
 standard chartered

Ensure safety and earn up to

up to **7.253** %\* p.a. on savings account

Scan to open an account 

T&C Apply.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS:** Recently done with her exams, Aashika Khadka, 16, enjoys a Dasain swing in Kathmandu this week. She is not eligible to vote for another two years.

## SWING VOTE

Nepal's politicians are engaged in break-up and make-up politics. Madhav Kumar Nepal split from the UML to form the CPN (Unified Socialists). Mahanta Thakur cut ties with the Janata Samajwadi Party (JSP) to form the Loktantrik Samajwadi Party (LSP).

Five-time prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress (NC) joined forces with former nemesis Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Nepal, Upendra Yadav of the JSP to form a coalition government, which is carrying over to an electoral alliance at all three levels

of elections in November.

After the May local elections, Baburam Bhattarai split from the JSP to form the Naya Samajwadi Party (NSP) joining hands with former comrade-in-arms Dahal to contest the November election under the hammer and sickle banner.

Rabindra Mishra, once known for progressive politics, this week joined the right-wing Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP). The UML is allying with the RPP and the LSP. Dogma and ideology do not matter in these marriages of convenience.


The coalition's closed list of PR candidates include former ministers

and spouses of top leaders. NC leader Shekhar Koirala's supporters are staging a sit-in at party HQ and have warned not to vote for coalition candidates.

In Doti and Baitadi local NC leaders have rejected their party's decision to award their constituency to the Maoists. In Dhankuta, it is a Maoist candidate who has resigned in protest against a coalition candidate.

The great mystery is why Deuba thinks saving the Maoists is more important than backing candidates from his own NC. He wants to be prime minister for a sixth time,

and is not sure the NC by itself can muster a majority in November.

As for the Maoists, the electoral partnership has ensured Dahal's political survival. He has once again joined hands with erstwhile party rival, Bhattarai. All this horse-trading has encouraged a collective of independents to run under the Rastriya Swatantra Party banner. They include tv personality Rabi Lamichhane, climate scientist Arnico Panday, and others. Established parties are wary of the independents, but are not speaking out fearing a backlash on the ballot box. 

**Shristi Karki**

## HEALTHY & HAPPY DASAIN

*Nepali Times* and Himalmedia wish readers and partners a healthy and happy Dasain. Let us bring out the best in us as Nepalis to be kind, compassionate, and to help each other this festival season.

The *Nepali Times* editorial team is taking a Dasain break, so there will be no print edition on 7 October. The next hardcopy issue will come out on Friday, 14 October. Follow daily online coverage throughout the holidays on [www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com) 

GOPEN RAI

 **WORLD'S BEST PIZZA OVEN**



**FOR BOOKING & INQUIRIES**  
+977 9848775343

**18 YEARS**

Outsource your Non-Core Staff through **Suvidha Staffing**

- licensed company by DoL, MoLESS  
- 100% Labour Law Compliant

+977-9851247213  
[www.suvidhasewa.com.np](http://www.suvidhasewa.com.np)



 **FESTIVAL SALE**  
UP TO 60% OFF

Available at  
Sherpa Mall- 01-4261979 | Patan- 01-5400003

**eScan**  
Anti-Virus



**TOTAL PROTECTION**  
for Computers, Mobiles & Tablets

An ISO 27001 Certified Company  
**Contact no.: 01-4330980**  
[www.escanav.com](http://www.escanav.com)

 **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**



# Garmi Se Behal? Chalo Nepal.



As an unseasonal heatwave hit northern India earlier this year, Nepal Tourism Board launched a promotion campaign with the catchy Hindi slogan: “*Garmi Se Behal? Chalo Nepal*” (Suffering from the heat? Let's go to Nepal).

If the current trend in global heating continues, that may be more than just a tourism slogan.



**GUEST EDITORIAL**  
Ajaya Dixit

Many recent studies predict increased migration due to climate change-induced sea level rise, droughts, and extreme events. In fact, some of this is already happening in South Asia and across the world.

People through history have migrated as a strategy to overcome various types of crises. Families and individuals

take voluntary decisions to move to a new place, seeking a better life. Cities can act as powerful magnets for those seeking new opportunities.

But increasing heat caused by the climate crisis is the new lived reality in the Indo-Gangetic plains. Rising wet-bulb temperatures is emerging as a major health risk that could have significant socio-economic consequences such as migration.

An average ambient wet-bulb temperature of 35°C, if it persists for long enough, can lead to heat stress, heat stroke and even death. Sleeping outdoors at night or being in the shade cannot cool the body enough.

Air conditioning can help, but low-income families cannot afford it. Surge in energy demand during recent heatwaves has already caused frequent power cuts across the region as more energy for air-conditioning overloaded electricity networks.

This year, I lived in New Delhi between March and June. The monthly electricity bill doubled compared to February. Increased use

of air conditioning requires additional energy, which in India comes mostly from coal-fired thermal plants and add to greenhouse gas emissions. Chemical coolants used in older air conditioners models are about 7,000 times more potent greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide. Their increased use adds to further warming. In contrast to New Delhi, Kathmandu during this time felt naturally air-conditioned. But even Kathmandu Valley with higher humidity than in the past was uncomfortably hot in August and September. There were occasional power-cuts, and it was difficult to sleep without fans. Rising average global temperatures, heat island effects, and the degradation of natural ecosystems like water bodies and green spaces, combined with the added moisture in the air, will likely lead to increased heat in the Indo-Gangetic plains, Nepal's Tarai and valley towns. So, will the rising average summer temperatures and heat in the Ganga plains and across the Indian landmass lead to increased migration to the cooler upland Himalayan areas in future? When and how could that happen?

Theoretically, people may move to cooler regions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Darjeeling, as well as the mountains of Nepal and Bhutan. Just like when the British ruled India, they moved seasonally to 'hill stations' like Darjeeling, Shimla and Nainital to avoid summers in the plains. Traditional migration patterns, however, have been the opposite, where people from the hills move to the cities in the plains for jobs and better economic opportunities. But during the summer, the Tarai and valley towns in the hills of Nepal will also get hot and humid. Temperatures are expected to rise in the Himalaya as well.

There are other unknowns: How many people will move? Will it be internally

from the Tarai plains, hot river valleys, or will people also cross national boundaries? Answers to these questions can have mind-boggling social and political implications. In the meantime, it may be worthwhile to reflect on past experience of the

potential impact of mass tourism on sensitive Himalayan ecosystems so that we can take ameliorative action.

Increasing heat will impact people's ability to work, grow food, and seek health care. It will hurt the poor and elderly the most. In Nepal, we have not yet recognised increasing heat as a potential problem— both in terms of threats in the Tarai and river valleys, and the environmental implications of possible move of people up the mountains.

There has been no systematic research of this issue. The least we can do is start to talk about it.

**Ajaya Dixit** is Executive Director of the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) Nepal.

**Increasing heat in the Indo-Gangetic plains could force people to move. Nepal needs to be prepared.**

## 20 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

### Reinventing TU

*Tribhuvan University was established in 1959 and was meant to modernise education. In many ways, Nepal's first university with its affiliated colleges is a pioneer institution for higher education in the country even as many of them lie in a dilapidated state today and their instruction outdated.*

*The institution has continued as a fertile ground for budding politicians, sometimes even at the cost of education. In fact, many of today's top leadership got their start in college as youth politicians within the premises of TU.*

*Excerpt from an article published in Nepali Times 20 years ago this week on issue #113 27 September – 3 October 2002:*

Political slogans welcome you at the main entrance of Tribhuvan University. Different student unions, teacher associations and employee unions inclined towards various political ideologies vie for your attention, claiming to protect the rights of one group or another, and saying that they alone can safeguard university interests. The high-sounding claims are the most obvious indicator of what underlies



any discussion amongst TU functionaries about the development of the university, its academic obligations, and achievement — there's too much politics on campus. Under the partyless Panchayat regime, TU served as a forum for intellectual and ideological debate. The student unions camouflaged a political movement that surmounted ideological restrictions and made

possible Nepal's first referendum in 1979. Today, well after the restoration of democracy, propaganda and politics are still as much part of TU's offerings as coursework and degrees...

...TU continues to be overburdened with students and mired in administrative complications. Shortage of funds and misallocation of what is available is another reason for TU's troubles and the declining quality of education there.

