Valley that they represent. Says Ranjitkar: "It is important to preserve tangible history, as well as the intangible."



EVENTS



## Film South Asia,

Do not miss this biennial festival screening scintillating, provocative documentaries from all over South Asia. (*see page 7*)  
19 to 22 November  
Yala Maya Kendra, Patan Dhoka

**Brick by Brick,**  
Eleven Nepali artists share their perspectives on the current needs of the country through their artworks.  
*Opens 5pm, 20 November, until 27 November, Park Gallery, Lalitpur*

**Help rebuild,**  
A special fund-raising print sale to contribute towards the rebuilding of heritage sites in Patan by Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT).  
*www.photoktm.com/#support*

**Ambient Valley Festival,**  
Featuring Nepal's famous alternative artists and musicians, with live art, music and breathtaking Himalayan views.  
*27 to 29 November, Shivapuri National Park, 9849513017/9801038501*

**Critical Mass,**  
A monthly meet-up of cyclists followed by a brief ride.  
*5.30 pm, 27 November Basantapur, Kathmandu*



## Kathmandu MTB Fest,

The ultimate cycling fest with prizes up to Rs 800,000.  
*Register: kathmandumtbfest.com 20 to 22 November, Hattiban*



**Farmers' market,**  
The biggest gathering of local producers in the Valley selling organic produce, dairy products, artisanal bread and pastries and home-made goodies.  
*8am to 1pm, Le Sherpa, Lajimpat, every Saturday, (01)4006587, 9802028777*

**Mountain ghosts,**  
Screening of *A Ghost of the Mountains*, a film by Samir Jung Thapa, organised by Cultural Studies Group of Nepal (CSGN). Followed by discussion with the filmmaker and wildlife experts.  
*9.30am, 27 November, Moskh, Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur Rs 400 for non-members*

**Climate march,**  
March to push for right climate plans.  
*1pm, 29 November, starts at Thapathali bridge.*



**Look Back in Anger,**  
John Osborne's play, directed by Shankar Rijal, portrays the disillusionment among youth in the 1950s.  
*5.15 to 7pm, 20 November to 2 December Mandala Theatre, Anamnagar*

DINING



**Fire & Ice Pizzeria,**  
For the best Italian pizzas in town.  
*Thamel, (01)4250210*

**Dan Ran,**  
The best Japanese food this side of Bagmati. Try one of the bento boxes with a fresh lemonade.  
*Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur (01)5521027*

**Dechenling,**  
The place to head to for Bhutanese and Tibetan cuisine, pleasant and spacious garden, ideal for big gatherings.  
*Thamel, (01)4412158*

**Black Pepper Café & Pub,**  
Cosmopolitan dining and fancy beverages in a traditional style courtyard. Try the apple sauce pork chops and enjoy the good service.  
*Kopundole Height, Lalitpur, (01)5521897, (01)5536926*



**The Vesper House,**  
Stop by for the best in Italian and all local favourites, in their breezy outdoors seating. Also a great venue for wine connoisseurs.  
*Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur, (01) 5548179, www.vespercafe.com*

**Dhokaima Café,**  
Beat the cold with indigenous cocktails at the Rukhmuni Bar.  
*Patan Dhoka, (01)5522113, dhokaimacafe@yahoo.com*

**Phalano Coffee Ghar,**  
Provides a welcome respite from the usually over-priced eateries around Pulchok and Jhamsikhel.  
*Pulchok Road, Lalitpur, (01)5534555*

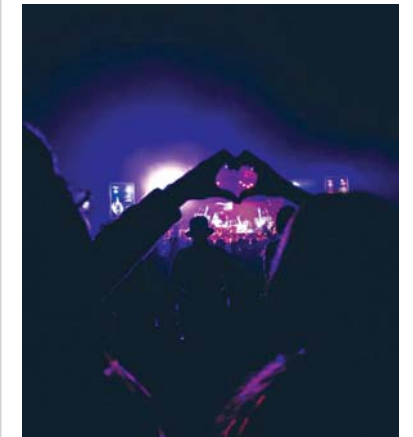
MUSIC



**Bipul Chhetri live,**  
Celebrate Nepali folk music with Bipul Chhetri.  
*19 December, Sano Gaucharan Ground, Gyaneshwor*



**Folk Music Festival,**  
The fifth edition of the International Folk Music and Film Festival.  
*26 to 29 November, Rastriya Naach Ghar, Jamal, Kathmandu*



