

standard  
chartered

An ideal investment  
that gives you

11.03%\*  
p.a.

on fixed deposit

Scan to apply

T&C apply.



GOPEN RAI

Three years ago, two 12-year-old boys in Dhanusha drowned in a pit left by illegal sand miners. The deaths were ruled ‘accidents’, and sand extraction still goes on. Also in Dhanusha in January 2020, Dilip Mahato was killed by the sand mafia for trying to stop illegal extraction, and save the Chure ecosystem. Perpetrators went scot-free. His sisters lobbied in Kathmandu this week for justice and to end ransacking of Tarai rivers. Nepal’s construction boom has raised demand for sand and aggregates, but their extraction increases the danger of floods, reduces groundwater levels, and

harms farming. Local governments say they need royalty from ‘crusher’ industries to fund social services but corruption is rampant. The Chure’s fragile geology and thin topsoil mean that denudation and quarrying disturb the watershed, raise riverbeds with sediment, and increase the danger of floods downstream — a process aggravated by the climate crisis. In the mountains as well unregulated quarries have mutilated the peaks, dried up perennial springs, unleashed landslides and flash floods. Just 20km south of Kathmandu in Lele, the landscape has been disfigured. Many mayors are former quarry owners, and

it is now difficult to tell apart politicians from contractors. The exploitation of Nepal’s rivers and mountains for sand, boulders and gravel is made possible by this politico-business nexus. Besides the loss of biodiversity, increased disaster risk, and impact on farming, corruption at election time makes the nouveau riche richer and the perpetually poor poorer. (See Editorial, page 2) Protocols like Environmental Impact Assessments are routinely flouted. ‘You scratch my back and I scratch yours’ between politicians and contractors means businesses that control the ‘crusher’ industry have direct influence on legislation

and policy decisions. The Federation of Nepalese Crusher and Mines Entrepreneurs’ Association passes the buck to municipalities for not zoning off areas for quarrying and sand mining. Sanjay Nath Khanal, Professor of Environmental Science at Pokhara University, proposes a ‘people’s partnership model’ patterned after Nepal’s successful management of community forests. He says, “A model that ensures participation of local communities with industry for the systematic use and conservation of natural resources would not just protect the environment, but also generate much-needed local revenue.”

CRUSHING BLOW: A quarry operation in Lele has destroyed the watershed and disfigured the landscape. This photo was taken from a drone because of hostility of the ‘crusher’ owner.

NEED  
AND  
GREED

EDITORIAL  
PAGE 2

A NATION  
BUILT ON  
SAND

PAGE 8-9



“Respect  
the fragility  
of the  
Himalaya.”  
Interview with  
ICIMOD’s  
Pema Gyamtsho

PAGE 4-5

WORLD'S BEST  
PIZZA OVEN



FOR BOOKING & INQUIRIES  
+977 9848775343

18 YEARS

Outsource your  
Non-Core Staff through  
Suvridha Staffing

licensed company by DoL, MoLESS

100% Labour Law Compliant

+977-9851247213

www.suvridhasewa.com.np

Suvridha  
Sewa

LABELS



Location  
Durbhar Marg Sherpa Mall  
Patan

Contact  
01-4261979  
01-5400603

#1  
Global  
World

eScan  
Anti-Virus

Anti-Virus

Anti-Malware

Anti-Spyware

TOTAL PROTECTION  
for Computers, Mobiles & Tablets

An ISO 27001 Certified Company

Contact no.: 01-4330980

www.escanav.com

Ligo  
Orange

Ligo  
Apple

LIGO  
JUICE

SalesBerry

Next level electric performance.

All new Hyundai IONIQ 5.



Laxmi InterContinental Pvt. Ltd.

(An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company) an entity of Laxmi Group Nepal

Hyundai Call Center No: 01-5970226

HYUNDAI



# Need and greed

Nepal is ruled by a coalition of parties that espouse social-democratism, Maoism, Marxism-Leninism. But all three adhere to just one ideology: extractivism.

Nepal's history of the past 60 years has been a struggle between विकास and विनाश, the need to balance development and destruction. Along the way, we forgot that 'growth' can also mean malignancy. The pursuit of development has mutilated mountains and denuded forests, the greed that drives growth has corrupted society, amplifying social inequities. (Interview, page 2)



GOPEN RAI

Whether monarchy or republic, Nepal has been a kleptocracy in which the politics of patronage sets the rules. Federalism was supposed to devolve power to local governments and make them more accountable, but it just decentralised patronage and corruption.

In the absence of other resources and a manufacturing base, extraction of nature is the easiest path to enrichment for politicians and businessmen.

After 2017, many contractors became mayors who allocated budgets to rent their excavators. Quarrying has ravaged the fragile Chure range. Rivers across Nepal have been ransacked by sand and boulder contractors who have paid rural municipalities a pittance in royalty.

Those who stand up against the devastation are threatened, or even killed like Om Prakash Mahato 'Dilip', who was crushed by a tipper truck nearly three years ago in Dhanusa district for daring to protest against illegal sand-mining. The perpetrators were let off. (Page 8-9)

Local, provincial and the central governments are infiltrated by patronage. The prime minister is defying a Supreme Court ruling to build a new international airport in

Nijgad, even though it spells economic and ecological disaster to one of the last expanses of native forests in the eastern Tarai.

In state and community forests, even national parks, there is rampant encroachment by powerful businesses with political connections to build resorts, *ashrams* and cable cars. The deals are opaque, and no heed is paid to the environment.

The kindest explanation for this groundswell of destructive development is ignorance or incompetence of those in power. But the more likely reason is the

nexus between politics and business that is now so deep that it is impossible to tell apart a contractor and a politician.

This is a well-oiled machinery that is lubricated at election time by pre-paid campaign financing. Natural resources are converted into

party war chests that make the nouveau riche richer, and the perpetually poor poorer.

B P Koirala was a Gandhian social democrat who was far ahead of his time in understanding that nature does not just have intrinsic value, but

is inextricably linked to human wellbeing and survival. Genuine democracy would be inclusive, and deliver social and environmental justice.

Today's Nepali Congress is a far cry from B P Thought. Their Marxist-Leninist and Maoist coalition partners do not even have that ideological underpinning about the need to nurture nature. Forests, mountains, rivers, water, are all there to be harnessed ostensibly for 'development' and 'economic growth', but those are hollow euphemisms for personal greed and partisan gain.

The ongoing loot by Nepal's extractivist politicians is now peaking. Soon, there will be few forests left to log, rivers that have not been mined to death, or mountains not ruined by redundant roads. Gandhi said earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed. We have to stop what is left before it is too late.

**Rabin Giri**

## Citizens must organise against rampant extractivism by Nepal's politico-business nexus.

## 20 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

### Restoring Faith

20 years ago this week Dipak Gyawali made a case about why artefacts like the stolen Dipankar, which *Nepali Times* had reported in a previous issue, belonged to the devotees and not for the state to use it commercially.

Two decades later, there is a common voice being raised to bring back stolen artefacts, and while some have made their way back to the country, not all have been reinstated in the communities from which they were stolen. Unfortunately, religious sites are still treated as tourist spots or selfie points so much so that in many of Nepal's heritage sites signs have been put up banning TikToks.

Excerpts from *Stolen Sanctity and Sponsored Sacrilege* by Dipak Gyawali published on issue #109, 30 August-05 September, 2002:

Nepali Times asked in bold headline (#108): "When will Nepal officially request the Austrian government to return the stolen Buddha?" This rhetorical question, like the proverbial tip of the iceberg, has a far more painful subtext. The obvious task is a proper criminal investigation-which, like charity, begins at home. This is not the first cultural artefact to be stolen from Nepal nor will it be the last, if the same



"objective conditions" prevail, as the left lingo has it.

The element of an "inside job" is visible enough to force Nepal's family and official custodians into asking where have all our values gone? Has the market so overwhelmed our ethics that nothing except a bank account is sacred anymore? How did such a huge metallic object get past the customs and how did the Department of Archaeology seals appear in all the right places?

