The downslide is complete. From a national hero to South Asia’s legend, GP Koirala is now counting his days since the prime minister is now looking for a dignified exit in the backdrop of his failure to hold elections to the constituent assembly as scheduled in November. He may be quitting any moment now.

Koirala made what appeared like his last political wish when Maoist leader Prachanda and Baburam, UML Secretary General Madhav Kumar Nepal and Congress leader Sher Bahadur Deuba met him separately on Sunday. He asked them to look for an acceptable way to find his successor, although he did not make it clear whether he will quit before the special session of parliament summoned on October 11 or face it as the prime minister.

Informed sources said that Koirala was no longer keen to continue in the post after his failure, but wanted that the choice of his successor should take place through a consensus among the coalition partners as the seven party unity was crucial to the peace process and future of democracy in Nepal. There are however, indications of serious tussles likely for the race to the chair of the prime minister with Ram Chandra Poudel, Sushil Koirala and Sher Bahadur Deuba from the Congress party, and Madhav Kumar Nepal from the UML as the likely contenders.

Although there were fears that Koirala could make any compromises to stick to the chair, he said he understood the rationale behind the demand for his head after his failure to conduct the polls. UML has already asked Koirala to own the moral responsibility and quit. “He must quit now,” said education minister and UML’s central secretariat member. Like UML, some central committee members of the Congress party like Narahari Acharya, Madheshi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) and National Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NFIN) have asked Koirala to quit. Koirala still had the option of accepting Maoists’ demand for declaring Nepal a republic, becoming its first president and going for proportional representation system, but there was absolute majority against it during internal consultation among the members of the central committee of the Nepal Congress. Like UML, some central committee members of the Congress party like Narashahi Acharya, Radheshi Janadhikar Forum (MJF) and National Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NFIN) asked Koirala to quit.

In fact, Koirala had confided in some of the Nepali Congress ministers on October 4 that he should quit simultaneously after the announcement of annul polls are made public on moral grounds, but he was advised against it by two senior ministers, Ram Sharan Mahat and Ram Chandra Poudel, a Congress leader told newsfront. “But he has made up his mind after Koirala was told clearly both by Madhav Nepal and Prachanda separately on Sunday that his leadership would no longer be acceptable to them any more.”

Beleaguered
Koirala to quit once successor issue is settled
Twice 'incompetent'

Koirala defauls on election pledge

Primo Minister G P Koirala failed to keep his promise to the nation as the November 22 election to the constituent assembly was called off. And this was when the election commission was making all the preparations to accept the list of parties nominated under the proportional representation system, on October 5.

There were some representative voices of smaller parties with their headquarters outside the capital who were vying to submit the list to the commission as October 5 was the deadline. Chief Election Commissioner Bheri Prakash had assured them that he would start accepting their list if it did not hear anything by ten in the morning from the government. At 9.30, he got a request from the cabinet that the electoral process was not being amended.

All that the commission did after that was issue a press statement reiterating that electoral process was over despite it being fully prepared to conduct the polls. “Our being fully prepared for the polls alone was not sufficient,” it said, implying that it was the government which was entirely at fault. This was the second time the commission had put off all the last moment, earlier being in June.

Koirala has suddenly acquired the image of a political dictator, both at home and abroad, and his coalition partners are asking him to step down. His biggest embarrassment proved to be the nearnavprapur headline on October 5 in which he was attributed to having assumed a vacating Finnish minister that elections would not be derailed under any circumstance. The government came when the minister was still here assuring the election commission that the Finnish government was ready to extend all its support to conduct the polls and fair and impartial.

The annulment of the election process calls for all the local elections that were raised questions about Koirala’s leadership. The election was called off the constituent assembly of Nepal at constituent (CPN-M) insisted that they would not happen on schedule initially if G P Koirala had coalition partners agree to declare Nepal a ‘Republic’ and go for proportional system of election instead of the earlier agreed mixed system. Koirala refused to accept these demands in full or in part as saying it was too late. Congress party sources said what heAllowed them the most was that Koirala kept insisting that elections would take place come what may. He had repeatedly said publicly in the past that he would quit if he could not hold the elections on time.