**Nepal Music Festival,**  
Nepal's biggest volunteer-run music and culture festival, includes performances by noted bands and fun activities.  
*28 November, 12 to 8pm, Bhrikuti Mandap, Pradarshani Marg www.nepalmusicfestival.org*

GETAWAYS



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



**Mum's Garden Resort,**  
Head out to Pokhara for a peaceful and comfortable stay in beautifully designed cottages at 50% off, surrounded by a lush green garden with great views of Phewa Lake and the Annapurna range.  
*Lake Side, Pokhara, (06)1463468, www.mumsgardenresort.com*

**The Yellow House,**  
Bed and breakfast for the light traveller.  
*Sanepa, Lalitpur, (01)5553869/5522078, www.theyellowhouse.com.np*



**Gokarna Forest Resort,**  
A forest sanctuary to help you relax and breathe, and also encourages meditation, just a 20-minute drive away from Kathmandu.  
*Gokarna, (01)4451212, info@gokarna.net*

Put your **body, mind,** and **spirit** in harmony



**Call today: 98510 54729 (Santosh)**  
01-500 5601-07, Fax: 977 1 5005518 | subs@himalmedia.com



**SPECIAL OFFER** **Subscribe to Nepali Times**

**&**  
**Get a free coupon of**  
*"Rejuvenating Body, Mind and Spirit"*



on your choice  
@  
Star Hotels

SEAGRAM'S



**ROYAL**  
**STAG**  
MEGA MUSIC

IT'S YOUR LIFE.  
**MAKE IT LARGE.**



# Moving images

Nepali artist Kripa Joshi had a morbid fear of earthquakes. During an earthquake during her childhood, she remembers her mother running upstairs to carry her to safety while everyone in the house was running down. Joshi had flown in from London with her one-year-old daughter to visit her family in Kathmandu when the earthquake struck on 25 April. While she panicked, it was her mother who ran to carry her grand-daughter to safety.

The earthquake and the

aftermath left such a mark on Joshi that she teamed up with London-based Italian artist Elena Vitagliano to curate an anthology of artworks with the theme 'HOME' by noted international artists. Proceeds from the sale of the book HOME will go to support Art Aid Nepal and the Nepal Children's Art Museum which have been helping child survivors of the earthquake with education and art therapy workshops. The book has raised \$5,000 from Kickstarter, and other \$5,500 in Nepal, Joshi is trying to raise

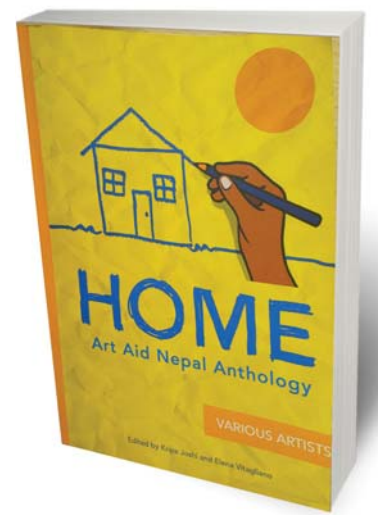
another \$5,000 for workshops and teacher training.

Talented artists from Nepal and abroad have depicted their visions of home in comic strips, sketches, and drawings. Among the featured artists are Promina Shrestha, Zoubein Rana, Rozi Hathaway, Karrie Fransman, Chie Kutsuwada, Yishan Li, Alessandra Patane, among others. Joshi and Vitagliano have their own picture stories as bookends of the anthology.

Paul Gravett, a London-based writer and comics curator, writes

about the book: 'A moving image is not about motion but emotion. It's an image that moves me and makes me feel and think. In HOME a talented array of international artists share what home means to them. Enjoy this beautifully curated compendium, full of truly 'moving images'.

There have been many methods individuals and groups have used to raise money for survivors of the Nepal Earthquake, but this is one of the most creative.