Let me recount two nasty recent experiences, first in Lumbini, the birthplace of the Prince of Peace, and the second in Kushinagar, across the border to his place of mahānirvāna. The sacrilege I witnessed still sears the memory. The desolation of Lumbini's dug-up construction site was understandable, but what was not was the touristic bazaar atmosphere, trinket peddlers and all, that was clearly encouraged by official sponsorship. Seated on the bank of the Mayadevi pond, a Korean, or maybe Japanese, nun was desperately trying to meditate but could not: too many people, obviously picnickers, were ogling at her as they walked by with transistors blaring Bollywood obscenities.

From archive material of *Nepali Times* of the past 20 years, site search: [www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com)

## ONLINE PACKAGES



CRUMBLING CHURE

Rampant extractivism by Nepal's politico-business nexus has decimated the fragile landscape of protected areas like the Chure, with mining-induced floods and landslides displacing local communities. Watch the video on YouTube.



ICIMOD

In this instalment of *Nepali Times* Studio, ICIMOD Director Pema Gyamtsho is in conversation with Kunda Dixit on the worsening impact of the climate emergency on the Himalaya, and the need for crossborder cooperation to reduce risk. Watch the video on our YouTube channel. See page 4-5.

### RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Nepal has changed a lot since it became a republic ('Tolerating Nepal's religious tolerance', Shekhar Kharel, #1126). Supporting secularism doesn't mean rejecting Eastern traditions and philosophy. But the problem with religion is it gets tainted with superstition, and impacts on the minorities of Nepal. Existence gave us absolute freedom to be ourselves, to question our nature of reality. If we don't make efforts to shed dogmas to embark on the journey of truth and reality, we will fail to save humanity.

**Bj Bhandari**

● I'm glad the people of Nepal are becoming more open to religious freedom. When we worked there in the early 80s, Christians were being persecuted by family rejection, job discrimination, and jailed for conversion and baptism.

**Sigmund Stengel**

● Please, no Nepali Modi. This guy demonstrates so clearly how you can mess up democracy on a base of 'authentic belief'.

**Etienne Loyon**

### AGNIPATH REFORM

This might be a good opportunity for Nepali leaders to break the Tripartite Agreement of 1947 ('India's trial by fire for soldiers from Nepal', Anita Shrestha, #1126) and ask back Nepal's occupied lands.

**G-won Raj**

● Why would Nepal's political parties be consulted when they have been the brokers of Indian expansionism?

**Suresh Karki**

● It is useless to cry about not being prioritised seeing that our leaders have sold their pride to become India's puppets.

**Aryan Biken**

### TOXIC AIR

Some solutions would be nice ('WARNING: Breathing is hazardous to health, Sonia Awale', #1126). Hopefully the government is working to clean up the air.

**Paul Akshaye Ramble**

● The government has done little to nothing about most major problems in Nepal, including air pollution. It is more concerned with musical chair PMs and corruption. Meanwhile, Nepalis are sacrificing years of their lives and enduring all kinds of medical problems en route to an earlier death.

**Roger Ray**

### RETURNED ARTEFACTS

There are loads of similar artefacts in so many museums in the US and several European countries. How can these be repatriated?

**Ramesh Shrestha**

● The Gods are returning. This time, a decorated Torana from the Kumari Chhen, right before Yenyā. Will it be reinstated securely?

**Maharjan Prazol**

### MUSTANG CLIMATE

This is very concerning. ('Mustang forced to adapt to climate crisis', Ronan Wallace and Yungdrung Tsewang Gurung, #1125). Let's find how to adapt to climate change.

**Plan Himalaya**

### TJ

Its funny to those who get it ('Twerking at Tij', Ass, nepalitimes.com). Unfortunately so many don't get it.

**Shiriin Barakzai**

### HUBERT DECLER

Wonderful tribute to a man I never met ('Remembering Hubert Decler', Peter Moran, #1125) but wish I had had the honour.

**Carol Leigh Garner**

## WHAT'S TRENDING



### Don't give up on Nepal

by *Sahina Shrestha*

Dishwasher to hotelier, migrant worker Tanka Nath Ghimire returned to Nepal. Tanka now owns and run the Ranimahal Resort in Palpa, and urges Nepalis not to give up on Nepal. Read about his journey at [nepalitimes.com](http://nepalitimes.com).

**f Most reached and shared on Facebook**



### WARNING: Breathing is hazardous to health

by *Sonia Awale*

Two recent studies show that the air in Kathmandu is more hazardous than previous research showed because of high concentrations of toxic gases. Nepal's foremost atmospheric scientist who is standing for elections, Arnico Panday, has tips to solve the problem. Read the full report on our website.

**t Most popular on Twitter**



### Nepal's religious tolerance

by *Shekhar Kharel*

Nepal cannot be a Hindu state just because of vote bank politics backed by imported Hindutva. It is a nation state where there is freedom of religion, and followers of all faiths are free to practice their culture and tradition. Join the discussion online.

**💬 Most commented**



### India's trial by fire for Gorkhas

by *Anita Shrestha*

Enlistment overseas provides income for tens of thousands of Nepali families, while also being an important source of foreign exchange for the country. Now, India's Agnipath military reform has implications on the recruitment of Nepali soldiers, the economy, and the 1947 Tripartite Agreement.

**🔍 Most visited online page**

## QUOTE TWEETS



**Nepali Times @NepaliTimes**  
#editorial Citizens must organise against rampant extractivism by Nepal's politico-business nexus.



**Sujeet Shakyu @sujeevshakyu**  
Must read from @rabinigiri



**Nepali Times @NepaliTimes**  
Air pollution is cutting 3-7 years from lifespan of Nepalis. Solution to Pollution is Political. Nepal's foremost atmospheric scientist is standing for elections. @arnicopanday's tips in this analysis by @SoniaAwale



**Bhushan Tuladhar @BhushanTuladhar**  
Thank you @NepaliTimes for reminding us that Breathing in Kathmandu can be hazardous. The air is fairly clean these days as rains flush down the pollutants. But as the monsoon gives way to winter, #AirPollution in #Kathmandu will rise again. Need immediate Action for #CleanAir



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

# TIME TO MEET AGAIN: EDINBURGH

Have a healthy journey with all precautions taken down to the smallest detail for your in-flight safety.



**TURKISH AIRLINES**

SCOTLAND

01-4438363 | 01-4438436 | ktmsales@thy.com



# “We have not respected the fragility of the l

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) marks its 40th anniversary this year. *Nepali Times* spoke to its Director General, Pema Gyamtsho from Bhutan about the implications of the climate crisis for the Himalayan region, especially in light of floods in Pakistan, and the need for crossborder links to reduce risk.

**Nepali Times:** ICIMOD will soon be marking its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and at the same time many problems of the Himalayan region have got worse. How has ICIMOD's role evolved over these last four decades?

**Dr Pema Gyamtsho:** Those days, 40 years ago, or in the 80s, the narrative used to be that the Himalaya is undergoing rapid deforestation, massive land erosion and landslides. These were mainly attributed to unsustainable agricultural practices, over-grazing and so on. Scientists used to describe the mountain areas as being inaccessible, fragile, marginal and vulnerable.

Now, 40 years down the road, I am still wondering whether we have addressed the fragility. In many ways, we have accelerated the damage through haphazard infrastructure.

Landslides are occurring mainly due to improper planning and execution. In fact, we have not respected the fragility of the mountains.

We have improved accessibility, there is now road access to every remote corner of this region. But has it improved the economic situation of these communities living there? Perhaps yes, in terms of availability of goods and services, we may have better education and health services, or access to markets, but the cultural wealth has gone down. There are pluses and minuses.

**Now, on top of that vulnerability, we have the climate emergency.** Yes, climate change has come into the picture. And this is something that every one of us has to take very seriously. It's not something that



is going to happen after 50 or 100 years. It is happening now. And that is why ICIMOD has recognised the urgency. The most important message from our *Hindu-Kush Himalayan Assessment Report, 2019* is that we need to take urgent action, and six areas were identified. We have to act as a region because most of the issues, most of the impact of climate change are trans-boundary in nature. While countries on their own can do a lot, we can do much more together. That is why the call to action includes the need for countries in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan region to work together.