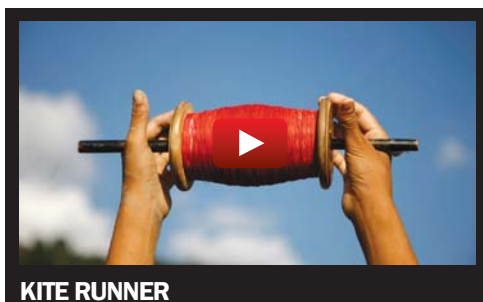
**From archive material of Nepali Times of the past 20 years, site search: [www.nepalitimes.com](http://www.nepalitimes.com)**

## ONLINE PACKAGES



**DASAIN AAYO**

From choosing the best bamboo, spending hours to cut it clean and tying it up with jute ropes, it takes a day to set up a *linge ping*. There is a belief that one must leave the ground at least once a year by riding on the swing during the great festival to obtain salvation. Join Changunarayan locals as they spend their day on a swing-making spree. Watch the video on our website.



**KITE RUNNER**

Dasain kite-flying season is in full swing in Kathmandu. Meet a Nepali family who have been making and selling kites for four generations but were on the verge of closing down before kite flying picked up following the Covid-19 pandemic. Find out how the process of kite making and flying has changed over the years. Subscribe to our YouTube channel for more original multimedia content.

### KATHMANDU GARBAGE

Educate Nepalis to sort out the trash first ('Wasted Politics', Shristi Karki, #1125). The government needs to educate people between what is recyclable and general waste, establish street bins and convert usable waste to fertiliser. The best thing would be to relocate these people to public housing, close all land deals in this area so it would be only used for waste management going forward. Nirdosh Upadhyay

• Had no idea this trash issue had grown into such a terrible problem in many ways. Thanks for the video.

**Lucky 7 Tattoo**

• We have too much trash!

**Michael**

### PATAN RESTORATION

Hats off to my buwa Indra Kaji Shilpakar and dai Indra Prasad Shilpakar and all the artisans involved in restoration projects ('Preserving Patan post-earthquake', Claire Burkert, #1130).

**Rabeeta Shilpakar**

### CONSTITUTION

They have made themselves above the law but we are voting for them again and again ('Rule of the lawless', Editorial, #1130).

**Sanjay lama**

### OTAKU JATRA

This is where I want to be next season ('Cosplaying in K'mandu', Shristi Karki, #1130)

**Cult Frienzy**

### MIGRANT HOTELIER

Doing business in Nepal is a lot easier than other countries but there needs to be consistent hard work to get results ('Don't give up on Nepal, it has lots to offer', Sahina Shrestha, #1126).

**Slayer Bae 7777**

### WORLD CUP MIGRANTS

By fostering and sponsoring slavery, they are living in the stone age ('Pay Qatar's World Cup workers', #1130).

**Kul-Jay**

### CLIMATE

Yes, Nepal must take the lead on fighting the climate disasters ('Nepal must rebrand itself', nepalitimes.com). The Himalaya can be saved by Nepal.

**Akku Chowdhury**

### ENCOUNTER WITH A RHINO

I had a similar encounter with an Asian elephant Madhya Nhila in Cox's Bazaar Forest Division in Bangladesh ('Close encounter of the wild kind in Nepal', Rajendra N Suwal, nepalitimes.com). But thankfully it was not life threatening.

**Bonnie Rashid**

### DENGUE DAYS

We need this article by Sonia Awale also in Nepali so that it can be shared to more readers ('Dengue days are here to stay', Sonia Awale, #1129).

**Karun Dewan**

### RANDY BERRY

Your generosity, kindness, love and support for Nepal and its people is what fills our hearts with pride ("Nepal should make decisions for Nepal's good", pages 4-5). All the best in your next venture.

**Naran Klyphree**

• We are grateful to you and your contribution as an.

**Prakash Bahadur Sarki**

### MANASLU AVALANCHE

Hilaree Nelson was brave, soulful and adventurous. Her demise is a huge loss but she inspired many and leaves a positive legacy.

**Anne Carthy**

**Nepali Times.com**

## WHAT'S TRENDING



### Preserving Patan

by Claire Burkert

Much of Kathmandu's centuries-old architectural heritage was destroyed in the 2015 earthquake. But it has been restored successfully making it a model for heritage conservation. Meet the people behind this remarkable feat. Read story at nepalitimes.com

**f Most reached and shared on Facebook**



### "Pay World Cup workers"

by Nepali Times

With two-month to go for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, human rights groups urge FIFA's sponsors to compensate workers involved in building stadiums and other infrastructure. Join the discussion online.

**Most popular on Twitter**

### Good housekeeping

by Suresh Khadka

Nepali expat worker Suresh Khadka got the regional award for outstanding work in housekeeping during the Covid-19 pandemic in Oman. Read about his 20-year experience as an overseas worker in the latest edition of Diaspora Diaries on our website.

**Most commented**



### Cosplaying in K'mandu

by Shristi Karki

Fan conventions give Nepali artists, content creators, fans and pop-culture enthusiasts space to express themselves. Read more about budding cosplay culture in Nepal.

**Most visited online page**

## QUOTE TWEETS

**Nepali Times @NepaliTimes**  
As every year, this year's Honour's List recognised the yeoman's and yeowoman's service in every sphere of #nationallife by giving medals to all deserving daughters, sisters, mothers-in-law, and ex-wives.

**Sujeev Shakya @sujeeshakya**  
Every time the list is out I am scared that I am there. #HorrorList

**Nepali Times @NepaliTimes**  
"The fact is that the House of Representatives passed the bill without deliberating the President's 15-point request for clarification. And should a Parliament that is about to reach its term take decisions on issues of long-term national interest?"

**Forester@kuenvmg504**  
Right or wrong the parliament and the executive cabinet is the repository of the country's sovereignty according to the constitution and the president is but a ceremonial top! She has no constitutional legitimacy to exercise her judgement.

**Nepali Times @NepaliTimes**  
"She charged me with mighty force using her horn and two sharp lower incisors, rolled me over several times and even tossed me into the air." "Conservationist Rajendra N Suwal @RajuSuwal recounts being nearly gored to death by a rhino on #WorldRhinoDay2022."

**Pratistha @thapapratistha**  
"This encounter is the closest I've been to death, but it also brought me closer to the rhinos and the overall mission of conservation." - still brings chills down the spine when reading this! Always proud of your work @ RajuSuwal #Nepal





# FLY WITH THE BEST



BEST AIRLINE  
IN EUROPE



WORLD'S BEST BUSINESS  
CLASS CATERING



BEST AIRLINE IN  
SOUTHERN EUROPE

Thanks for honouring us on three categories  
at **Skytrax Passengers Choice Awards.**



TURKISH AIRLINES

ktmsales@thy.com | 01-4438363 | 4438436



# “Nepal should make decisions for

Out-going US Ambassador to Nepal Randy Berry speaks to *Nepali Times* about his four-year tenure which was marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, the rancorous debate about the US-backed MCC project, and American support for human rights, press freedom and democracy. Excerpts:



**Nepali Times: What were your expectations about your second tour of duty in Nepal, and were they met?**

**Ambassador Randy Berry:** My hope in becoming US Ambassador to Nepal was simple: to deepen the friendship between the United States and Nepal. Although our countries might be far apart geographically, we share democratic values and aspirations for a better world, one that respects human rights, is well educated, healthy, combats corruption, fights climate change, and has inclusive economic growth.

Each day that I've been here, I've worked on advancing these principles. We've partnered extensively with the Nepali government through USAID, which has promoted good governance, sustainable economic

growth, health, nutrition, and education programs.

We've supported civil society in advancing human rights – including the rights of women and girls and the LGBTQI+ community. We've helped build resilience to climate change and both of our countries have furthered our commitments to abating the climate crisis and strengthening our democracies.

The MCC-Nepal grant will mean more jobs, roads, and reliable electricity for Nepalis in the coming years. And we continue to strengthen people-to-people ties. We send over 100 Nepalis to the United States on exchange programs for leaders and professionals yearly, and Nepal ranks 12<sup>th</sup> worldwide for the number of undergraduate and graduate students studying in the United States each year.

So, when I came as US Ambassador my hope was to deepen

the US-Nepal relationship and I'm lucky to see that happening every day.

**The last four years were largely overshadowed by the Covid crisis. What would your analysis be of the way both our countries handled the pandemic?**

Nepal did remarkably well. The government took swift action against Covid-19 in the beginning. Almost immediately, the US government partnered with the Ministry of Health to support Nepal's response to the pandemic. Through USAID and our Department of Defense, we provided oxygen tanks, breathing devices, PPE, testing kits, and other supplies that continue today. To date, we've spent over Rs16 billion on Covid assistance in Nepal, excluding vaccines.

One of the things I'm most

proud of, of course, is we were able to donate 13 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine to Nepal, including 8,385,200 pediatric doses. Notably, Nepal has a much higher vaccination rate than my own country today.