The path and its fruit - Lamdre

His Holiness Agda Dzogchen Sakya, leader of the Khon lineage of the Sakya order and Tibet’s Buddhist leader, has been conferring Lamdre, the central Sakya lineage and the original Sakya Khon lineage transmiss for the Buddhists regarding the Buddha practitioners at Thame, Mandasa, Boudh, Khamendu since 2007. His Holiness has been the leader of an extraordinary group of men and women since the second time in Khamendu after 18 years. First revealed to the Indian Buddhist master Tura in the seventh century, that Lamdre passed on from leader to student in lineages that reached ‘‘Tibet and became the spiritus rei vivi Sakya Khon lineage and is considered the ambrosia of the Khon lineage. It contains three: the triple vision with Gyalwa Karmapa’s intuition and the second time in Khamendu after 18 years.

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Finally, Giri is the CJ

Air travel up
Seasonal Sujata
Still mighty Koirala

There has been a sudden spurt of debates over nationalism, and the need to project it is, in course of debates in the Communist Party of Nepal Maoist (CPN-M) party rally. Party spokesperson, KP Oli, said that a victory for the Left is a matter of pride for the country.

The last moment to deliberate this process. Some of the partners, mainly the Congress leaders, also see that the Maoist party's influential group backed by Ling Raj Gyawali and Badal (a little team) to favour proportional representation more than the demand to abolish monarchy. A prominent Congress party leader involved in the negotiation process revealed that Ram Bahadur Thapa steering the demand in the Baku office.

The Maoists were a little more interested in proportional representation and not so much on the republic line. That killed the possible consensus," the Congress leader said, adding that KP Oli and Shanker Sharma, the Maoist and Koirala, the way, and ears of the CPN-M, were making every effort to convince him that parliament should declare Nepal a republican nation but Badal's assertion that they were more interested in proportional representation changed the whole thing.

Sources said that Skhuwar and Silwal even quoted Indian ambassador as having underlined the republican line categorically much against the spirit of the official reaction from the South block which twisted people taking major decision through election instead of a sitting parliament doing it.

The recent debate on nationalism in the Maoist party appears as an accusation that 'republican and proportional representation electoral system' are unwise domestic issues which should be called through informal debates and understanding. Badal's latest stance comes as a major departure from Prachanda Baburam line's pro-republic with that of Baburam and Silwal, Prachanda and Baburam have come to sharp criticism within the party for having allegedly moved too close to India.

Apart from a dominating view within the Maoists that "we should not be guided too much by India," Badal is said to be angry with Silwal after he turned towards the Baburam line's proximity with that of Nepal's sovereignty was under threat.

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Sukumar Baburam's articulation of the ruling coalition partners, mainly the Maoists, has come in for sharp criticism. The Maoists are relatively more interested in proportional representation, while the CPN-M, were making every effort to convince him that parliament should declare Nepal a republic, but Baburam's assertion that they were more interested in proportional representation changed the whole thing.

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Dishonesty

The ruling coalition led by Prime Minister G P Koirala, and the Communist Party of Nepal Maoists, another key actor in the peace process have once again proved how similar they are when it comes to telling people decide that its that this country's future. The same parties which are so desperate to hold on to power at any cost, with or without accountability, have come together in danger of people the chance to elect a constituent assembly. This is a sham and a farce and to meet any national crises. The great point is to bring them the real facts.

I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.

Tricks and treachery are the practice of fools, that don't have brains enough to be honest.

"Beyond fear and hatred"

Aghoreshwar was a simple and natural state of mind. They dwell in the consciousness of self, without fear and hatred, дискриминация or discrimination in the eyes of Aghoreshwar. With constant practice when the soul is established in that state, such a person becomes an Aghoreshwar. Aghoreshwar is a person who has gone through all the various stages of Aghoer and then has returned to the consciousness of the soul. This person's body is back to the Aghoer state, and that person has returned to the consciousness of the soul. Aghoer is the purest state of soul.

"Responsible journalism"

The article "Terai problem and the media" (10 Oct.) by Chandra Kishore Jha raised a very fundamental problem that should be taken positively. It highlights the lack of understanding on the part of the media personnel in issues they are writing about.

Media personnel have to possess keen judged, a lot of elements of the society they write about. In order to solicit or the people, they should focus more on news that media should conduct occasional training and seminars for journalists. A well-trained journalist will be more sensible when dealing with a particular aspect of the society. It is also about time that media should focus more on news that is not just news but the content itself. What from where to come across in the media today, is easy, scandal and sensationalism that go to make journalism. I am across in the media today, it is sales. From what we come to know, people's minds are not focused on the issues they are writing about. In order to sensitise media personnel on issues they are writing about, they need to possess knowledge of the people, take them to be blessed by the soul. They are not judgmental. They are for understanding and conciliation, and under a system where government and the people have a sense of responsibility.