**You mentioned ICIMOD's landmark 2019 report. It looked at how the climate emergency was affecting the mountains. But things we thought would happen in 2040 are happening now. Does this mean that we now need an updated assessment that actually makes it even more urgent?**

I am sure you appreciate the fact that the process is very dynamic. It



can change from year to year. But in order to give a clearer picture of the trends, we need to also have longer duration assessments.

The 2019 assessment gave a good picture of the situation as of 2019. But now, we also see that the

climate change-induced disaster is increasing both in terms of frequency and intensity, and when least expected. Like Pakistan going through this massive catastrophe with one-third of the country affected by flood. These things keep

on happening. In February, there were three, four days of unseasonal snowfall which also caused a lot of damage. Such weather extremes are now happening more often. Maybe two, three years down the line, we have to do another assessment. Because then we can get a better picture of how things are going and in which direction.

**Does that mean that ICIMOD's area of focus is also going to change, to address this accelerating crisis?** Scientific research is important, and monitoring the trends are important, but these things are happening now right in front of our eyes. We don't need to go through literature reviews, or conduct peer-reviewed research to find out whether disasters are happening or not.

ICIMOD has recognised this urgency, and we have come up with a new strategy that will take us from 2023 to 2030 in response to the current worsening trends.

We have also modified our vision to align with this present

## prabhu BANK

### Rastra Bank card rule

Nepal Rastra Bank has asked commercial banks to restrict the code for the use of USD credit cards by Nepali customers with foreign currency accounts. Card users will now not be able to pay for 18 types of purchases like hard currency transfers, insurance premium charges, casino payments, stock broker fees, real estate rentals abroad, and payments for political or religious purposes. Commercial banks have a card payment ceiling of \$500 per year for Nepali USD depositors.

### Daraz-Turkish winner

Daraz in collaboration with Turkish Airlines announced the winner of the Daraz 'Mega Giveaway' campaign. Abdullah Tuncer Kececi, the outgoing general manager of Turkish



Airlines in Kathmandu handed over a return trip ticket on the carrier for a couple to Istanbul to the winner Prashant Maharjan.

### Samsung tv factory

Samsung with local partner Him Electronics is setting up a tv factory in Nawalparasi. The factory is expected to start production of LED televisions in 2023.



Says Ken Kang, Regional President and CEO of Samsung Southwest Asia: "This new LED television factory with our longstanding partner Him Electronics is a testimony to our continuing commitment to the people of Nepal and their ever-growing trust and love for Samsung products."

Global CFO of Samsung HK Park also met Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on Monday.

### Glocal Teen

DishHome has partnered with Glocal Teen Hero Nepal to recognise Nepali teenagers who have contributed to society. Six contestants have advanced to the finals from a pool of 648 applicants.

### Hyundai winners



Laxmi Intercontinental, distributors of Hyundai Motors in Nepal, announced winners of its 'Festive Delight Scheme'. Lokesh Bajracharya bagged

### CG Net

CGNET has launched the Jodi offer where customers can access both internet and IPTV at a reasonable price. The offer has three packages: sprinter jodi, popular jodi, and rock star jodi at rates Rs810, Rs1055



and Rs1374 per month respectively. The packs are available as quarterly and annual subscriptions through the CGNET office, digital outlets, their website or online at Daraz.



### Nabil FD

Nabil bank has introduced a new fixed deposit scheme where customers can get twice their deposited amount in 6 years as well as a credit card with Rs300,000 limit.

The bank in collaboration with Nepal Mobile Distributors Association also organized a interactive program on channel financing, QR merchant and fone loan for mobile distributors and dealers.

### Fastest in Nepal

Ncell Axiata Limited has received the award for Nepal's fastest mobile network January-June 2022 from Ookla, the global leader in network intelligence and connectivity insights.

Ncell achieved a Speed Score of 17.16, with median download speeds of 17.31 Mbps and median upload speeds of 9.26 Mbps to win the award.



### IME Tij cashback

Global IME launched a cashback scheme for women customers to mark Tij. Customers got a one-time cashback on 20% of the purchase by using the QR code through the global smart plus app.



# e Himalaya”

What is happening in Pakistan this week is a warning sign of things to come for the entire Himalayan region due to the climate crisis.

situation, so as to work towards a greener, more climate-resilient and inclusive Hindu-Kush Himalaya. We have brought climate change to the fore, and our focus is going to be in addressing the impact of the climate crisis by encouraging investment in the mountains.

**Will you also look at the danger posed to infrastrucutre by the melting glaciers? We’ve seen this last year in Nepal with Melamchi, Pakistan this week is a glaring example, your own country Bhutan has also suffered. Do we now have to totally redesign infrastructure?**

Ideally that would be what would be required, because if knowing the dangers and risks, we keep on building infrastructure, hydropower plants, regardless of the imminent threats from glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) or other such disasters, then we are asking for trouble. And we know that disaster will strike sooner or later.

That is why we have to rethink investment in infrastrucutre. For example, instead of investing in mega hydropower plants, we should go for mini and micro hydro. It is safer, more sustainable, and manageable. We also have to invest in early warning and disaster preparedness.

**ICIMOD seems to be ideally placed to address trans-boundary risks. And GLOFs have a trans-boundary nature. So how can your organisation play a role in bringing these countries together, especially for early flood warning systems?** We are working on it. It not easy but there is no way out than to bring the countries together to recognise the trans-boundary nature of the issues of climate change that we are facing.

As you mentioned, rivers are trans-boundary, even air pollution is trans-boundary.

The advantage of ICIMOD is its status as a politically neutral organisation. So, we are able to bring scientists from our member countries to sit at the same table and discuss climate change impact, about trans-boundary disasters.

We have various ongoing dialogues: the Upper Indus Basin

dialogue, where we bring scientists from China, India and Pakistan together to discuss issues related to rivers there. The Kosi River Basin Hub brings scientists from India, China and Nepal together.

Things are happening, but it is a process and now we need to put more focus on building this trans-boundary cooperation. That has always been our mandate and focus, but I think now, we need to fast forward these initiaitves.

**40 years ago, the founders of ICIMOD recognised the importance of the Himalayan Hindu-Kush region. Now there are new challenges of the climate crisis. Can you explain to us why you think that protecting the Himalaya is important?**

The Hindu-Kush Himalaya, as a region is not just an asset for us living in the mountains. It is a global asset. Our estimate is that around 2 billion people depend on the ecosystem services that Hindu Kush Himalayan region provides.

I like to compare the Himalaya to a water bank. Its reserves are fast depleting due to the rapid melting of glaciers. Aside from water, the Hindu Kush Himalayan region is also a treasure trove of biodiversity hotspots and cultural diversity.

And given its importance to the planet, if we do not protect the Himalaya, the impact is not going to be just felt within the region and within each country, but globally. If that happens where would the people move from here? They will have to find some place. And that is going to have global implications.



Watch Kunda Dixit in conversation with Pema Gyamtsho, the director general of ICIMOD, on the urgent need to address and work on climate change.

# ELEVATE YOUR EXPERIENCE

DOUBLE GOLD WINNER AT THE 2022 SAN FRANCISCO WORLD SPIRITS COMPETITION (SFWSC). SAVOUR THE RICH TASTE AND SMOKY NOTES OF OLD DURBAR BLACK CHIMNEY.