**That must not have been easy — to secure the doses for Nepal when there was so much demand from other countries under the COVAX arrangement.**

When President Biden announced that the United States intended to be a world supplier of Covid-19 vaccines, they had already been at work with experts to figure out how they were going to get the greatest number of vaccines to the countries with the greatest need. Through our partnership with COVAX alliance, particularly UNICEF as the delivery partner, we've been able to do just that.

COVAX helps us deliver the vaccines, so they get to the places that need them the most.

**The other thorny issue during your time here was the MCC, which you mentioned earlier in this interview. Would there be anything you'd have done differently to make the ratification process smoother?**

I would have addressed the disinformation right away. Our assumption was that the absurd claims against MCC would be seen for what they were – lies promulgated by someone with an interest in preventing a program based on accountability, democracy and transparency from moving forward. This disinformation delayed the program for years, which just meant delays in providing jobs, reliable roads and sustainable energy to the people of Nepal.

## prabhu BANK

### Economic growth at 4%

Nepal is set to achieve a medium economic growth rate of 4% this fiscal year as per the Asian Development Outlook 2022. This is much lower than the government's projection of 8%, and last year's figure at 5.8%. The ADB's estimate is based on the monetary policy introduced by Nepal Rastra bank due to soaring imports, depleted foreign reserves and inflation. The report also cites increase in agricultural production due to normal monsoon, but says yields may decline because of fertiliser shortage.

### Turkish best in Europe

Turkish Airlines has been named Best Airline in Europe by Skytrax during the 2022 World Airline Awards held in London this week. Besides Best Airline in Europe the carrier won two other awards: the World's Best Business Class Catering and the



Best Airline in Southern Europe. the awards were based on an online customer survey in 2021-22 in which 100 nationalities participated. Receiving the awards Turkish Airlines Chairman Ahmet Bolat said: "With our privileged service approach, which distinguishes us from our competitors, we continue to take firm steps towards our goal of making the Turkish Airlines brand the best in the world."



### Nude Vodka

Nepal Distilleries has launched the 'Nude Superior Vodka' designed by Christopher Amrs, an internationally renowned blender with over 40 years of experience. The rice-based vodka is gluten and glycerin free. For extra smoothness, it is prepared by charcoal filtering in small batches.

### Nepal-US ties

The United States has launched the USAID Trade and Competitiveness activity, a five-year program with \$19 million investment that will support Nepali enterprises in targeted sectors with high growth and employment potential. Under the project, USAID will collaborate with Nepal's Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies to help businesses facilitate new trade and investment opportunities, improve their access to market-based financial and non-financial services, and boost productivity.

### Ncell India pack

Ncell has introduced three different affordable India voice packs: one day pack at Rs55 with 15 minutes of talk time, 7-day pack at Rs249 with 70 minutes and 28-day pack at Rs749 with 215 minutes.

### Tourism back on track

International tourism continues to show strong signs of recovery, with arrivals reaching nearly 60% of pre-pandemic levels in the first seven months of 2022, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). The steady recovery reflects strong pent-up demand for international travel as well as the easing of travel restrictions with 86 countries lifting theirs as of 19 September 2022, adds UNWTO.

Says UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili: "The sector is bringing back hope and opportunity for people everywhere. Now is also the time to rethink tourism, where it is going and how it impacts people and the planet."

### Day of German Unity

German Ambassador Thomas Prinz hosted a celebration to mark the Day of German Unity and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kathmandu Branch Office of the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, at his residence in Kathmandu. "Our bilateral relations with Nepal this year were marked by the German Government's decision to continue the development cooperation with Nepal recognising



the good progress Nepal has made in the last years in political and socio-economic development sector," said Prinz at the event.

### Otharo

Rastriya Baniya Bank and King's college have agreed to collaborate for the 'Otharo' incubation program which is aimed at developing viable business ideas. The program will provide subsidised loans to three ventures as well as coaches.



### NADA EV Expo

NADA Automobiles Association of Nepal's first electric vehicle exhibition concluded with more than 200 booking for electric vehicles. Tata motors displayed its popular models Tigor EV, Nexon EV and Nexon EV Prime.

### Fibernet

Dishhome has launched a new scheme titled 'Khushi ko Sathi' wherein customers can get a DHI smart tv, 5G dual band router and one-year subscription of 240mbps fibernet package at Rs41,739.





# Nepal's good"

But in the complicated multi-polar geopolitics of the region, didn't the MCC force Nepal to take sides to the detriment of its relations with an immediate neighbour?

Nepal should be making decisions for the good of Nepal — not for the good of any other country. With the ratification of MCC, the Government of Nepal made a sovereign decision based on what it believed was good for the country. Initially, the government had wanted to participate in the program because it had seen it work so well in other countries. The Nepali government then helped design the program itself in a way that it thought would best serve its people.

In an op-ed you wrote for Nepali Times two years ago, you defended America's outspokenness about human rights and democracy in other countries, even when things are not that rosy back home. But wouldn't it be true to say that lecturing other countries rings a bit hollow these days?

What I said then is what I'll say now: Americans are outspoken on human rights, not because we think we are perfect but because we know we are not. We don't sweep our problems under the rug. We actively talk about human rights in our own country, including deep-seated racism and gender discrimination that Americans experience every day. But our problems don't disqualify us from talking about human rights; if anything, they give us greater opportunity to do so with humility and honesty.

From what you have seen in Nepal this time around, how would you assess the chances for socio-economic progress for this country in the coming years?

There is a window of opportunity for Nepal right now. Prime Minister Deuba has made ambitious commitments to combat the effects of climate change and to further democracy in the country. Those things attract investors which will help grow the economy in a sustainable and inclusive way.

For the US government's part, I'm proud to say we've supported Nepal's sustainable economic growth with an array of programs, from USAID's long-running development assistance, to the MCC grant, to supporting private entities through investments from the US International Development Finance Corporation. We've also started the first American Chamber of Commerce here in Nepal for US businesses. All of this activity signals that Nepal has the chance to make lasting economic progress.

And lastly, what would be some of the enduring memories of Nepal that you will take with you?

Nepal is a wonderful place with vast landscapes, tall mountains and incredible culture, but it is the people that I've met during my time here that have changed my life. Nepalis' kindness, generosity and hospitality are unmatched, and for that I am grateful. I will take that with me everywhere I go.

**SURYA NEPAL PRIVATE LIMITED**  
**JAZZMANDU 2022**  
 kathmandu jazz festival

MUSIC FOR UNITY, PEACE & COMPASSION

**13-19 OCT**  
 JAMIE BAUM SEXTET USA  
 YUMI ITO SWITZERLAND  
 CATIA WERNECK BRAZIL / FRANCE  
 JIN JIN GERMANY  
 CADENZA COLLECTIVE NEPAL  
 SAMUNDRA NEPAL  
 JONISHA POUDEL NEPAL

www.jazzmandu.com

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT RESPECTIVE VENUES: JAZZ UPSTAIRS, LAZIMPAT, ELECTRIC PAGODA, THAMEL, EVOKE, BHAKSINGHE, MUSICOLOGY, HATTRI MARG, YALAMAYA KENDRA, PATAN DHOKA | FOR INQUIRIES : 9803001592

Event Partners

swiss arts council prshelvetia, UNITED STATES EMBASSY, EUROPEAN UNION, GOETHE INSTITUT, BARAHISINGHE, aloft KATHMANDU THAMEL, Times, MUSIC ROOM Kathmandu School of Music, af Alliance of Francophonie, DIE ZEITUNG KATHMANDU, B&T BASS & TREBLE, MERCANTILE COMMUNICATIONS PVT. LTD., TURKISH AIRLINES, JAZZ, SOUNDS GOOD, SOUNDARTIST, YAKSVETI, Tofftoo, MALE, LIVE, NTA PROMOTER, The Himalayan unstoppable

**TATA MOTORS**  
Connecting Aspirations

**TATA**

## INTRODUCING NEXON EV

Nepal's No. 1 EV now with exciting new intelligent features.

#BeNewForever

Multi-Mode  
Regen

Cruise Control

i-TPMS

**EVOLVE TO  
ELECTRIC**



For more details



SIPRADI TRADING PVT. LTD., An ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 Certified Company  
 Thapathali 01-4250610, 4222150, 4222152  
 For inquiry, give us a call at 9801013449

**SIPRADI**





## THE JAMIE BAUM SEXTET (USA)

Widely considered among the top jazz flutists and composers in the world, Jamie brings to Surya Nepal Jazzmandu some of the most compelling musicians from the New York jazz scene today.