It is imperative that reporting on Madhesh needs modificatin keeping in mind the heterogeneous character and composition of the society. Positive journalism will make a far better Madhesh than what we are seeing now.

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A patient of depression and an insecure politician - especially the one in power, have one thing in common. Both see enemies everywhere, sometimes real but mostly imaginary. Prime Minister GP Koirala now shows all the qualities of an insecure politician. He has lost all the credentials of a confident leader that he once was.

With loss of that confidence and a series of failures to deliver, Koirala has now been frantically trying to find an enemy whom he can always lash out at without the perceived enemy being able to speak out in one's defense. Who could be more appropriate for this than King Gyanendra - isolated, humiliated and scared ever since he was forced to abandon his ambition to rule as an absolute king in April 2006 under the weight of a powerful mass movement?

Koirala has got his Home Minister, K P Sitaula, who is clearly above the law of parliamentary system of accountability - to furnish all details, real or unsubstantiated, about the role of the palace and pro-king forces in fanning out trouble in Kathmandu and the explosions in Kathmandu. The PM who failed to book his home minister for all the failure in law and order situation and for a series of carnage will instead be using the 'conspiracy theory' of Sitaula as an excuse to sacrifice monarchy in his last ditch battle to save his own chair. Sitaula has proved his excellence in cooking up reports, and even influencing the judicial commission, in the manner he did with the Rayamajhi Commission.

The PM gave ample proof of his insecure mind on October 1 when he summoned Army Chief, Rukmangad Katawal at his Baluwatar residence. He was angry and felt insulted over the previous night's incident in Basantapur Durbar Square. Koirala, with Speaker Subbash Nembang on his side, was jeered at and booted by the mass for acting as a head of the state and for receiving 'Tika' from Kumari. He had ignored the public criticism that secular Nepal's government head should not be associating with any religion's rituals any more.

Koirala did not take people's anger and protest kindly. Instead, he questioned King Gyanendra's right to visit the Kumari temple to receive 'Prasad' in his individual capacity. In a fit of rage and response that was neither just nor humane, Koirala verbally ordered the army chief that half the army personnel deployed for king's security be immediately withdrawn. He behaved more like a medieval 'feudal' chief, and not as the PM of a democratic country. He was further agitated when army chief Katawal told him in plain language that while the army would definitely follow each and every provision of the interim constitution and the comprehensive peace agreement, any hasty decision on the monarchy, clandestinely or in violation of the spirit of the two documents would not be acceptable to the army.

With November 22 elections put off indefinitely, Koirala is prone to making all kinds of compromises to save his chair. There are enough speculations that India arranged a formula under which King Gyanendra would abdicate and go to exile along with his son Paras and Koirala would be the president of republic Nepal. News-reports which Himal magazine has carried however, suggest that the King stands firm that Nepal alone will be his abode under any circumstances.

Surely, Koirala has not kept the Nepali people informed about this move, but has taken his coalition partners into confidence on this? Is the issue of monarchy a subject of secret deals between Koirala and other friendly countries, or should the Nepalis solely be deciding on the issue? This also shows the utter contempt Koirala has for the people of Nepal.

Despite King Gyanendra's unpopularity at its peak because of his unconstitutional and unreasonable political ambition, his refusal to leave the country shows he would rather have Nepal to independently and conscientiously decide his fate. Koirala's unauthorised appropriation of the role of a king, and his harshing Gyanendra to the extent of denying him his right to religion could trigger anti-Koirala sentiment. After all, Nepali society will not approve anyone being denied the right to religion. That does not mean that the people would want to have an absolute monarch back onto centre-stage of Nepali politics, but they feel cheated and betrayed by the leaders of Koirala's ilk who become tyrants and undemocratic and are guided more by external forces while deciding on crucial internal issues.

Given Koirala's known bias to the extent of whipping hatred against monarchy which has been stripped of every right including self-defense; perhaps, it is now more appropriate to go for a referendum on the republican versus the monarchy issue, of course in constitutional or some other form. This is a vital issue where people cannot be deprived of their right to decide and leave it to the highly centralised political parties which are bent upon denying any role to the people in deciding country's future political course. Moreover, an acceptable electoral process requires level playing field in all fairness.

Koirala's series of failure to hold elections, second time in a year, should not be the ground for his elevation as the president. Nor should he be allowed at this stage to take a drastic decision like announcing republic Nepal from the parliament when the special session begins.