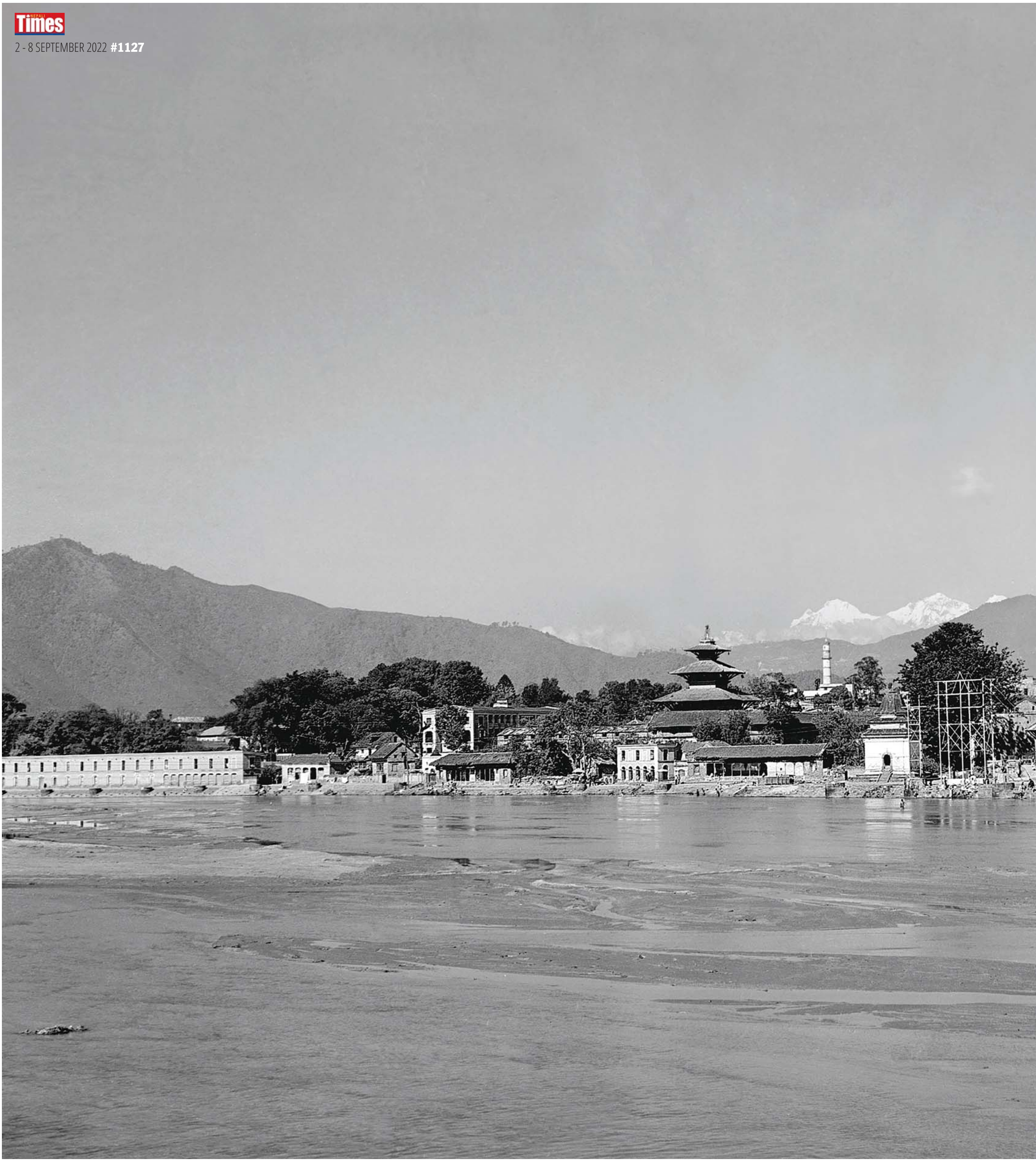
अब  
मासिक हिमाल  
१ भदौदेखि बजारमा ।

हिमालमिडिया प्रा. लि.  
पाटनढोका, ललितपुर

## Shop at Levi's Stores

|                                  |                                  |                                |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Durbar Marg</b><br>01-4226432 | <b>Sherpa Mall</b><br>01-4261972 | <b>Jawlakhel</b><br>01-5400602 | <b>City Center</b><br>01-4011502 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|





## ● Kunda Dixit

Photography represents the passage of time in more ways than one. From the first grainy black and white prints to digital images, advances in camera technology change the way we see the world.

Art photography experiments with light and composition. Then there is the subject matter: what people, places, cities, neighbourhoods, landscapes used to be like. Dynasties come and go in gelatin glass negatives, and snapshots remind us that what we think is important is ephemeral.

*Nepal Remembered* is an exquisitely curated and produced book and exhibition. It is a photo album that captures the history of Nepal as camera technology evolved. The timescale of the book starts after the invention of the camera in 1839, and spans the first ever photograph taken in Nepal in 1863, the pioneer father-son photographers of Kathmandu, and the pictures they took.

The Chitrakar clan have been court artists since the Malla era, and the surname itself denotes a profession that has been

passed down from one generation to the next. The Chitrakars have seen, painted and photographed the Malla, Rana and Shah dynasties over the centuries.

Jang Bahadur travelled to England and France in 1850 in what was actually a spy mission to size up British military might, and decide whether it was wise going to war against the empire to restore territory lost in 1816. In the entourage was Bhaju Macha Chitrakar, whose oil on canvas portrait of himself Jang Bahadur proudly presented to Queen Victoria. That painting used to hang in Whitehall until Robin Cook removed it when he became Foreign Secretary in 2000.

Jang Bahadur was also Nepal's first ruler to be photographed, and the studio portrait with his consort was taken either in London or Calcutta in the 1860s.

Dirgha Man Chitrakar (1877-1951) was a painter, and came to the notice of Prime Minister Chandra Shamsher Rana who took him along on his voyage to Britain in 1908. Dirgha Man bought a camera in London and photographed the trip, even painting a portrait of King Edward VII.

It was inevitable that Dirgha Man's son,

Ganesh Man Chitrakar (1916-1985) would also be a prolific photographer, and he kept up with improvements in camera technology, the advent of colour prints and slides.

Ganesh Man's son, Kiran Chitrakar has devoted his life to archiving and preserving the glass negatives, prints, equipment and documents his father and grandfather left behind. Now, Kiran Man's daughter Cristeena Chitrakar has selected 189 of more than 3,000 old negatives in the new volume *Nepal Remembered*.

The book is as much a genealogy of the Chitrakars as it is a pictorial history of Nepal, and a record of improvements in camera technology. Dirgha Man's earliest photographs of street scenes have blurs that show movement, but as shutter speeds improved, motion is frozen in time.

Dirgha Man's photographs of the crowds at Tundikhel or taken during royal processions in the 1900s show people gawking up at his camera rather than at the caparisoned elephants. Early portraits of royalty in regal finery show unsmiling and unmoving kings, queens and princes. Their descendants look more relaxed when facing

the camera, since they did not have to stand still for as long.

Page after page in the book shows a forbidden kingdom slowly opening up to the outside world. The changes can be seen in the clothing, vehicles on the roads, architecture of inner city Kathmandu, the rivers and fields.

Dirgha Man and Ganesh Man had exclusive access to palace events, and got to photograph coronations, visits of foreign dignitaries, military parades and festivals that today make up a priceless record of recent Nepali history.