Jamie's passion for South Asian music was heightened over several tours in the region between 2001 and 2009, including two visits to Jazzmandu. She wrote "Honouring Nepal: The Shiva Suite", commissioned by the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art, to pay tribute to Nepal after the 2015 earthquake and performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival in 2016. Now, "The Shiva Suite" is coming to Nepal for the first time. [www.jamiebaum.com](http://www.jamiebaum.com)



# AND AL JAZZM

The biggest jazz party in 20 years of jammin

The wait is over: the annual Surya Nepal Kathmandu Jazz Festival is back in town after a two-year Covid hiatus, spreading the message of peace and compassion through music.

Begun in 2002 and founded by Chhedup Bomzan of The Jazz Upstairs Bar and Navin Chettri, drummer and vocalist of Cadenza, 'Jazzmandu' is in its 18th year and keeps alive its aim to bring quality jazz to Nepal, transcending cultural boundaries with world-famous musicians getting together in Kathmandu for a week of entertainment this festive season.

Just as jazz incorporates elements from folk and traditional music, adding unique melodies and modulations, Surya Nepal Jazzmandu showcases the best that the genre has to offer in a vibrant cultural exchange.

Line-up includes the Jamie Baum Sextet from the USA, Jin Jim from Germany, Catia Werneck from Brazil and France, and Yumi Ito from Switzerland. Nepal's very own Jonisha Poudel, Cadenza Collective and Samundra Band will also perform.

Over the years, the jazz festival has been putting Nepal on the world music map, bringing the

## YUMI ITO (Switzerland)

The destruction of Earth, the committal of a friend to a psychiatric hospital, the death of her unknown neighbour from heroin use — Yumi weaves into her music stories about society that matter, no matter how large or small, how bright or dark.

Her sound — an amalgam of jazz, art-pop, electronica, free improvisation and neo-classical music — might seem tricky but really isn't: the musician, composer, producer and arranger navigates a clear stylistic path of her own making, always telling a story along the way. [www.yumiito.ch](http://www.yumiito.ch)



## SAMUNDRA BAND (Nepal)

Formed in 2004, Samundra celebrates and safeguards the Gandharba community's long tradition of performing Nepali folk music. Holding firm to typical folk instruments, the ensemble plays age-old Nepali tunes recomposed in new forms, updating cherished old music for contemporary tastes.

[www.samundraband.blogspot.com](http://www.samundraband.blogspot.com)



## JIN JIM (Germany)

"Vertical lift-off" is how the broadcaster NDR described Jin Jim's meteoric rise on the German jazz scene. In 2013, the same year Jin Jim was founded, the band was voted by the public into the finals of the JazzTube Festival in Bonn.

Jin Jim's sound is powered by a mix of latin, jazz and rock influences that create a rhythmically complex yet harmonically accessible whole. [www.jinjim.com](http://www.jinjim.com)







# ALL THAT MANDU

y in the Himalaya marks  
ning in Kathmandu

exquisite international sounds of jazz to Nepalis and taking Nepali musicians to the world. Twenty years ago, there were only a handful of jazz musicians in Nepal, but now aspirant instrumentalists queue to learn the style at the Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory. Here too, jazz has developed into a dazzling form of art, with its own distinct identity.

The festival promises to enrich lives, promote creativity, encourage sharing of international sounds and ideas, pushing the limits and boundaries of musical expectations, nurturing the talents of Nepali musicians.

“I hope that over the years, Jazzmandu has had a positive impact on our youth and evolving music culture,” says Nabin Chhetri, artistic director of Surya Nepal Jazzmandu 2022 and member of Cadenza. “We have a special free concert just for young students every year and this year we are also bringing back the Jazz for the Next Generation music competition.”

There is also a three-day free sound workshop from 10 to 12 October with a sound engineer from Switzerland. The theme this year is ‘Music for unity, peace and compassion’ and the festival runs from 13-19 October across many venues in the Valley. 🇳🇵



## CADENZA COLLECTIVE (Nepal)

With a signature blend of jazz, afro-funk and Nepali folk music, Cadenza Collective plays music that’s irresistible for your ears and your booty. Led by the drummer and composer Navin Chettri, the group boasts a hard-driving performance style and has amassed six albums of original music.

In addition to pumping up the improvised music scene in Nepal, Cadenza has played across the world and collaborated with a stellar list of both Western and traditional Nepali musicians. [www.cadenzacollective.com](http://www.cadenzacollective.com)



## CATIA WERNECK (Brazil/France)

Born into a family of musicians in Rio de Janeiro, Catia began to sing and play from a young age before touring abroad and moving to Paris to further her career. Starting with an early collaboration in France with the Boto Novos Tempos collective, she has gone on to tour across the world and perform at major international jazz festivals.

She continues to perform and record in Brazil, showcasing her mastery and creativity in the styles of bossa nova, samba, jongo (a forerunner to samba), and more. [www.catiawerneck.com](http://www.catiawerneck.com)



## JONISHA POUDEL (NEPAL)

As a gifted exponent of khayal, the preeminent genre of Hindustani classical music, Jonisha Pouadel has already made a deep mark at a young age. Trained under the guidance of Shree K.C., one of Nepal’s most respected khayal and dhrupad vocalists, she has won multiple honours and performed at many prestigious classical music festivals.

Her talent ranges beyond classical music as well: she has recorded hit songs for the Nepali film industry and been the lead vocalist for the band Vastu. [www.facebook.com/jonishapoudelofficial](http://www.facebook.com/jonishapoudelofficial)



## SURYA NEPAL JAZZMANDU 2022 CONCERT SCHEDULE:

**Jazz for the Next Generation**  
Concert for Young Students / Music Competition

**Date:** Thursday, 13 October

**Time:** 11:00am – 1:30pm

**Venue:** Malpi College, Gairidhara  
*Entry by invitation only!*

**Groovin’ at Upstairs**

**Date:** Thursday, 13 October

**Time:** 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**Venue:** Jazz Upstairs, Lazimpat  
**Price:** Rs700

Gates open at 6:30pm.

*Cadenza Collective gather new and old friends for an explosive jam at Kathmandu’s most storied jazz club.*

**Valley Jams**

**Date:** Friday, 14 October

**Time:** 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**Price:** Rs700

Gates open at 6:30pm and close at 7:00pm.

**Venues:**

Jazz Upstairs, Lazimpat – Jamie Baum Sextet (USA)

Electric Pagoda, Thamel – Jin Jim (Germany)

Evoke, Jhamsikhel – Catia Werneck (Brazil /France)

Maitri Marg – Yumi Ito (Switzerland)

*Visiting acts perform intimate sets at venues across the Kathmandu Valley.*

**Jazz Bazaar**

**Date:** Saturday, 15 October

**Time:** 3:00pm – 10:00pm

**Venue:** Gokarna Forest Resort

**Price:** Rs1500

Gates open at 2:00pm and close at 7:00pm.

*A day and night of incredible music under an open sky at the lush Gokarna Forest Resort.*

**Sounds of Brazilian Jazz & Nepali Afro-Funk**

**Date:** Monday, 17 October

**Time:** 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**Venue:** Aloft, Thamel

**Price:** Rs1700

Gates open at 6:00pm and close at 8:00pm.

*A classy evening in Thamel with music spanning Brazil, West Africa and Nepal.*

**Jazz at Patan**

**Date:** Tuesday, 18 October

**Time:** 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**Venue:** Yalamaya Kendra, Patan  
**Dhoka**

**Price:** Rs1700

Gates open at 6:30pm and close at 8:00pm.

Please be seated by 6:45pm.

*Nepali classical music fuses with jazz on a magical night in the old city of Patan.*

**Jazzmandu Finale**

**Date:** Wednesday, 19 October

**Time:** 5:30pm – 10:00pm

**Venue:** Hotel Yak & Yeti, Durbar Marg

**Price:** Rs1500

Gates open at 4:30pm and close at 8:00pm.