A defeated leader is prone to make more compromises. He should not be allowed to act like a political winner, and decide on issues of far reaching consequences on behalf of the nation or the people. It is also a lesson for the Maoists especially, and for others like UML to understand that what Nepalis are looking for is assertion of people's rights and power through electoral process, and not a gift of 'republicanism' from a PM who has lost the right, courage and authority to rule.
Unknown soldiers

Opinion

Nepal has maintained a nation of soldiers than any other nation around the world ever since. The current Nepal Army has agreed to support the British Empire’s military might in its fight against independent dictators in Europe and also elsewhere. Thus came a Nepal, mostly kingly areas (together with the Ranas, Thapas and other Kathmandu Valley states) that Nepal was no longer a nation but a landlord. After the fall of the Rana regime in 1950, the Nepalese Army was restructured as a professional army. They have served the nation with patriotic courage and ingenuity. The time has arrived for the Nepalese Army to be appreciated for its hard work and service.

Kaj Bahubalshah passed away peacefully in business, the Rana family members were prohibited from his funeral alone. His journey in business started in his late teens with bicycle as his means of transport. He lived the life of a Nepali soldier, died as a Nepali soldier and reached the heights of their profession as an auditor in trying times.

No wonder the UN, finding the Nepali contingent as one of the most reliable, disciplined and tactful, seems to be in the lookout for them.

Girija in pursuit of becoming a comeback politician Nepal’s political hiru has no name or definition, but the one who is becoming obvious is the Rana, the family name. The king of the Ranas has long been the backbone of the political crisis prevailing in the country today. Neither of them want the other to succeed. Both the parties have failed to materialise their promised dreams into reality.

The real issue is that Nepal is too divided on political equations. There is no political equation. The political parties want to retain power at any cost and for that reason, they are squabbling like a panchdalam on either side of the political spectrum to forge alliances to stay in power.

The real irony is that the parties who are in power now are the same parties that have failed to deliver and their only motive to keep them united. The real irony is that the parties who are in power now are the same parties that have failed to deliver and their only motive to keep them united. The real irony is that the parties who are in power now are the same parties that have failed to deliver and their only motive to keep them united.

Fallacies of two men

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I do not see any alternative to election which I think, must happen at the earliest.

Big disappointment! For the past 11 months, we had been working as a team with a focused zeal to accomplish this national duty on time. We worked very hard. We did not want to fail the Nepali people and the international community.

Do you have any idea about the new date for the polls?

Election is an important sub-system of a total or an integrated system. The total system is all the elements in the peace process. Naturally, success of the process alone will lead to a credible election. So it means that if the process remains on track, the election is the only process that gives legitimacy to the peace process. Therefore, I do not see any alternative to election which I think, must happen at the earliest.

As early as November?

No. Elections in November is off and already ruled out now. We must now take into account the emerging scenario while talking about the new date. One of the fundamental issues we need to reach an agreement on. Political parties will respond to the existing provisions of the interim constitution related with the election system. They have to decide whether they want to continue with it. The parties decided they want to continue with the mixed system without any changes. We can conduct the elections anytime with the present preparations. In that case, we will have to reschedule the election programs as per the new date.

We have to change the electoral system partially, that will require amendments in the constitution and new legislations have to be brought in. In that case, people will get a chance at the earliest to decide on the future political course of this country through a peaceful and democratic process. Excepting all the initiatives of this first one after the polls, we were called off by Yubraj Chhimire and Kiran Bhandari for reasons:

What is your reaction to the CA elections being put off again?

This is very unfortunate. This is a setback to the peace process as well. Nepalis were very much looking forward to casting their ballots. They now can't express that the elections would bring peace and stability in the country. They must be feeling very let down.

What was the EC's first reaction when the government decision was formally communicated to you?

Big disappointment! For the past 11 months, we had been working as a team with a focused zeal to accomplish this national duty on time. We worked very hard. We did not want to fail the Nepali people and the international community.

Was it also not a huge waste of resources?

Oh yes. A big chunk of resources has been wasted.

Roughly, how much was wasted?

It is enormous to say the least. I may not be able to tell you exactly in terms of rupees but it is huge. We owe an explanation to the people and we are compiling all these details. The kind of resources, technical assistance we got from the international community, all that was used and spent in vain. We will bring it to the notice of the public.

As you said you have no clear idea about when the elections will take place now, will the EC wait indefinitely?

We are bound to limit our activities and response within the boundary set out by the constitutional provisions. We are waiting to hear from the government regarding the new election date as government is the sole authority to do that.