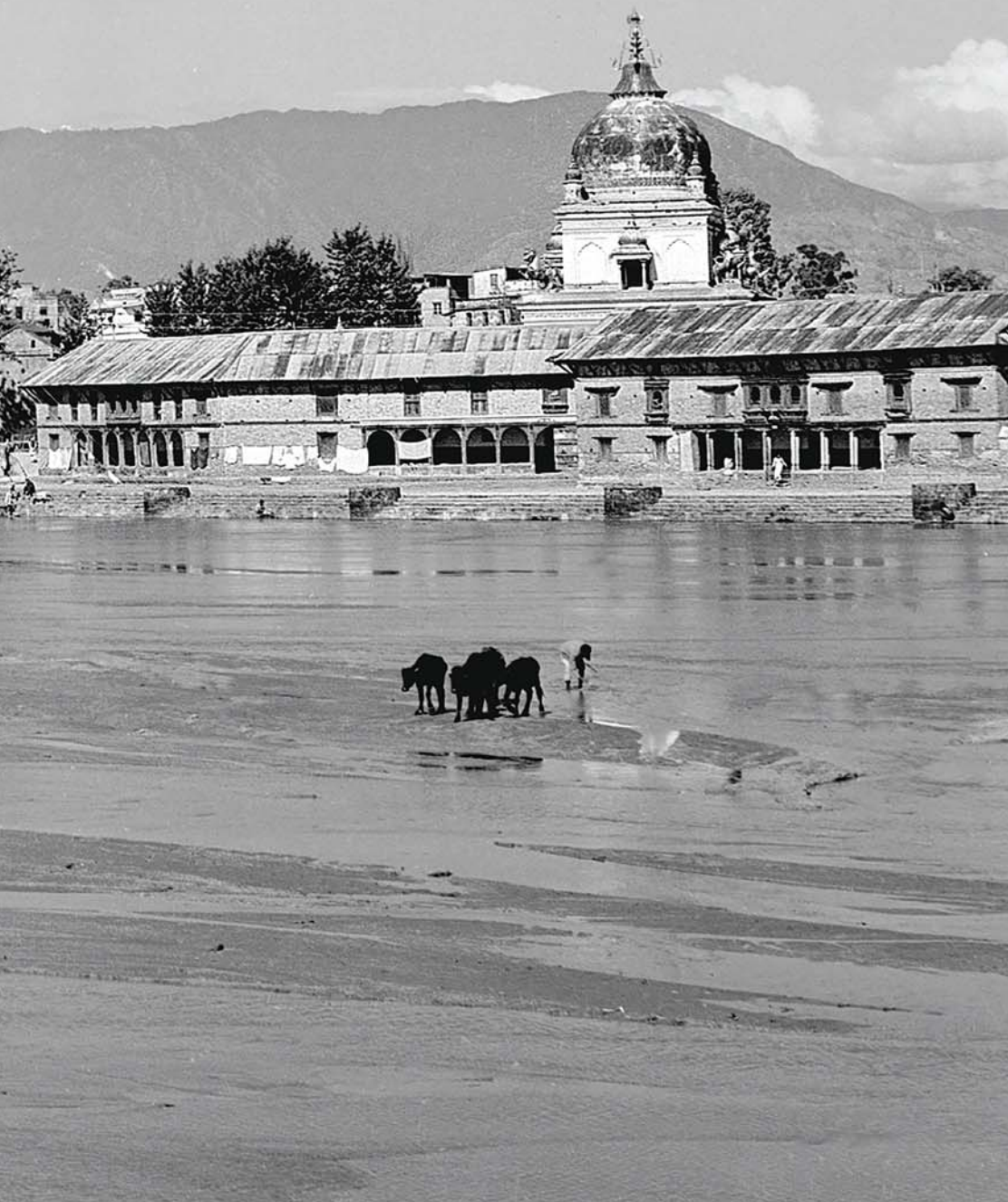
The photographs are categorised by themes in chapters about the Chitrakar family, the culture and heritage of Kathmandu Valley, images of the Shah and Rana clans, and scenes of everyday life in Kathmandu. It would have helped if the images in each section were more chronologically arranged, but explanatory notes by Cristeena Chitrakar, Mark Watson and David N Gellner guide us through the collection.

'The intent behind these photographs can only be revealed within the context



# THE WAY WE WERE

New book about old Nepal  
is an album of images  
by father-son  
photography pioneers



GANESH MAN CHITRAKAR



PUSHPA MAN CHITRAKAR



GANESH MAN CHITRAKAR



## PASSAGE OF TIME: (Clockwise from main image, left)

The Bagmati at Thapathali as recently as the 1970s was still flowing along a broad, sandy floodplain.

Prime Minister Chandra Shamsher Rana and his general brothers review a military detachment in the 1920s at Singha Darbar.

Three generations of women in Mangal Bazar of Patan in the 1970s show how Kathmandu was catching up with the rest of the world.

Water colour portrait of Dirgha Man Chitrakar by his son, Ganesh Man, made from a photograph in 1990.

Ganesh Man Chitrakar with his son, Kiran Man, in 1960. Kiran has archived and promoted the photographic legacy of his father and grandfather.

of the period in which they were created, distributed and displayed,' writes Cristeena Chitrakar about her grandfather and great-grandfather's prints. 'Only then do the visual narratives become meaningful through the politics of the ruling Ranas and Shahs ... Control was exercised by creating a culture based on access and exclusivity, a performance in which both paintings and photographs were used to consolidate their display and wealth.'

Nepal's rulers understood the power of images. Which is why the Mallas and Shahs had the Chitrakars paint them. Jang Bahadur and Chandra Shamsher responded early to the advent of photography by getting members of the Chitrakar clan trained in camera work and developing film – much like present-day rulers understand the influence of Instagram and the reach of social media.

While some of the prints in the book have been published before, there are hidden gems. We can peer back in time at the imposing 17<sup>th</sup> century Kabindrapur Temple in Kathmandu that was brought down by the 1934 earthquake, and rebuilt as a shorter structure. Asan Tole's empty square and the elegant two-storey buildings fronting it are from a bygone era.

Dirgha Man's portrait of Lord and Lady Mountbatten posing with Padma Shamsher and others at Singha Darbar in 1945 is historic, as is Chandra Shamsher signing the Nepal-Britain Treaty of 1923.

Even as late as the 1970s, the Bagmati at Thapathali is wide with cattle stranded

on a sandbank, and mountains peering over Kakani Ridge. Ganesh Man's photograph makes time travel possible.

Mark Watson of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh sums up the importance of the photographs in his section: 'Dirgha Man and Ganesh Man compiled an impressively comprehensive photographic record of Kathmandu Valley and its people. The images depict a time of clear skies and unobstructed views, of free-flowing crystal clean rivers meandering over broad river beds ... views that are lost forever.' 🇳🇵



## Nepal Remembered: Historical images from Dirgha Man and Ganesh Man Chitrakar

Written by Cristeena Chitrakar with Mark Watson and David N Gellner

Edited by Lisa Choegyal

Published by Kiran Man Chitrakar, 2021

Vajra Books [www.vajrabooks.com.np](http://www.vajrabooks.com.np)

192 pages, 189 photographs

Rs 6,000

## Nepal Remembered Exhibition

2-6 September

Atrium, Hotel Yak & Yeti



# A NATION BUILT ON SAND

Nepal's politico-business nexus is ravaging mountains and rivers, destroying our future

● Ramesh Kumar

As dusk falls hundreds of tipper trucks carrying sand, gravel and boulders travel together like a serpentine cargo train at the cardinal entry points to the Valley. They rumble throughout the night, and as dawn breaks the trucks head back out empty.

Their cargo of gravel and sand are mined from the Trisuli, Indrawati, Rosi, Sun Kosi riverbeds.

The appropriately named 'crusher' industry is crushing Nepal's natural environment with irreversible damage, scarring mountains and killing rivers.

Indeed, as Nepal's wealthiest businessmen and politicians, contractors and middlemen collude to reap rewards from sand mining and quarries, local communities are left to deal with floods, landslides, dust and smoke on their own.

"Although the scale of exploitation might not be large in Nepal, the effect to the environment and to Nepalis will be tenfold worse than elsewhere because of the fragile nature of the Himalaya," explains Ramesh Bhushal with *The Third Pole* portal.

More than half of Nepal's population now lives in the Tarai, which spans only one-fifth of the country's area. Much of this population depends on the Chure Range watershed which has fragile geological structure with thin



vegetation protecting the top soil.

Rampant quarrying, river mining and encroachment is destroying this ecosystem.

One of the most desecrated rivers that flows down from the Chure to the eastern plains is Mahottari's Ratu River.

During the monsoon, there

are large ponds where sand has been excavated, and without the sediment there is nothing to slow the velocity of the river, causing it to erode the banks, destroy crops, damage infrastructure, and endanger lives downstream.

In the mountains, the Sun Kosi, Indrawati and Trisuli have been

stripped clean. In Lele in South Lalitpur, an entire mountainside has been gouged out, leaving a gaping wound (*pictured, above*).

The quarry has disturbed ground water recharge, and the Lele river is coffee-coloured as it flows north into Kathmandu Valley.

The local municipality had

made a shady deal with the contractor, prompting a probe by the Commission of the Abuse of Authority Investigation which wrote to the Ministry of Federal Affairs to stop the Lele quarry immediately, but the owners have powerful political backing and the operation is actually expanding.

Dilip Mahato was killed by the sand mafia in 2020, but his two sisters continue his activism

● Anita Bhetwal in Dhanusa

Sangam and Laxmi Mahato were very happy that their only brother, 24-year-old Om Prakash (Dilip) Mahato, was coming home after graduating from college in India.

The sisters got to spend barely two weeks with Dilip before he was murdered by contractors extracting sand from the Aurahi River by the village. They crushed him beneath a tipper truck.

Dilip had been protesting illegal sand mining and actively organising the local community to conserve the fragile Chure Hills. More than two years after his death, after being threatened by their brother's killers, the sisters have brought their struggle for justice to Kathmandu.