*The full festival line-up comes together for one last jam to close out Surya Nepal Jazzmandu 2022.*





DASAIN AAYO

**Phulpati**  
The royal Kalash, banana stalks, jamara, and sugar cane tied with red cloth, a decorated palanquin under a gold tipped and embroidered umbrella walk are brought to Hanuman Dhoka by Magar from Gorkha after a three-day walk, about 169km from Kathmandu Valley. The jamara is then placed in the Dasain Ghar.  
*2 October*



**Astami**  
Astami celebrates the fiercest of goddess Durga's ten avatars: Maha Kali. Temple shrines all around Nepal, palace complexes and army barracks turn red with animal sacrifices.  
*3 October*

**Nawami**  
The only day when Taleju Temple in Hanuman Dhoka is open to public. Devotees also worship the divine architect and craftsman deity Vishwakarma. Sacrifices are made to one's tools, vehicles, machines and household utensils to prevent accidents all year.  
*4 October*

**Bijaya Dashami**  
Bijaya Dasami or Tika is synonymous with a victory of good over evil. Families get together from far and wide and elders put jamara and red tika on the foreheads of the younger ones with blessings.  
*5 October*

**Kathak performance**  
Check out 'Hansadhwani: Voice of the swan', a Kathak choreography by Mimi Diluna about Buddha's childhood.  
*1 October, 5.30pm onwards, Nritya Aagan, 9865992155*

DINING



**Yala Café**  
Grab a stack of fluffy pancakes, well-seasoned Eggs Benedict or a country breakfast at Yala Café. With a cosy ambience and soul-warming food, Yala is the best way to kick start the day.  
*Thamel, (01) 4249602*

MUSIC



**Mukti and Revival**  
Get into the holiday mood with a rocking Friday at Hard Rock with performances from Mukti and Revival.  
*30 September, 7.30pm onwards, Rs1000, Hard Rock Café Kathmandu, Darbarmarg*

**Surya Nepal Jazzmandu**  
The biggest jazz festival in the Himalayas returns for its 18th edition. Enjoy the exquisite melodies and modulations from around the globe in a week-long celebration of jazz and Nepal. Read *page 6-7* for more details.  
*13-19 October, Kathmandu*

**Sound healing**  
Relax with the sound and vibrations of singing bowls, tingshas and gongs in the healing session.  
*1 October, 5pm onwards, Ticket: Rs1500, Kundalini ayurveda, Bakhundol*



**Dasain Fest**  
Head over to the Dasain Music festival and catch all your favourite artists from Neetesh Jung Kunwar, the elements, Bartika Eam Rai to Swoopna Suman and more. Get tickets through Esewa, Khalti or Ticket Sansar.  
*1 October, Dashrath Rangashala, Tripureswor*

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

About Town

GETAWAY

**Newa Chén**  
This hotel is reminiscent of the golden era of the Malla Dynasty. The open rooms and courtyards embody the palaces of the once-rulers.  
*Kobahal, Lalitpur, (01) 5533532*

**Mount Princess**  
Mount Princess is a haven for city-dwellers. Spend the morning sipping a warm cup of Nepali tea while taking in the breathtaking views.  
*Dhulikhel, (01) 490616*



**The Fulbari Resort & Spa**  
The ultimate getaway in Pokhara, Fulbari is far from everything but at the centre of all that matters.  
*Pokhara, (061) 432451*

**Balthali Village Resort**  
A simple and cosy retreat just beyond Kathmandu Valley, Balthali Village Resort is ideal for anyone seeking to get away but not too far from the city.  
*Panauti, Kavre, 9851087772*



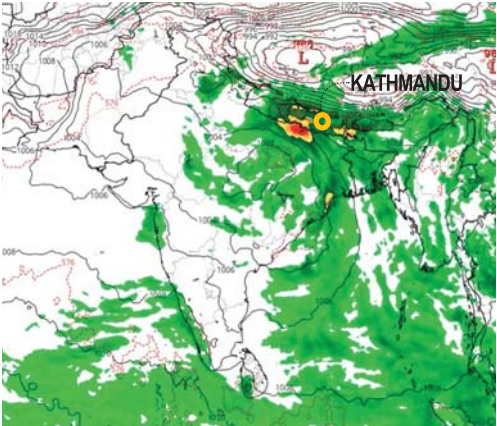
**Megghauli Serai**  
Relax with fine dining and wildlife safaris in Chitwan at Taj Safari's luxurious lodge.  
*Chitwan National Park, 9851218500*

**Red Mud Coffee**  
Red Mud, a perfect place to grab some coffee, sandwiches and one of the best chicken sizzlers.  
*Jhamsikhel, 9861665829*



**Batuka Creamery**  
Feeling that crave for locally-made artisan ice-cream, hot chocolate and a perfect little cup of joy? Look no further: Batuka Creamery is just the place for you.  
*Shanta Bhawan Marga, Jhamsikhel, +977 9823784842*

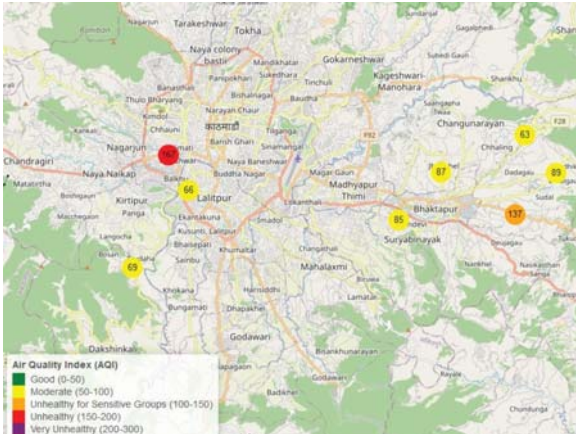
WEEKEND WEATHER



**Post-monsoon Trough**  
The long-term forecast for Dasain have weather models predicting a 50% likelihood of showers for 4 October, some letup on Tika day but even higher probability of rain 7-9 October due to a post-monsoon trough in the Bay (*map, left*). That is the bad news. The good news is that this weekend will be mostly fine, with only some afternoon cloud buildup over the mountains. The minimum temperature is now falling to 17°C in Kathmandu, and that should reduce the mosquito risk somewhat, although repellent use in the mornings and evenings is advised.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 28° 17°	 28° 17°	 29° 17°

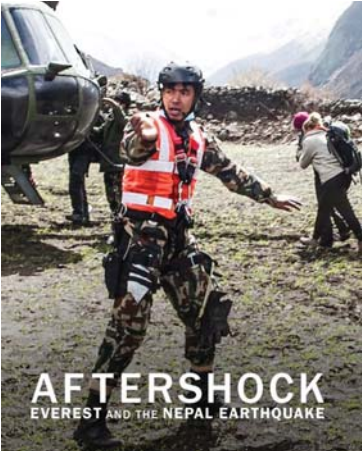
AIR QUALITY INDEX



You do not need an Air Quality Index map like the one at left by purpleair.com to know which parts of Kathmandu are the most polluted. The suspended particulates are visible, can be smelled and felt in the air, especially along the western and eastern edges of the Valley. That is where prevailing winds, emissions from overloaded trucks and buses, and open garbage burning concentrate the pollution. Less traffic over the holidays and likely precipitation in the coming week, will possibly clean some of this dirty air, but not for very long.

OUR PICK

Yet another addition to Netflix's collection of binge-worthy documentaries is *Aftershock: Everest and the Nepal Earthquake*, a docuseries on the devastating 2015 earthquake and its aftermath. Survivors' firsthand accounts and actual footage fuel this emotional and dramatic series produced for three seasons and directed by British filmmaker Ali Lambert. Puja Pant, a filmmaker and women's rights campaigner, is the documentary's Nepali producer, and Bishnu Kalpit and Bikil Santhama handle the cinematography, with all of the technicians being Nepalis. Filming locations include Kathmandu, Langtang and the Everest region. The first season is set to release on 6 October 2022.




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 बचौं अरुलाई पनि बचाऔं।




नेपाल सरकार  
विज्ञापन बोर्ड



#SERIOUSABOUTBEER

BREWED FROM 100% GERMAN  
MALTED BARLEY, YEAST, HOPS AND WATER



Drink responsibly



## Aina Jhyal ko Putali (Butterfly on the Windowpane)

Directed by Suresh Bidari, the film revolves around two siblings, Bidya and her younger brother Basanta. An excellent student and aspiring poet with big dreams, Bidya struggles with the societal pressure of being a girl, despite having a supportive mother. When Basanta sees his sister slowly giving up on her dreams, he desperately tries to give her the hope she has lost. Staring Kanchan Chimariya, Dinesh Khatri, Siru Bista, Bisha Chamling Rai, Raj Thapa, Umesh Shrestha, Mallika Shrestha, Ashok Siwakoti and Prasanna Paudel. Lauded as a prime example of Nepali New wave, the film has been selected as Nepal's official entry for Best International Feature at the Oscars 2023.



## Kalo Pothi (The Black Hen)

This 2015 drama takes place in Mugu district during the Maoist conflict. Two boys Prakash and Kiran, belonging to different castes, raise a hen together. But when it disappears, they start a perilous journey. They are caught in the crossfire of the insurgency, unaware of the atrocities that lie ahead. *Kalo Pothi* is the first Nepali film to be screened at the Venice Film Festival. The cast includes Khadka Raj Nepali, Sukraj Rokaya, Jit Bahadur Malla, Benisha Hamal, Hansa Khadka and Bipin Karki. Directed by Min Bahadur Bham.