**HOME**  
Art Aid Nepal Anthology  
Edited by Kripa Joshi and  
Elena Vitaliano  
artaidsnepal@gmail.com

## When he's (clearly) not that into you....

Hi everyone,  
I love this quote that I read which said something like - 'You know that tingly feeling when you like someone? It is common sense leaving your body.' In our lives, we have all done some questionable things for the sake of love, or whatever you choose to call it. If



**ASK ANJANA ANYTHING**  
Anjana Rajbhandary

you have to question yourself and others, if something is ok multiple times- it is probably not. Have you seen the movie *He's Just Not That Into You*? It shows you various shades of romantic interest, or lack thereof. For majority of the population, it is not easy to find someone who is a right fit. Just look at all the books and products that are out there to help you 'find' love. Some people are lucky to

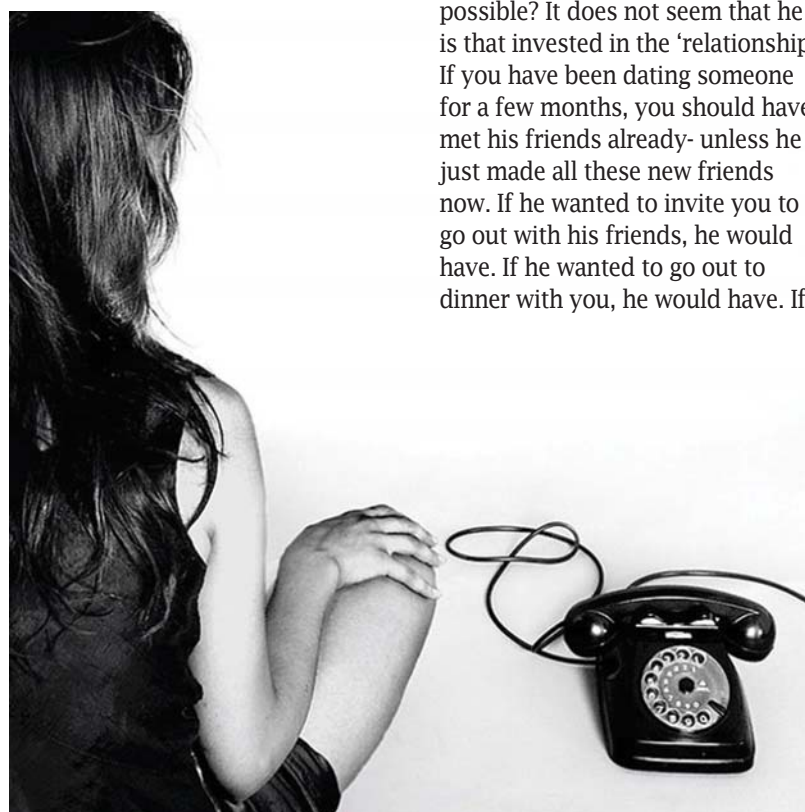
meet compatible partners where things just seem so easy and smooth.

Send me your questions to  
askanjanaanything@nepalitimes.com

**Hi Anjana,**  
**I have been dating a guy for a few months now. He asked me out to dinner last week on Wednesday but cancelled it last minute because he said his friends had made plans that he did not know about so he went to that. That was the second date he cancelled. I was annoyed because he did not ask me to join him. I sent him an angry text saying 'text me when you can fit me in your super busy schedule.' It's Sunday night now and I have still not heard from him. Should I call and apologise for my snappy text to him? I might have made him angry, it was my fault. This is just so confusing.**  
**Annoyed & Confused**

**AR:** Waiting to hear back from someone, especially a romantic interest, can be extremely excruciating. One minute can feel

like hours, and in your case it has been a couple of days. I am actually quite surprised that you have not already called or texted him yet. The fact that you haven't is quite impressive.