Their father Ram Jiwan Mahato has also come to Kathmandu

with his daughters and said in a resigned voice: "Our life isn't the same anymore. I want to see the criminals pay for their crime while I am still alive. We had to come to Kathmandu to make our voice heard."

In the last three years, the case against the seven perpetrators has been postponed more than ten times by the courts, while the contractors are still gouging out sand from the Aurahi. Acting on a case filed by one of the accused, the Dhanusa District Court has also issued an interim order forbidding the family from obstructing the sand mining operations.

But Sangam, 24, and Laxmi, 22, (*pictured*) are not giving up without a fight. They have vowed to carry on Dilip's struggle, to bring his murderers to justice, and to end the destructive extraction from their river.

"Our brother walked half the way," Sangam said resolutely. "We will complete the rest."

A month and a half after Dilip's murder, the community in Shreepur village decided to stop sand mining. Barely two days later, dozens of tipper trucks arrived at night to transport sand.

## Sisters carry on slain



ANITA BHETWAL





DRONE PHOTOS: GOPEN RAI



tonnes of sand and gravel that year. Nepal's self-sufficiency in cement production has meant that mining industries extract 13 million tonnes of limestone — for which the government collected royalty worth just Rs790 million last fiscal year.

Low mining costs and a market price of Rs25,000 per truck for river materials means a turnover of more than Rs2.5 billion for contractors who pay little to no taxes, and are not held liable for the environmental damage and disasters. Nepal may have increased forest cover to 45% of its area, but government-owned woods have often been felled by private interests. Not only do these industries operate in legal grey areas, but the people who control the industry also have a direct influence on decisions that affect environmental protection policies and regulations.

Licences of 700 'crusher' industries across the country have lapsed since 2016 due to their failure to comply with environmental protection rules. More than 1,000 other aggregate suppliers have not met the criteria.

Still, that has not stopped them from continuing to operate because of protection from political patronage. Part of the problem is that the Local Government Operation Act 2017 gives municipalities the right to make decisions about the mining and extraction of river resources.

More than 70 local leaders in 2017 were contractors. Political bigwigs have invested in companies involved in natural resource extraction. Gurung says, "Local representatives are colluding to give mining rights to businessmen at an undervalued rate."

The 2020 guidelines for stone, gravel, sand extraction sales stipulated that apart from approval from local governments, they also needed the consent of the President of Chure-Tarai Conservation Development Board. But many of the 137 municipalities circumvented the Board to allow contractors to operate within the protected zone.

The Cabinet in May amended guidelines, legitimising 'crusher' industries that violated standards and operated near highways,

forest areas, dense settlements, and transmission lines. In late June, the Supreme Court blocked the amendment, but this has not stopped them from continuing to operate illegally.

In May 2018, the court ordered the closure of 'crusher' industries in the Tadi and Trisuli rivers in Nuwakot, but the District Administration Office was not able to enforce the decision after local elected officials defied the order.

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are mandatory before excavation of rivers and mountains. However, Sanjay Nath Khanal, a professor of environmental science at Pokhara University, says the rules are a formality and are routinely flouted.

He proposes a 'people's partnership model' that can be adopted in the use of natural resources like community forests.

He adds, "A model that ensures participation of local residents with contractors for systematic use and conservation of resources would not only help protect the environment, but also in the distribution of benefits to local communities." 🇳🇵

As it is, the government has little financial benefit from the mining of natural resources. Recent data from the Comptroller General's Office shows that 96 rural municipalities together earned only over Rs1 billion from sand and gravel contractors as royalty.

Juddha Gurung, member of the

National Natural Resources and Fiscal Commission, estimates that local governments earn only Rs6 billion annually from contractors — a mere 2.6% of the estimated annual turnover of Rs2 trillion.

Nepal produced 13.5 million metric tonnes of cement in 2019/20, for which it needed 90 million

# brother's fight



**SISTERHOOD:** Sangam and Laxmi Mahato (left in Dhanusha, and with their younger brother and father at a press meet in Kathmandu on Sunday (above) to lobby for justice for their brother Dilip Mahato, who was killed by the sand mafia three years ago for protesting their mining operation.

As per Nepal's Riverine Material Management Procedure 2019, the use of heavy equipment in sand mining of river beds is banned to limit the destruction.

When Sangam called the police, elected officials passed the buck

to the local municipality. The local contractor Bechan Sharma and officers from the Dhalkebar Police Station reached the scene. But instead of apprehending the contractor, police inspector Tej Bahadur Karki threatened the sisters. The family continues to receive threats and is under immense pressure to withdraw the murder complaint. They are constantly followed wherever they go, while others have tried to bribe the family. None of this has stopped Dilip's family from trying

to prevent illegal sand mining from their neighbourhood.

Before she travelled to Kathmandu with her sister, Laxmi took this reporter to the banks of the Aurahi. Two excavators and four tractors were busy extracting sand from the river against the 2019 guidelines.

When we called the Dhalkebar police that there was illegal sand extraction going on in the river bed, the person at the other end of the line dismissed it saying, "Even if we come, they will have left by the time we get there."

The police did not show up for the next hour, but within minutes of our call, the trucks and the bulldozers were gone.

Since Dilip's murder, the contractors have taken away sand from a 10 km stretch of the river. But every time they call the police, they immediately get threats from the sand mafia.

Last year, when Dilip's cousin Aditya asked the proprietor of the Churimai Crusher Industry Binod Mahato to stop his illegal activity, goons came to his house and threatened to kill him.

"After that, my mother did not let me stay at home," recalled

Aditya, who stayed away for six months.

Despite the risk, Ram Jiwan is proud of his daughters. "I lost one son, and my daughters continuously receive threats, but there is no fear in our blood."

Before coming to Kathmandu, Sangam and Laxmi collected data on the activities of sand and boulder miners and quarry owners in the region. Even if the authorities don't take any action against the perpetrators, they want the community to be aware of the issues. "If we teach the students about the importance of conserving the Chure, some of them may continue the fight," said Sangam.

But Laxmi believes that, ultimately, change has to come from the central, provincial and local governments, with strict implementation of environmental protection policies.

When not fighting for the environment, or running around the courts, Sangam gives tuition classes to school children and Laxmi teaches at Janata Secondary School in Mithila Municipality. They earn barely enough to pay off the Rs3.5 million that the family owes money lenders.

Sangam also heads the Om Prakash Mahato (Dilip) Environment Conservation Academy, an NGO established two years ago, and Laxmi keeps track of the ongoing court case.

The Dilip Academy has built a garden area, Dilip Chure Batika, after receiving Rs1.5million from the President Chure Tarai-Madhes Conservation Development Board. The family has also invested Rs2 million from the central government, and Rs500,000 from the Madhes government after Dilip's death in the institution.

But what the sisters really want is justice, and the termination of the sand mining contracts. In a community which marries off daughters after Grade 10, it was Dilip who convinced their parents to let his sisters go to college.

With his support, the two sisters were preparing for the civil service exams when he was killed. Both sisters now want to go to university to study Environment Science.