Since elections has been put off after certain political and electoral issues were raised, political parties need to address them legally and constitutionally. I can only hope at the moment that they address them rationally. I am still hoping to hear the new election date from the government at the earliest.

But what if polls keep getting put off or do not take place at all?

I can only pray to God not to let that happen. I sincerely hope that the government and the political leaders rise to the occasion and do not fail the people who want peace process and democracy legitimised through election. I cannot say anything beyond this.

Did you or the election commission consider quitting over postponement of the polls the second time in less than a year?

You can understand our frustration but we need to make a sincere assessment of the situation. Our goal is to hold elections, that's not enough. But at the moment, what we can say is elections were not put off because of the failings on our part of the election commission. We could not have taken a minute to quit if we were bound lacking in preparation in will and action. As a responsible institution, we need to respond to the situation with utmost seriousness and with a sense of responsibility, even at the cost of our self-pride some times.
Flowers and Leaves are eight panelled canvas boards 10”x12” done with acrylics and texture white. Many paintings have been done in these series. I must say that this series have sold out and there is a demand for more of a similar kind of art work. Presently I am working on four entirely different flowers and leaves.

The inspiration for these pieces initially came from the years I had spent in the beautiful islands of The Republic of Seychelles. They were highlighted due to the fact that there was very little flora as compared to an abundance of foliage which comes in various hues of the spectrum, much to my delight.

The foliage in Seychelles is remarkable and spectacular to behold. One cannot but help notice the element of surprise when one becomes aware of the fact, for the colourful foliage more than makes up for the lack of flowers.

(Sanchita, 44, painter and writer currently works from her studio at Gurgaon, Haryana, India. She can be reached at: cell: 91-9818803916, sanchitasroy@gmail.com)
Burma dragnet still spread

More than a week after crushing a peaceful protest, monks and lay rebels have managed to escape from massive dragnet which has been in effect since last month. The authorities have been using heavy force to contain the protesters who have been demanding the release of detained monks.

Burma's 144th monk has been released since the protest began last month. The authorities have arrested more than 3,000 monks and laymen since the protest began.

Aer six years of a failed U.S. North Korea policy that put us on a slippery slope for nuclear proliferation, we in the North Korea pledged to denuclearize and disabled all activities at its main reactor complex by year's end, then signed a wide ranging reconciliation pact with South Korea promising to work for peace on the divided peninsula has brought a ray of hope to Korea and the whole world.

The nuke saying “who says” and “shock and awe” bombshell inconference in the United Nations General Assembly that they could not give up their nuclear program without assurances of their security and consideration of their economic needs, President Bush's 2001 valiant support to South Korea’s policy of economic engagement with North Korea, his idea of seeking nuclear disarmament from the North Korean regime, persuaded North Korea into signing the international instruments, produce more nuclear material, and prove to the world that they could not make a mistake and a nuclear war.

Aer six years of a failure, Bush finally was convinced that sanctions could not work, and bombing North Korea was unthinkable. He said he would be his title, negotiator Christopher Hill to South Korea pledged to denuclearize, and disable all activities at its main reactor complex by year's end, then signed a wide ranging reconciliation pact with South Korea promising to work for peace on the divided peninsula has brought a ray of hope to Korea and the whole world.

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Child friendly authority

If parents misuse their power over their children, when they grow up they retain a distorted view of authority, resulting in a lack of self-confidence. There are a few ways: Parents should use their authority without exercising power over the child. They should follow the child’s lead and handle things correctly and then the child will listen to them. Parents should not set goals that are impossible for the child to reach. Parents should admit their mistakes and should express their wishes in a normal tone of voice. Parents should stand by what they say and should contest their children when necessary.

Children should have a voice in family matters, as much as possible. There are no laws, decisions that only parents can make. The role we play as parents or teachers or indeed anybody who deals with children, is very important. Children look for our guidance, and can tell if our authority is real, in a special way, or not. The goal of authority is to allow the child to feel his or her own way in the world. The mature individual is able to physically leave his or her mother and father, but carries them forever inside themselves.

There are cultural differences everywhere. I believe we all need to do our best for our children. I wish everyone who deals with children, strength, understanding and love. Following them are some of the most important works of our life. (Elizabeth is a child psychologist based in Zurich, Switzerland)

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**Marshland Flowers**

A lot of spiritual principles are based on circular logic rather than simple linear logic alone.