## Chiso Manchhe

When a Nepali migrant worker dies in Qatar, his father and wife travel to Kathmandu to retrieve his body. They are then accompanied by a driver who is taking them back home to their village in Bajura district in far west Nepal. Against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and ensuing restrictions, the three face numerous obstacles on the way, highlighting the political and social discrimination faced by ordinary Nepalis by agencies of the state. Directed by Dipendra K Khanal with Swastima Khadka, Arpan Thapa and Desh Bhakta Khanal in lead roles.



# NEW WAVE CINEMA

## Kagbeni

This 2008 film loosely based on W W Jacob's 1902 horror story *The Monkey's Paw* is perhaps best known as the first successful non-mainstream Nepali movie. Krishna returns from Malaysia and is reunited with his childhood friend, Ramesh. Their lives forever change after receiving a talisman with tantric powers from a sadhu. After this, the story becomes a drama that unfolds at two levels: the real and the occult. Bhusan Dahal directorial debut stars Saugat Malla, Deeya Maskey, Nima Rumba, Hanif Mohammed and Pooja Gurung.



## Prakash

Set in the post-monarchy Jumla, *Prakash* follows the titular character played by Pradeep Khadka, a poor labourer who dreams of becoming a teacher in a government school. It is also a story of his mother Sita portrayed by Diya Maskey who is still searching for her missing husband. The film expertly depicts the struggle borne of political change, the life of Jumlelis in one of the most neglected parts of Nepal, and class difference. Debutant Renu Yogi also does a fair job in this film directed by Dinesh Raut.

# Our pick of Nepali books to read over Dasain

## YOGMAYA by Neelam Karki Niharika

Neelam Karki Niharika's 2018 Madan Puraskar-winning *Yogmaya* is a compelling historical fiction on women's rights and freedom of expression. Centred on the figure of pioneer poet and religious leader Yogmaya Neupane, born in 1867 in Bhojpur of eastern Nepal, the novel charts her fight against the autocratic Rana rule of the time. Yogmaya was heavily monitored by the government for her activism and activities, her contributions were censored until the Ranas were overthrown in 1951. This discontent with the government led to the ritual mass suicide, *jal samadhi*, she and her disciples committed in 1941. Although a fictionalised narrative, Niharika's searing prose explores the themes of sati, child marriage, widowhood, caste- and sex-based discrimination, class struggle from ground-up, with sharp critique of the patriarchy and authoritarianism – themes that remain pertinent in contemporary times.



योगमाया |  
Yogmaya  
By Neelam Karki Niharika  
Sangri-la Books, 2018  
503p  
Rs595

## MEERA NAU DASHAK by Surya Bahadur Thapa

Five-time prime minister Surya Bahadur Thapa's life and political career spanned five kings. Born in 1928, Thapa was selected to the national assembly as an independent, and became Chairman of the Advisory Council in 1958. The following year, he was elected to the Upper House, appointed the Minister of Agriculture, Forest and Industry under the newly formed Panchayat system, and drafted King Mahendra's Poush 1 coup speech. During the Maoist insurgency, he initiated talks with the Maoists. After the Second People's Movement, he chaired the second constituent assembly. In his autobiography, *Mera Nau Dashak*, Thapa's memoir is woven with the political history of modern Nepal, making sense of the possibilities and carving of a sovereign identity. Written by Ganesh Paudel with 310-hours of interviews with Thapa before he died in 2015, the book is as much one man's story as it is a country's biography.



मेरा नौ दशक |  
Mera Nau Dashak  
By Surya Bahadur Thapa  
Book Hill Publications,  
2022  
470p  
Rs1500

## KALPA-GRANTHA by Kumar Nagarkoti

Setting a novel precedent in Nepali publishing, Kumar Nagarkoti's voluminous 2021 book *Kalpa-Grantha* was available only by pre-order and delivered directly to readers. Packaged as a ready-made gift in a sleek bag, the royal-sized book weighing 1.5kg at 800 pages fit snugly inside a box, accompanied by a postcard and a bookmark. More than a novel marketing strategy, this packaging marked Nagarkoti's 10th anniversary as a writer, and also his 10th book. A prime example of ergodic writing, *Kalpa-Grantha* is quite literally a collection of dreams and imaginations, where Nagarkoti plays with languages, form and content -- from typographical stories to screenplays, from conceptual narratives to gray -- challenging writing and storytelling themselves. While the print-run now has been discontinued, *Kalpa-Grantha* was indeed a touch of newness in Nepal's literary scene.



कल्प-ग्रन्थ |  
Kalpa-Grantha  
By Kumar Nagarkoti  
Book Hill Publication, 2021  
800p

## PATHER by Shyam Sah

The second collection of stories by Shyam Sah, *Pather*, continue his exploration into the depths of marginalisation and rebellious consciousness in Madhes. In the style of a confident social realist, these 11 potent stories portray class struggles, exploitation, gender and caste, writing about the people living on the margins, forgotten by the government and often misrepresented. These stories are political at their core, and his aim is to bring Madhes to the forefront, examine exclusionary politics, the justice system, and inspire more such stories to claim their space in the literature of Nepal. The literal definition of 'pather' is a brick-labourer; as a book, there is also an added layer of nuance to this, which points to inequity in societies, distortion and neglect that has repercussions across generations.



पथेर |  
Pather  
By Shyam Sah  
Phoenix Books, 2021  
194p  
Rs350

## YAMBUNERA by Bina Theeng

Bina Theeng's third book, *Yambunera*, is a collection of 13 short stories set in and around the Kathmandu Valley, looking into the sense of otherness and displacement in hearts of its inhabitants entangled in the web of structural discrimination based on caste, colour, culture, religion and region. Theeng's stories and beautiful and clear, written almost economically, about marginalised Indigenous people revolting against oppression and rejection, critiquing the system that refuses to change and politics that finds comfort in wilful blindness. 'Yambu' in Tamang language means Kathmandu, the place where the ruler lives; and 'Yambunera' meaning near Yambu. In the stories, the ruler, a monarch or otherwise, is not entirely an optimistic figure; instead they are positioned as a system that forgets and overlooking its duties towards its people. Yet, the book is not all gloom; rather a wake-up call.



याम्बुनेर |  
Yambunera  
By Bina Theeng  
Phoenix Books, 2020  
173p  
Rs300



# A survival strategy for Nepal

Two books on how national security can be an existential issue for the Nepali state

● Kunda Dixit

Two books released this week deal prominently with the Kalapani border dispute between Nepal and India, and both eschew jingoism for historical records and present pragmatic ways to resolve this bilateral irritant.

In *National Security and the State: A Focus on Nepal*, retired Brig-Gen Keshar Bahadur Bhandari of the Nepal Army uses Kalapani as bookends in his foreword and epilogue. Now more than ever before, he says, Nepal needs to devise and follow a national security doctrine if it is to survive between the world's two most populous countries.

In *Nepal-India Border Disputes: Mahakali and Susta* edited by Pitamber Sharma, a slew of cartographers, geographers, historians and even a hydrologist pore into colonial era maps and treaties to explore why Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura became disputed in the first place.

Read together, the two books present ideas about how Nepal can navigate the treacherous geopolitics of being a country of 30 million squeezed between two Goliaths on either side with 2.6 billion peoples.

Nepal's founding king Prithvi Narayan Shah already had a national security policy that he set forth in his *Dibya Upadesh* 250 years ago with the 'Yam Doctrine'. The only difference is that today Nepal is a tuber betwixt three boulders, not just two.

The most direct impact of this was felt in the last three years when Nepal's politicians went at each other with hammers and tongs, weaponising the MCC, and in the process offending all three powers: the United States, China, India.

Bhandari's recommendation is that Nepal has no option but to follow another one of king Prithvi's guiding security principles: '*jai katak nagarnu, jhikikatak garnu*' (Don't provoke needlessly, but be ready to defend.)

Reading the historical recaps in *National Security and the State*, it becomes clear that the threat to Nepal's national security since the Gurkha Conquest in 1769, and especially after 1816, was not so much from belligerent neighbours, but from within the royal court in Kathmandu itself.

The royal families and their courtiers were entangled in endless conspiracies, vengeance and violence. The constant backstabbing periodically erupted in 'front-stabbing' in the Bhandarkhal and Kot massacres, and even the murder of the royals in 2001.

The Shah and Rana dynasties

were historically prone to feuds over succession, and some of this was because of the promiscuity of monarchs who begat progeny from multiple queens and concubines. Courtiers and advisers took sides, and regent queen and their rivals appealed for support from the East India Company via the British Resident.