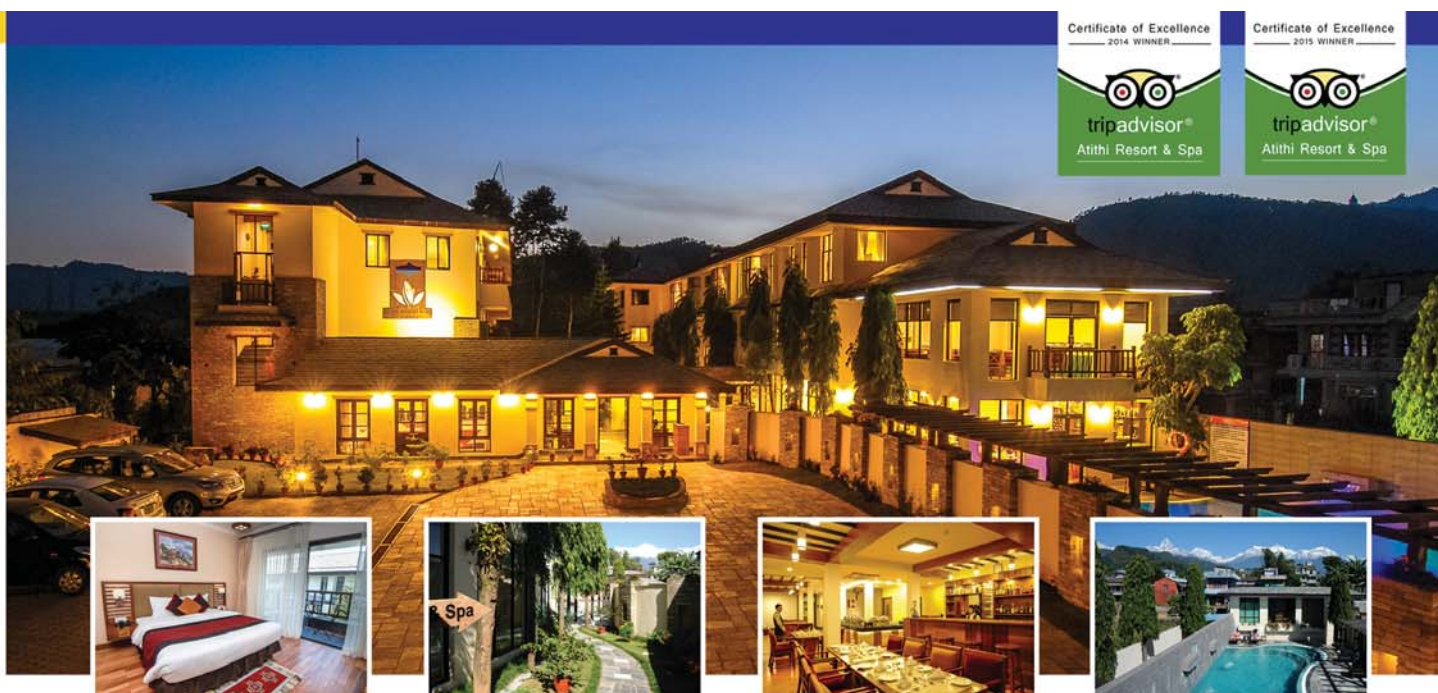
I am definitely not a fan of people who cancel plans last minute, it shows lack of consideration or seriously bad planning skills. However, in this case- how do I put this as gently as possible? It does not seem that he is that invested in the 'relationship.' If you have been dating someone for a few months, you should have met his friends already- unless he just made all these new friends now. If he wanted to invite you to go out with his friends, he would have. If he wanted to go out to dinner with you, he would have. If

he wanted to text you back, he would have already done that.

I am sorry to say this but it does not look like he is as invested as you are. I could be wrong- perhaps it was an important only friends hangout night. However, it is a universal truth that when a person genuinely likes someone, s/ he would try their best to see the other person and spend time with them. People are never too busy, it is a matter of priorities. He does not see you as a priority so it is your decision whether you are okay with being an option. The smart thing to do is just let this one go, do not call/text/stalk him. You will thank yourself down the line.

You need to be with someone who makes time to be with you, and does not leave you angry and confused. Good luck.

[nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)  
■ Love can wait?, #778



**ATITHI RESORT & SPA**

Shanti Patan, Lakeside, Pokhara - 6, Email : [info@atithiresort.com](mailto:info@atithiresort.com)  
Tel : 061 466760 / 466761 / 465895, [www.atithiresort.com](http://www.atithiresort.com)

**Kathmandu Sales Office:**  
Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel : 01 4002077/4002078



**CAFFÈ Italiano**



**LA SPA**





# News from Jaffna

It's that time of year again when the documentary form is highlighted by the Kathmandu International Film Festival (KIMFF) and the biennial Film South Asia 2015 (FSA 2015), both of which give us in Kathmandu an opportunity to engage with a wide, incredibly varied range of subjects.



**MUST SEE**  
Sophia Pande

KIMFF was slightly marred last year by political meddling when the Rajapaksa government applied pressure on Nepal to pull the screening of *No Fire Zone* (reviewed here) - a visceral, journalistically rigorous documentary that indicted the Sri Lankan government and its complicit army in an allegedly calculated genocide

- killing thousands of innocent Tamils in 2009 in the push to win the war against the Tamil Tigers.