Said Sangam: "If our brother were alive, the situation of not only our family but also the environment would have been better. We want to contribute however we can to fulfil his dreams." 🇳🇵



EVENTS



Plant swap

Enjoy a workshop with other green-fingered people and exchange cutting, propagations and house plants.  
*3 September, 2pm onwards, Seesha Me Café*

Spirit of Friendship

An exhibition of contemporary Bangladeshi artworks to celebrate the 50 years of Nepal-Bangladesh diplomatic relations and highlight the rich cultural heritage of our South Asian neighbour. Until 12 September.  
*Opening: 2 September, 5:30pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited*

Kalki

Spend an evening viewing the works of abstract and neo expressionist artist Priyam Pradhan in his solo exhibition ‘Kalki’.  
*2 September, 5pm onwards, Gallery MCube, Chakrapati*

Women for Climate Change

Women reporters and videographers can apply for a specialised five-week virtual media workshop on Climate Change.  
*Deadline 12 September, www.britishcouncil.org.np*



Futsal tournament

Participate in the inter-physio futsal tournament organised by Nepal Physiotherapy Association.  
*3 September, 4pm onwards, Dhuku Sports Hub, Maharajganj*

DINING



Lhakpa's Chulo

Nepali dal bhat, Newari khaja, Swiss Rösti, Italian Risotto and Thai green curry -- Lakpa's Chulo has a variety of cuisines to offer. The garlic chilli prawn at this cosy restaurant is to die for.  
*Jhamsikhel (01) 5542986*

MUSIC

Sound bath

Take part in a healing and calming sound bath session by yogi Ramesh Sapkota.  
*3 September, 6-7.30pm, Avata Wellness Center, Baluwatar*



Music classes

Sign up to learn Bansuri, Madal, Tabla and Western instruments including Piano, Guitar, Drum, Bass, Saxophone and Violin at Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory. Call for more details.  
*(01) 5443554, 9813556945*

Jhilkey and the company

Put on your sunglasses and head over for a fun evening with punk rock band Jhilkey and the company.  
*2 September, 7pm onwards, Pre sale: Rs350, Sunshine Boutique Hotel, Lazimpat*



Deepak Bajracharya

A groovy evening with performances by Deepak Bajracharya and DJMADSONIC.  
*3 September, 6pm onwards, Durbar Lounge, Darbar Marg*

Bobin and Sudan

Enjoy live music with Bobin and Sudan accompanied by Alok on bass.  
*2 September, 7pm onwards, Jatra Café and Bar, Thamel*

Kyubi's Kitchen

For customisable bowls of noodles, platters filled to the brim with dumplings, spicy noodles, kimbap, corn dogs, da-pow and rooms paying homage to popular anime.  
*Jhamsikhel, 9810298050*

Kunga

Head to Kunga for some of the best Chinese food in Kathmandu. Grab some hot pot, peanut chicken and shredded potatoes in Kunga's cosy and casual setting.  
*Boudha (01) 4915117*

Bayleaf

Drop by the garden restaurant for Burmese dishes including Burmese Tofu Thoke, Khao Swe Thoke (Noodle Salad), Mohinga (fish noodle soup) and other signature pork dishes.  
*Tangal (01) 4437490*

GETAWAY

The Pavilions

Luxury boutique eco-resort with villas, a swimming pool, organic farm, restaurant lounge and bar. Great for refreshing morning walks, therapeutic and relaxing day-ins, an authentic gastronomical experience and quiet nights.  
*Pokhara (061) 694379*

Shivapuri Heights Cottage

A hidden gem perfect for an escape from the chaotic city with great views and lovely rooms. Go for a walk up the hills or nearby monasteries. Relax with some lunch and spa.  
*Budhanilkantha, 9846232271*



Namo Buddha Resort

Constructed in traditional Newa style and surrounded by lush greenery, the resort is an oasis of peace and tranquility--offering spectacular views of the Himalayas on clear days.  
*Namo Buddha, 9851106802*

Grand Norling

Enjoy a calm and relaxing stay at the hotel which provides a spacious bedroom with adjoining bathroom, a large balcony with sights of the golf course, monkeys and deer herds-- and not to forget, the garden.  
*Gokarna (01) 4910193*



Sapana Village Resort

Experience the rich Tharu and Chepang culture, marvel at the beauty of the lush national park, witness elephants lumbering through the forests in the heart of Sauraha.  
*Chitwan (56) 580308*

Octave

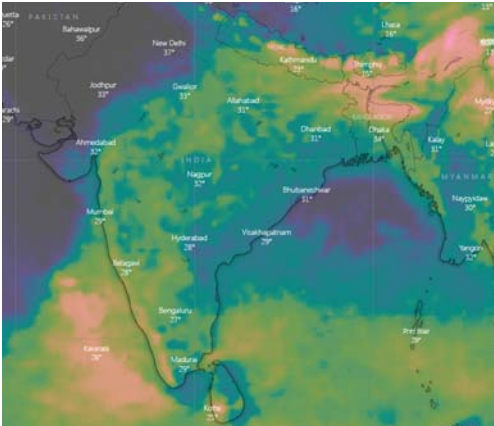
One of the most happening places in Kathmandu with musical performances and delectable sushi.  
*Darbar Marg (01) 4220569*



Juneli Chiya Ghar

Take some time to relax and savour elegant High Mountain Teas crafted by Jun Chiyabari Tea Garden. Teas are certified organic, and represent the Six Seasons.  
*11:00am-6:00pm, Madan Marg, Patan Dhoka*

WEEKEND WEATHER

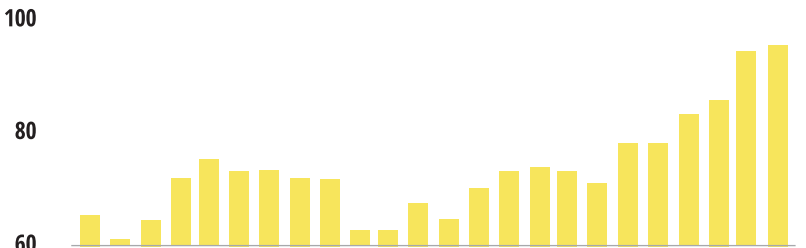


Rains Tapering Off

The official date for the monsoon to exit Nepal is mid-September, so we still have a fortnight to go. But in past years, the rains have lingered longer. This weekend, a monsoon pulse that has hesitated just south of the border will be moving up. Combined with convective systems, this will bring bursts of rain on Friday and Saturday, with things probably brightening up on Sunday. August has seen higher than usual temperatures in Kathmandu, and it will stay in the upper 20s despite the cloud cover in the coming days. The long-term forecast by the Dept of Meteorology and Hydrology says rain will persist all of September.

| FRIDAY     | SATURDAY   | SUNDAY     |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 27°<br>20° | 27°<br>19° | 28°<br>19° |

AIR QUALITY INDEX



Kathmandu AQI from12PM 31 August - 11AM 1 September measured at US Embassy, Phora Darbar

The *Nepali Times* report last week quoted two recent research papers that warn of the hazards of nitrogen dioxide and nitric oxide (NOx) in Kathmandu Valley. Although suspended particulates from smoke stacks and vehicle exhausts are visible, the NOx and carbon monoxide, especially from the 1.2 million motorcycles in the Valley are highly toxic. Unlike soot and dust, masks do not protect us from gases. The only way to control these fumes is by improving public transport, subsidising electric vehicles, and encouraging bicycles so that there will be fewer fossil-fuel burning private cars and two-wheelers on the roads.

OUR PICK

Fire cannot kill a dragon, but family just might. *House of the Dragon* takes us 172 years before the mother of dragons. This time it is the clash of the Targaryens themselves: King Viserys is without a son and names his only daughter Rhaenyra heir, but men would rather put the realm to torch than see a woman ascend the Iron Throne. Based upon George RR Martin's *Fire and Blood*, *HOTD* is a spectacle, with engaging political intrigue and a storm of Dragons. Stars Paddy Considine, Matt Smith, Emma D'Arcy, Olivia Cooke, Rhys Ifans, Eve Best and Sonoya Mizuno.



बाढीपहिरोबाट जोगिन

- जथाभावी सडक निर्माण र वन विनाशले बाढीपहिरो निम्त्याउछ।
  - वृक्षारोपण गरौं, वनजंगल जोगाऔं, बाढीपहिरो नियन्त्रण गरौं।
  - पहिरोको जोखिम भएका क्षेत्र तथा नदी किनारमा रुख, बाँस, निगालोजस्ता भु-क्षय रोक्ने खालका विरुवा रोपौं र संरक्षण गरौं।
  - आफ्नो बस्ती तथा समुदायको रक्षा गरौं।
  - बाढी तथा पहिरो गएको सूचना तल्लो तटीय क्षेत्रमा दिऔं।
- आफु पनि बचाँ अरुलाई पनि बचाऔं।



नेपाल सरकार  
विज्ञापन बोर्ड





# One small step for a Frog, giant leap for amphibians

25 years after first publication, *The Adventures of a Nepali Frog* is adapted as a stage musical

● Ashish Dhakal

Bhaktaprasad Bhyaguto is an odd little frog. Born in Ichangu under the ever-watchful gaze of Swyambhu, he is unlike any other anuran. Losing his tail and out of his tadpole teens, he wants to explore Nepal. Kanak Mani Dixit's 1998 children's book *धुमधामको घुमघाम* follows 'Bhaktey' as he floats down the Bagmati in a tin-can, rides an oxcart, wades through the Tarai jungles, travels to Pokhara in a truck, and even treks up to Dolpo, to return home in the shirt pocket of a Twin Otter pilot. The *Adventures of a Nepali Frog* has been translated into over