In that respect, contemporary politics in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal is not much different, as politically promiscuous leaders openly seek patronage of powerful actors in Delhi or Beijing in their in-house power struggles.

Bhandari compares the security doctrine of other small states like Israel which punch above their weight, but says also-landlocked Mongolia could be a more appropriate model for Nepal: 'What China is to Mongolia, India is to Nepal ... what Russia is to Mongolia, China is to Nepal.'

Unlike Nepal, which is vulnerable due to its overwhelming economic dependence on India, Mongolia has created a 'third neighbour' to boost its economic security, the author argues.

Nepal is not a 'small' country, it is just small compared to its giant neighbours. When it became the oldest nation state in South Asia two-and-half centuries ago, there were only 22 other countries in the world, and today it is the 40<sup>th</sup> most populous in the world.

Bhandari dissects the term 'nation-state', and puts forth the argument that because of its

ethnic diversity Nepal is actually a 'state-nation'. As someone who was also involved in peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan, the author wants steps to be taken to prevent potential ethno-cultural conflict in Nepal.

Although there are chapters on the Nepal Army, and especially its conduct during the Maoist insurgency, the book expands the definition of national security beyond the military to also refer to political stability, economic security, cyber security, human security and even climate security.

The reader could wonder why Nepal even needs a national army when it may not be much of a deterrence against foreign invasion. Like Costa Rica, it could free up a chunk of its budget to resolve precursors to internal conflict like social injustice, inequity and poor governance.

*National Security and the State* is a largely objective assessment of Nepal's security concerns, but on some issues Brig-Gen Bhandari does take a stance. He postulates that Nepal might still be a monarchy if the Comprehensive Peace Accord of 2006 was between the Maoists and the Royal Nepal Army, instead of with the 7-party Alliance.

He also has strong views on regulating the 1,880km India-Nepal open border because 'it has done more bad and good to Nepal ... exacerbating security problems'. He also maintains that secularism was covertly added into the 2015 Constitution, and that: 'The cause of Hindu religion

would protect many of Nepal's national security interests.'

Going by the intolerance and polarity in India today, Nepal may have to think twice about importing insecurity from the South. The 'soft power' of religion may not do much to firm up Nepal's 'soft state'.

The border dispute with India is one of Nepal's major security concerns, and *Nepal-India Border Disputes: Mahakali and Susta* tries to put the matter to rest with chapters by Nepali experts including geographer Mangal Siddhi Manandhar, former government secretary Dwarika Nath Dhungel, geodetic engineer Prabhakar Sharma, and historian Tri Ratna Manandhar.

As geography professor and former head of the National Planning Commission Pitamber Sharma concludes in his overview, 'The boundary issues between Nepal and India can be settled only by the strict obedience of the Sugauli Treaty.'

That treaty between the British East India Company and the Gorkha Empire signed in 1816 shrank Nepal to territory west of the Mechi and east of the Mahakali rivers. But the treaty did not have a map, and it was left to interpretation which was the main flow of the Mahakali at its upper reaches in the tri-junction between Nepal, India and China.

This compilation makes a case for Nepal's claim, but does so without falling into the nationalistic trap, presenting an objective analysis of why and where the boundary was changed. The conclusion: disputes over the river borders at Kalapani and Susta are a legacy of British India.

As Dwarika Dhungel points out in his chapter, early maps showed the Kali River originating in Limpiyadhura but the British later found that there was a much easier trade route to Tibet for the import of valuable shatoosh baby antelope wool along a tributary to Lipu Pass.

They then surreptitiously manipulated their survey maps to first cover up the Kali (Kuti Yangdi) and then show Lipu Khola as the main river, shifting the border eastwards. Dhungel notes: 'How a lesser stream could be recognised as the main branch of the Kali is beyond any logic.'

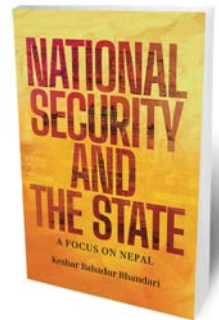
If trade was the main preoccupation for Britain, for independent India it was the strategic importance of Lipu Pass — especially after the border war with China in 1962. King Mahendra allowed the Indian Army to 'temporarily' stay in Kalapani, and it appears to have been historical Nepali indifference by local authorities as well as faraway Kathmandu that allowed the Indians to stay put.

With Susta, the reason for the dispute is the shifting main channel of the Gandak westwards, and came to the fore in the 1960s. Nearly 40sq km of what was once Nepali territory now lies in India if one is to accept the joint Nepal-Britain Rozar Martin map of 1817.

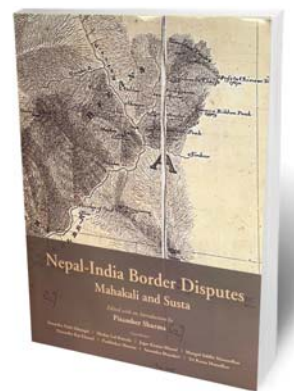
It is clear that colonial Britain pushed the Kalapani boundary for its trade interest and left India to deal with the consequences with Nepal, which it is doing to this day. The border issue is then used by politicians in both Kathmandu and New Delhi to wave the populist flag from time to time. China's past border agreements with India on Lipulekh have shown that Nepal cannot rely on Beijing for support.

In the epilogue to *National Security and the State*, Brig-Gen Bhandari urges Nepali leaders to use 'proper lobbying and persuasive pressure' to either make Kalapani a peace buffer, or to swap it, as example, for a permanent highway corridor from the southeast tip of Nepal to Bangladesh through Indian territory.

His advice: 'Since a small state cannot change its neighbours, it has to learn to live with them ... more so Nepal can bring the two neighbours with diverse political and sociocultural values closer for a common and great economic interest.' 🇳🇵



National Security and the State: A Focus on Nepal  
By Keshar Bahadur Bhandari  
Nepa-laya, 2022  
426 pages Rs 995  
Also available through Thuprai and Amazon



Nepal-India Border Disputes: Mahakali and Susta  
Edited with an Introduction by Pitamber Sharma  
Mandala Book Point, 2022  
192 pages Rs1,595



अब  
मासिक हिमाल  
१ असोजदेखि बजारमा ।



हिमालमिडिया प्रा. लि.  
पाटनढोका, ललितपुर



# Stories of Nepal’s summiteers

Yet another book that documents how Sherpa livelihoods are tied with mountaineering expeditions

● Ashish Dhakal

**S**herpa: *Stories of Life and Death from the Forgotten Guardians of Everest* begins in Spring 2019. Nepal’s mountaineering has just rebounded from the deadly avalanches on Everest in 2014 and 2015, and a year before the pandemic hits. High on Mt Everest, internationally certified mountain guide Tendi Sherpa and his 60-year-old American client leave their tent in Camp 4 and climb into the ‘death zone’.

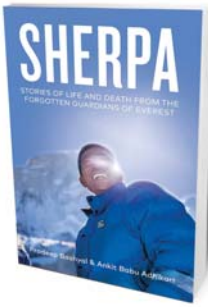
Only 800m remain, but for a guide, the worry is not so much about the summit as it is about returning to Camp 4 safely. Tendi’s story is but one among the many that are woven together in *Sherpa*, a new book by authors Ankit Babu Adhikari and Pradeep Bashyal.

At the moment Tendi is among 800 climbers on Manaslu, and took the video of a massive serac collapse near Base Camp on Sunday. Another avalanche near Camp

4 on the mountains killed one Nepali and wounded 12 others. American skier Hilaree Nelson’s body was recovered on Wednesday from the south face of the peak— underscoring just how dangerous mountain climbing can be.

For the Sherpa, it is doubly dangerous since they have to put themselves in harm’s way (on the Khumbu Icefall, in the death zone) for longer periods than their clients. The book attempts to go behind the climbs to portray the lives, dreams and destinies of the people who have made their surname and ethnicity a word for ‘support crew’ in the English language dictionary.

Even as climbing in recent years has been over-commercialised, adding to the environmental impact and danger, climate crisis is changing the very nature of climbing.



Sherpa: Stories of Life and Death from the Forgotten Guardians of Everest by Ankit Babu Adhikari and Pradeep Bashyal  
Cassell, 2022  
321 pages  
Rs699

The two Nepali journalist authors of the book ask at one point: “Can climbing Everest ever be ‘a picnic’ for anyone?”

Every year, hundreds of Sherpa guides accompany their Patagonia-clad clients to the base of mountains in Nepal, Pakistan, India and even the Alps and North America. They fix ropes to summits, put ladders across crevasses, guide them up ice faces, pitch tents and even cook – all with a smile.