It is fitting therefore that FSA this year is showing *News from Jaffna* - a 28-minute long documentary that follows the path of a young female journalist, Thadsa, who works for *Uthayan* - a widely known daily paper run by Tamils out of Jaffna. The paper refuses to blink in the face of widespread media censorship - which exists, as Thadsa points out in one of her investigative pieces, whether you are Sinhalese or Tamil.

As Thadsa embarks on an investigation to try and locate the whereabouts of Nimalarajah, a Tamil journalist who disappeared over seven years ago - we see the fear that pervades throughout - from the people she interviews, to her own editor Premananth who has seen the paper through arson (its press was set on fire) and murder (two journalists were killed by the paramilitary).

Made very simply but with eloquence by Kannan Arunasalam, a human rights lawyer himself, this documentary is particularly poignant at this specific point in time in our own history as we struggle to become as inclusive as possible. Both countries have been through debilitating conflicts and while Sri Lanka ploughed through its Tamil dissenters (yes, they were armed secessionists who employed unforgiveable terror tactics, however, the element of tacit anti-Tamil sentiment must be underscored here) we must take a breath to realise that we cannot and must not do the same with our issues involving people who have been historically marginalised; rhetorical and literal xenophobia must stop.

Sri Lanka's freedom of press and freedom of speech is still staggering to recover, even after the unexpected ousting this year of the formidably corrupt (morally and otherwise) Mahinda Rajapaksa who actively disappeared dissenters during his regime.

Nepal's democracy, though flawed, still has a chance to use dialogue and must invoke its latent duty to protect and care for every single citizen as we move through these difficult times. Our struggle may not yet have been documented in film, but we should not have to wait for such an indictment - the world is watching us. 🇳🇵

 [nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com)  
■ Trailer 🎬

## HAPPENINGS



GOPEN RAI

**INCONCLUSIVE:** A meeting between the government negotiation panel headed by UCPN(M) Chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Madhesi Morcha leaders at Singha Darbar on Wednesday.



GOPEN RAI

**LONG WAIT:** A woman waits for her turn to get a filled LPG gas cylinder at Kalopul in Kathmandu on Thursday.



GOPEN RAI

**TOUGH TIMES:** A man pushes his bicycle loaded with firewood bought from a government depot in Balkumari on Tuesday. The government began selling firewood to the public to provide respite from the gas shortage.



GOPEN RAI

**SUN WORSHIP:** Devotees make offerings to the sun on the third day of Chhat festival at Bagmati River in Kupondole on Tuesday.



GOPEN RAI

**DOCU SEASON:** Film South Asia (FSA) Chair Kanak Mani Dixit briefs reporters about the documentary festival on Tuesday. Also seen in the picture is FSA Director Mitu Varma.



Established in 1994, with its unrivalled expertise and infrastructure support, Mercantile Communication has become premier ISP in Nepal, providing the best technical support, and most reliable, effective, and appropriate technology. Mercantile has also pioneered in providing wireless communication in Nepal by introducing data communications through radio modems and VSAT technologies that quickly puts Internet access at the hands of the subscribers, regardless of their locations

We are currently looking to appoint young dynamic individuals to the position of Business Development Officer. The incumbents will have the following attributes:

### KEY REPSONSIBILITIES:

- 1.Sales & Marketing
- 2.Finding New Leads and approach them
- 3.Making a list of customer profile
- 4.Agreement for the new customer and their renewals.
- 5.Preparing Proposals
- 6.Making report/record of the visited customers
- 7.Follow up with the visited customers

### EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Graduate
- 0-2 years of experience
- Fresher can apply too.

Interested eligible candidates are invited to send their applications and CVs to [hr@mercantile.com.np](mailto:hr@mercantile.com.np)









**THEN AND NOW:** In July Amrita Majhi, 23, was worried about her baby getting enough food (*left*). Five months later, nutrition for her child is still her main concern (*right*).