20 languages, and 25 years after the book first came out, Bhaktey is also the first Nepali frog to star in his very own musical. The play was adapted by Aayush Niroula and directed by Akanchha Karki, who herself grew up reading the frog book in school. The duo's adaptation of Orwell's *Animal Farm* last year at Kausi Theatre was a hit. *धुमधामको घुमघाम* on stage is a vibrant and colourful production, reflecting the exuberance and wanderlust of a curious frog, the people and animals he meets along the way, the dangers, excitement, changes and comforts of growing up on the go. Subhas Rai's pencil etches in the original book metamorphose into the



dynamic stage design. The lyrics of the songs, the music and live rendition by Strings Impact bring the characters and locations leaping off the pages. The humour and emotional content of the story finds perfect expression in the mellifluous soundtrack of folk and blues, remixes of old Nepali classics like *Chanchaley chanchaley* and *Ma ta khadina kuwa ko pani*, and even John Denver's *Country Roads*. The dialogue alone may not always release or appeal to pathos, but with songs and dance, the body shakes itself loose, twists and turns, jumps and slides, and the energy travels like lightning from the stage to the audience. While the cast could have been a little more diverse, the actors are

impressive as they roll and quip, turning their heads and limbs to animal instinct and nature's music. The play does not ask the audience to suspend its disbelief: the actors are very clearly in onesies and animal masks. But viewers immediately find a point to connect with the characters, and empathise when the inhabitants of Chitwan National Park lament the loss of their jungle, or when a marmot is bullied for being different and having dreams and interests bigger than itself. The lessons here, from geography to science to spiritualism, are manifold, but perhaps at the core the message is: 'Be adventurous, travel and learn – be open and mindful, and appreciative of local culture.' Courage is infectious, and Bhaktey and his creator both hope their imaginary journey inspires others to face challenges and undertake great adventures. The musical follows the novel's core thirst for life and learning, inviting the audience to also go out and discover their country. Akash Nepali, star of the show, says, "A mark of a good play, a good performance is that the audience eagerly partakes of the journey and joins in it." *धुमधामको घुमघाम* does just that. Produced by Rato Bangala Kitab, the original publisher of the novel, and Katha Ghera, the play was staged from 26-29 August 2022 at the Kamal Mani Theatre, and will continue at Kausi Theatre in Teku from Friday, 2 September. 🇳🇵 *धुमधामको घुमघाम* Based upon the children's book by Kanak Mani Dixit Adapted by Aayush Niroula Directed by Akanchha Karki 2-19 September 2022 Kausi Theatre, Teku Every day at 5:30PM (except Tuesday) Additional 1:30PM show on Saturday

PHOTOS: SUDAM CK

TATA MOTORS  
Connecting Aspirations

NEXON

No.1 SUV

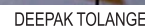
BRAND IN NEPAL\*

\*Tata Nexon is Nepal's No.1 SUV in terms of total sales (ICE+EV segment) from April to July 2022





- **Ashish Dhakal**



Says Tolange: "Working on the film helped me rediscover my country and its cultures. If I hadn't done it, I'd have known nothing about the object and its importance." 

An advertisement for Asian Paints Ultima Protek Shyne. The background features a man in a light blue shirt and glasses, sitting and smiling. Behind him is a large, two-story house with white walls and red accents. In the foreground on the left is a large white bucket of Asian Paints Ultima Protek Shyne paint. The bucket has a label with the product name and a small image of a house. The top left of the ad has the text 'Shineदार घर' and 'वर्षों वर्ष...'. The top center has a '10 YEARS WARRANTY' badge. The top right has the Asian Paints logo. The bottom of the ad has a purple banner with the product name 'ULTIMA PROTEK SHYNE' and a description in Nepali. There are also two logos on the bottom right: 'ULTRA LUXURY SHEEN' and 'UV HYBRID TECHNOLOGY'. A small text at the bottom right says 'Conditions Apply'.

Shineदार घर  
वर्षों वर्ष...

10  
YEARS  
WARRANTY

asianpaints

asianpaints

ULTIMA  
PROTEK SHYNE

High Sheen Finish with PU Technology

Only for Base Paint. Add colorants. Colorants cost extra. 4L net after filling.  
MRP inclusive of all taxes. Packed on date.

Asian Paints Ultima Protek Shyne, यसमा भएको UV Hybrid Technology ले  
घाम, पानी, धुलो बाट दिन्छ वर्षों वर्ष सुरक्षा र घर रहन्छ सधैं shineदार...

ULTIMA  
PROTEK SHYNE

FOR MORE INFORMATION: TYPE <UPS> AND SMS TO 36677

\*Conditions Apply



# Twerking at Tij

Despite where the Gender Inequality Index may rank Nepal, this country is taking rapid strides to achieve equality among men and women, while ensuring that some are more equal than others.

No sooner had we marked Guy Jatra, a day dedicated to they/them/ theirs, than Nepalis were busy preparing to go overboard to mark Tij, a festival dedicated to those of the female persuasion no matter which personal or collective pronoun they use to identify themselves, and when.

Women from all walks of life walked the talk this week by undertaking 24-hour relay hunger strikes at major city intersections to wish their present or future hubbies health, wealth and tickets to stand in the forthcoming federal and provincial elections.

This just goes to prove that femaledom in this country is now 100% emancipated, and we are far ahead of even Scandinavian countries. Whereas Finland is about to ditch a prime minister just because she was caught in flagrante dancing at a party, Nepali women are twerking left right and centre on TikTok to show that, as far as they are concerned, there are no if's and butt's when it comes to the unfair sex. In Tij, a celebration of women's empowerment, female members of the species are essentially saying that they command so much control over their male counterparts that they have their husbands by their gonads, and can make or break their destiny if they dare to step out of line.

Let say, for argument's sake, that a wife refused to undertake a Tij fast for her spouse. The guy is screwed. By not fasting, Mrs Wife has put such a spell that Mr Hubby Boy will likely lose his entire life's saving in a Ponzo

scheme, and is sure to catch dengue. In no other country do women hold so much power over their menfolk as they do here in Nepal.

Whereas Guy Jatra was a festival when some of us macho men got temporary license to make complete he-asses of ourselves, Tij was when women could get their annual chance to amass even more power just by bingeing and then not eating for a whole day.

So, this Tij too, women fasted as they have for millennia so that their husbands would be forever indebted to them. And those women who, for whatever technical reason, did not wish their current spouses to live to be 100, could easily stop at the Himalaya Bhojanalaya (free basement parking available) and gorge themselves on buff momos.

What all this means is that being total dorks anyway, us men will be left further and further behind in terms of our status in society. So, should we guys be getting worried? You bet. And what should we gentlemen be doing about it? Here, Mao Zedong's dictum comes handy (and I paraphrase): "Offensiveness is the best form of defence." Which means us comrades have to behave even more like jerks than we already do. We will protect the bastions of our manhood from female encroachment till the last hombre is left standing.

So, let this be a warning: we are not going to sit idly by while women outscore us in Lok Sewa Exams, and take away our jobs. We will launch a counter-offensive by being even better househusbands than our housewives.



The Ass

# SalesBerry

DEPARTMENT STORE

VALID TILL 31<sup>ST</sup> BHADRA, 2079

SCAN TO WIN

## चाडवाडको लंहर तिलहरिको रहर

fone<sup>pay</sup> को साथ SalesBerry DEPARTMENT STORE

## अफर

8 हप्ता 8 छड्के तिलहरि

# BHAISEPATI THAKALI

## Best Thakali Cuisine in Town

Make your reservation and enjoy with our Thakali delights.

Call us at +977-01-5591284/ 9828021133

BHAISEPATITHAKALI

www.bhaisepatithakali.com

REMEMBER US FOR

BIRTHDAY CORPORATE EVENTS ANNIVERSARY

CATERING FAMILY DINNER





# SUPERIOR TASTE

## CRAFTED WITH PASSION