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**Perspective**

**newsfront**

8-14 Oct., 2007

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Elisabeth Wasted

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Today physics is undergoing a basic change, as the most characteristic trait of which is to reduce to its original self-limitation. This is the beginning of a new world. A world which begins with the cognitive revolution that took place in the mid 20th century. When research was done on cognition, new facts came into light, which implied that the empirical positivism is true but not the whole truth says Ken Wilber. What began to be discovered was that, the so called objective observation of the world out there was not true from the observer (mind) and in fact we can see what the observer could actually see. The art psychologist Jerome Bruner and Leo Postman conducted an amusing demonstration experiment of this point. A series of cards were randomly presented to observers: giving observers only millisecond views a show to the display of a card and increasing exposure to the display of a card and increasing exposure successively. The display consisted of both normal playing cards and ones in which colour and suit were reversed – a red six of club for normal playing cards and ones in which colour and suit were reversed. The display consisted of both normal playing cards and ones in which colour and suit were reversed. The display consisted of both normal playing cards and ones in which colour and suit were reversed.

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Elisabeth Wasted

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Acharya Mahayogi Sridhar Rana Rinpoche

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Sridhar Rinpoche is a Vajrayana Master
Treasures of Changu

The main image is a 5th century beheaded Vishnu that is believed to sweat miraculously from time to time

Changunarayan stands on a hillock at an altitude of 1,541 meters, four km north of Bhaktapur. This World Heritage Site is famous among various scholars, as it has a bhadrasalustral of Vishnu in the main sanctuary. The temple is replete with cultural and archeological significance. Olives, woodcarving, stone carving, and metalwork have enriched this. Vishnu shines and made it a veritable museum.

The inscription on the pillar by King Manadeva in 454 AD is the oldest proven evidence in the valley. The name Changu may have been derived from Newari words either from Chan and Gu (lapis lazuli) or Cha Gau (beheaded) relating to the beheaded Vishnu image. King Pratap Malla contributed greatly to the temple in 13th century. The temple has experienced destructions by earthquakes and fires many times in its history.

Several shrines of divinities made contributions to the temple. Although the present temple dates to early 18th century, the main shrine is believed to be of the early Lichhavi period.

As an example of classiclly proportionate pagoda temple. The Yezdi-storied Changunarayan is dedicated to Vishnu, the preserver and one of the three supreme gods in the Hindu trinity. The main image is the 5th century bhadrasala Vishnu. It is believed to be a real miraculously from time to time, indicating that Vishnu is still mercifully engaged in bliss against Nagas or snakes' spirits. Thus, prayers and worshipping are held regularly in the temple.

The terraces above the main door depict Vishnu in his Garudasana mudra of (earth touching postures), a stereological Nepal appearance of Vishnu holding the four emblems. Shankha (conch), Chakra (shield), Mace (palas) and Pada (feet) in his four hands. Older shrines dating back to 2nd century of Chithman Raha (dhabhak,khali), Laxmi (Vishnu's consort) and the goddesses of wealth, Shiva and Sapta mahasuvrata (seven holy mothers) are seen on the south west corner near the entrance. A 6th century image of Garuda, Vishnu's transport, is seen kneeling. It is believed Ravanana, the demon god, flew away in his chariot, and the headless Vishnu looks like he may be in the Nepali palace.
Britney Spears has finally shed some light on the title of her new album. Jive Records announced Friday that the embattled pop princess had dubbed her forthcoming work Blackout. The album is due for release Nov. 13.

In addition to the chart-topping single “Gimme More,” Blackout will feature the songs “Heaven on Earth,” “Radar,” “Piece of Me” and “Break the Ice,” per Billboard. The video for “Gimme More” hit iTunes Friday and was due to premiere on MTV’s TRL Monday. In the video (which was briefly available on YouTube before being yanked), Spears stars as dual versions of herself—a blond-haired good girl curiously watching a brunette bad girl perform a pole-dancing routine.

Despite her success on the singles charts, the past week has been a tough one for Spears.

On Monday, a judge stripped her of custody of her sons, one-year-old Jayden James and two-year-old Sean Preston, turning them over to Kevin Federline full-time. Though Spears is allowed to visit the boys every other day, her sessions will be observed by a monitor, who has the authority to “terminate visitation immediately if any conduct or action by [Spears] endangers the minor children,” according to the judge’s order.

On Dashain!!

Let the festival of dashain shower the blessings of peace, joy & prosperity on all nepalis in every way & fill the world with happiness.

Happy Dashain

M.B. GURUNG
MD
Bhat-Bhateni Departmental Store & Bhat Bhateni Group

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