GOPEN RAI

# “We do not exist”

Seven months since the earthquake, what little help survivors were getting to rebuild has been halted by the Indian blockade

**SAHINA SHRESTHA**  
in SINDHUPALCHOK

On 25 April, when the earthquake devastated central Nepal, relief groups warned that shelters needed to be built before the impending monsoon. The rainy

season has come and gone and winter set in, but government inaction and the Indian blockade means two million people are still homeless. The Reconstruction Authority has been mired in Kathmandu’s politics, and the \$4.1 billion promised by the international

community soon after the quake cannot be disbursed. The UN and private relief groups involved in relief and reconstruction have cut back on deliveries because of the lack of fuel. The last time we visited the village of Majhi Gaun overlooking the Indrawati River 50km



ALL PICS: ELLA A. ISRAELI





# STILL THE SAME

Twenty-three-year-old Amrita Majhi says she has aged a lot after the earthquake. She had just given birth to her son Om 17 days before the earthquake during which she was on her way to a health post.

For four days after the earthquake, they had very little to eat. When we met her five months ago, she was worried about her baby getting enough food. When we met her last week, nutrition for her child was still her main concern.

"The milk I produce is not enough for my son, I could have made supplementary food from our stored grain but it was all destroyed."

Other new mothers in Majhi Gaun voice similar concerns. The children have been falling sick, pregnant women worry about proper diet and dread the winter. No one can afford the exorbitant bus fare to the nearest health post in Dolalghat.



northeast of Kathmandu in July residents were salvaging tin sheets and timber beams. All 30 homes had been destroyed, and the villagers survived the monsoon in leaky makeshift shelters.

"There is no way my father can rebuild our house even if he works all his life," says Durga Majhi (*pic, left*), showing us her room with tin sheets for walls on three sides and a tarpaulin door. "If we had more money we'd all pitch in and take turns building each other's homes."

Very little help from the government or relief groups has reached Majhi Gaun and the villagers are left to fend for themselves. Come their way say the villagers here. Says Durga: "We see some relief trucks pass our village but no one stops here."

Recently the villagers finally received the emergency Rs 15,000 from the government and many of them used this amount to buy furniture, kitchen utensils and strengthen their shelters. But many, including pregnant women and new mothers, are still sleeping on cold floors.

"We lost our house and all our belongings with it," says Parvati Majhi, a mother of two. "It is not just a house we need to rebuild, it is our entire lives. The government has forgotten we exist."

The villagers have little expectations from the government, but they had hoped that at least the NGOs and foreign aid organisations would come by. But even that is now jeopardised by the fuel crisis caused by the Indian blockade.

Says Manju Majhi: "We were not getting any help, and now this blockade has doubled prices of everything we need. What will we do?"

There are signs of undernourishment among the children, who don't look like they are dressed for winter. 🇳🇵



HANNAN LEWSLEY

## Shaping the future

An hour's drive along a rough dirt track north of Melamchi is the village of Tipeni which was devastated during the April earthquake. In the monsoon walking is the only way to get here, and this isolation has made it even more difficult for the government to provide earthquake relief to the village.

But private relief groups have been filling the gap left by the government, and the Kathmandu Hub of the international youth organisation Global Shapers has been helping 50,000 residents of 10 surrounding VDCs with their most pressing need: medical attention.

The local health post (*pic, above*), completely destroyed in the quake is now being rebuilt, and with the participation of locals, Global Shapers has set up a committee to operate it into future. Sindhupalchok district saw more than half the 8,900 fatalities in the earthquake.

"We wanted to focus on areas that hadn't received assistance immediately after the

earthquake," says Sneh Rajbhandari, the Kathmandu Hub's curator. "Tipeni had not yet had any medical team visit it and we were excited with the enthusiasm of the local people." This was important for the health post to be run sustainably in future.

"I am very happy to have the health post because the nearest hospital is far away in Dhulikhel," Hari Bhakta Dhital of the community board tells us.

The Indian blockade however, has significantly impeded relief efforts because of the difficulty in obtaining construction materials, the cost of everything going up, and the lack of diesel to transport them to where they are needed.

Still, the reconstruction effort has convinced nurse Shanta Dhakal to stay on in Tipeni despite its remoteness and lack of facilities. "Now that the health post has been rebuilt, I want to remain to help here. It has restored my faith," she says. *Hannah Lewsley in Sindhupalchok*





Exclusive offer  
from Qatar Airways  
Privilege Club



Earn up to 100% bonus Qmiles

Receive 100% bonus Qmiles in Premium Class or 50% bonus Qmiles in Economy Class when you book your ticket from 16th September until 15th December 2015 and travel between 16th September and 15th January 2016 with Qatar Airways.

qmiles.com

Terms and conditions apply.

**QATAR AIRWAYS** | **PRIVILEGE CLUB**

# Indians vs Cowboys

Now that the festival season is over, and all the sacrifices of the past month or so slowly come to an end, it is time for this gobblement to take another well-deserved rest until next year’s Dasain-Tihar.

Nepal is living proof of the adage that when the going gets tough, things get tougher. But unlike nanny states with social welfare systems, Nepalis have a perfect live-and-let-live understanding with their rulers: we don’t expect anything from our government and the government leaves us alone.

With so many earth-shattering events happening minute by minute these days in ongoing installments of Indians vs Cowboys, it is but natural that we jourmos can’t be everywhere at the same time. In fact we can’t be anywhere anytime because the bike has no petrol, so we make things up as we go along.

An official Fact-finding Committee has pre-tested this column on lab animals and certified that it contains permissive preservatives and has declared it fit for human consumption provided the childproof seal is not broken at the time of purchase. However, one can’t be too careful during these perilous times so readers are advised to exercise individual caution. Management is not responsible for the consequences if items fall out of the overhead lockers.

## 50 More Deputy Prime Ministers

SINGHA DARBAR BUREAU

KATHMANDU — The ruling collision will soon be expanding the cabinet with 50 more deputy prime ministers by bringing in all disgruntled and ungruntled elements into the bubblement. This will put the total

number of asst. prime ministers to 56 and the cabinet strength to approximately 175.

“Just having six deputy prime ministers was inadequate to meet the demands of the present national crisis,” said the government spokesman, “the cabinet meeting will henceforth be held in the National Stadium.”

Constitutional experts clarified that there are no statutory limits to the number of deputy prime ministers per capita that a country can legally have, and its total strength can easily be expanded until everyone in the cabinet is a quasi prime minister.

## Planes Allowed To Carry Passengers On Roof

BY OUR AVIATION CORRESPONDENT

Due to the ongoing fuel crisis that has reduced the number of domestic flights, the Civil Aviation Authoritarians of Nepal (CAAN) have lifted the ban on travel on the roof of aircraft.

“A limited number of passengers will be allowed to sit on the fuselage, provided they wear helmets and have something

to hold on to,” a CAAN official told a press meet. “This will also boost Nepal’s adventure tourism by offering visitors a unique form of travel found nowhere else in the world.”

## NOC To Use Black Magic

OILY ANALYST

The Nepal Oil Corruption has denied it is engaged in the black market of petroleum supplies in the country but said it was using all means necessary, including black magic, to ensure adequate petrol, diesel and gas supplies to consumers during the ongoing blockhead.

Since normal supplies may take a long time to be restored, NOC said it had been forced to resort to supernatural interventions by invoking the devil, evil spirits and voodoo techniques to ensure that petrol pumps are well stocked. The decision took on added urgency as reports came in this week that fully-laden tankers had started mysteriously disappearing from the Thankot depot.

Said a NOC source: “We are also running out of lubricants to grease the palms of senior ministers, so we will be looking for alternative supply routes from China.”

## Smoking Banned On Trekking Trails

In light of the forthcoming Climate Change Conference in Paris, Nepal has banned smoking along trekking trails as part of the country’s contribution to curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

“We want to show that we are serious about saving the planet, and we also want to save visitors and locals from the hazards of passive smoking,” said the Minister of Maoism and Tourism, adding, “anyone have a light?”

## Kathmandu Gets Bullock-cart Taxis



The government has given out licenses to taxi owners to convert their vehicles into bullock-cart taxis. The

four-wheel drives will be deployed at the airport, where incoming passengers have been stranded because of the lack of transport into the city.

The city’s street fauna, including a herd of cattle usually found chewing the cud at the Jorpati intersection, have been harnessed and will be ferrying tourists to their hotels in the Thamel area.

‘We believe this will restore Kathmandu’s bucolic charm by taking us back to the age of oxcarts, and their byproduct of dried dung will also be a valuable source of fuel at tourist hotels,’ someone, we forget who, said.



The Ass



UPSTAIRS IDEAS PRESENTS



EVENT PARTNERS





Thank you to all our musicians, sponsors, patrons, crews, volunteers and our beautiful audience for making Jazzmandu 2015 'The Biggest Jazz Party In The Himalayas'

See you in Jazzmandu 2016, OCTOBER 20 - 26