It is often easy to end up exoticising and giving a sense of otherness to the Sherpa climbers, painting them as superhuman sidekicks, relegating them to the footnotes of another’s attempts. Paired with the spectacular description of landscapes, the meditative, riveting or tragic

first-hand accounts of the many Sherpa climbers and their families ensure that the book avoids this pitfall.

Sherpas now increasingly climb not just because it is a job but because they enjoy the adventure. And they are financing their climbs by taking clients along. Increasingly, the portering work is now done by Nepal’s other ethnic groups. The guide who died on Manaslu on Monday was a Rai.

Rather than asking the vague ‘why people climb’ questions, the authors cast their nets relatively wide over the history of mountaineering in the Himalaya, covering also a larger geographical area, from Khumbu to Darjeeling to the United States.

They trace their aspiration and motivation alongside the changing attitudes towards the mountains, trade and tourism. An entire chapter is dedicated to women climbers. Legends and superstitions mix with the tales of ambition and endurance. The Sherpa’s ‘romance with the mountains and the act of climbing,’ the authors realise, ‘is attached to their love stories back home.’

LABELS

FESTIVE SEASON OFFER

IN YOUR FAVORITE BRANDS

adidas

Reebok

DOCKERS

Levi's®

Adidas- Durbar Marg :01-4241802 • Jawalakhel :01-5424971 • City Centre :01-4011502 • Civil Mall: 01-5348975 • Newroad :01-5360356  
Levi's- Durbar Marg: 01-4226432 • Sherpa Mall: 01-4261972 • City Centre: 01-4011502 • Jawalakhel: 01-5400602  
Reebok- Patan- 01-5400603 • Durbarmarg- 01-4257706  
Dockers- Sherpamall 01-4250345 • Jawalakhel: 01-5400602

High Fibre  
is proven to  
help manage  
diabetes\*

Get 26%  
of daily fibre#  
requirement

Horlicks

Diabetes  
PLUS

HELPS MANAGE  
BLOOD SUGAR\*\*

vanilla  
flavour

Unilever

Horlicks  
Diabetes  
PLUS

\*Journal of Diabetes and Metabolism; 2020 Feb; 11(2):841. \*\*As per WHO/FAO 2004 Guidelines. NUTRIOSE® is a registered trademark of Roquette Frères. ^Nutriose® and FIBERSOL -2 are trade name for Wheat fibre dextrin & Corn fibre dextrin respectively. Horlicks Diabetes Plus is not intended to replace any existing medication. It is a nutritional beverage meant to be consumed as a part of balance daily diet and exercise. ®Sucrose. 'CONTAINS NATURALLY OCCURRING SUGARS'. Creative Visualization.



# Unthinkable in the current climate

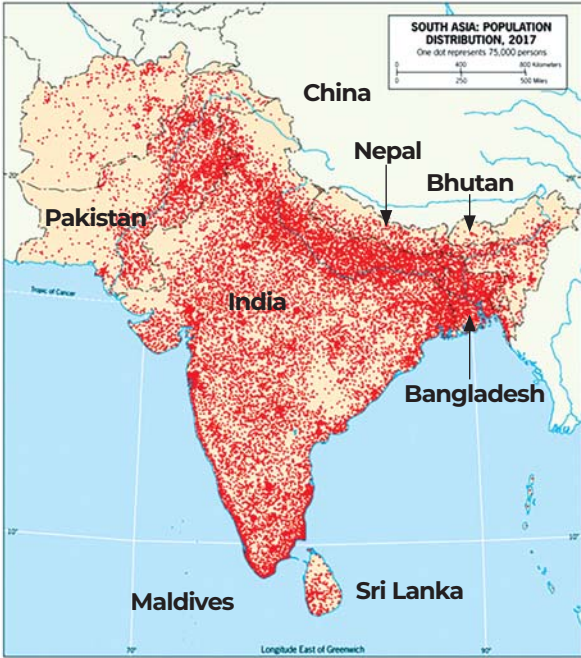
Hotter summers in the Indo-Gangetic plains could lead to mass migration of people to cooler Himalayan climes



NABIN BARAL / THE THIRD POLE

**GLOBAL HEATING:** Farmers in Bihar, across the border from Nepal, tending to their parched fields (*left*). Climate change will not just lead to droughts and floods, but also unsurvivable heat waves.

The Indo-Gangetic Plains (*right*), stretching from Pakistan to Bangladesh is the most densely-populated place on the planet. Heat waves and sea-level rise in future could lead to mass migration.



● Sonia Awale

Kim Stanley Robinson’s cli-fi novel *The Ministry for the Future* begins with an unprecedented heatwave in northern India. Air conditioners and fans stop working because of power cuts, water runs out, and more than 20 million people die. The same dystopian future is the subject of Gaia Vince’s new book *Nomad Century: How Climate Migration Will Reshape Our World*. But Vince’s book is not

science fiction — it looks at mass migrations from the most densely-populated parts of the world because of unsurvivable heat waves and sea-level rise. ‘Fleeing the tropics, the coasts and formerly arable lands, huge populations will need to seek new homes. You will be among them, or you will be receiving them,’ Vince predicts. The heat waves in India, China, Europe and North America this summer were hints of what may be in store. Scientists are predicting that if the buildup of greenhouse gases

continues at the present rate, average global temperatures will cross 2°C by 2050, and could reach a sizzling 4°C by the end of the century. The heat impact on South Asia, especially the densely populated Indo-Gangetic plains, would be unthinkable, and will be accompanied by sea level rise that could submerge coastal cities. Millions more will be hit by worsening floods and droughts. Vince predicts that large swathes of the globe will be uninhabitable, leaving no choice

for at least 5 billion people but to move either to higher latitude, or higher altitude. The scenario is so apocalyptic that Robinson in his novel imagines a future in which world governments are finally shocked into action by the mass deaths in northern India. And Vince advocates preparing for future migrations because it is not a question of if, but when, where and how many. Unlike authors, scientists and academics are loath to make specific predictions about mass migrations without adequate research. However, military strategists in many countries are already known to be planning for security threats posed by a rising tide of humanity on the move. In Nepal, it could mean a steady increase in the movement of people to the uplands from the Tarai. In India, people could stream out of the heavily populated Ganga plains for the cooler climes of Kashmir, Himachal, Uttarakhand, or Sikkim. Heat could push many Pakistanis from Punjab and Sindh to the Hindu Kush.

have to deal with a whole new set of problems in their new homes: adapting to drastically different climate and socio-economic conditions, and a hostile political environment. “Nepal is already starting to see reverse migration but it is unlikely to resolve the root cause of the problem,” says climate scientist Manjeet Dhakal. “It is much better to devise adaptation strategies starting right now.” Like in Kim Stanley Robinson’s novel, Gaia Vince in *Nomad Century* explores the similar solutions like using bioengineering to stabilise and cool the planet, a global governance body to set the planet’s thermostat, building new compact cities at higher latitudes to house climate refugees with an international tax, universal passports. Many of these ideas are politically unfeasible in the present climate, as seen in the rise of populist anti-immigration parties in the North. But the climate refugee crisis will be so drastic that it will need drastic solutions. Vince believes that future migration will benefit both refugees and their destination countries which by then will have declining populations because of falling birth rates. In fact, migration may be necessary for humanity to survive a crisis of its own making. Humans migrated out of Africa, possibly also due to climate reasons, some 80,000 years ago. And they have been on the move ever since. The climate crisis now poses the threat of another mass exodus, on a scale never seen before. 🇳🇵

NETTV

festTVty

OFFER

32" Yasuda Bezel Less LED TV

32" YASUDA LED TV (Rs. 26,000)

NETTV 1 Year Subscription (Rs. 3,600)

NETTV Set-Top Box (Rs. 4,500)

200 Mbps 1 Year 200 Mbps Internet (Rs. 12,600)

NOKIA Mesh Router Beacon 1.1 (Rs. 7,000)

Dual Band Router (Rs. 5,000)

Rs. 58,700\*

Rs. 25,900\*

9801523052

nettv.com.np

ISP Partner: WORLDLINK

EMI Available

महाराष्ट्र बैंक

khalti

Climate migration is not new, it is already happening. Villages in Kavre, Ramechhap and Mustang districts have seen entire households moving out because of water sources going dry due to prolonged droughts. But heat stress is going to affect many more people, and they will have nowhere to go but up. Nepal’s climate adaptation plans so far mostly take into account melting glaciers, receding snow lines and the mountains. “There is no real mention of the Tarai in our climate discourse, we haven’t even begun to study the slow-onset impacts of the climate crisis,” says Ajaya Dixit of the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition Nepal. (See editorial) Future climate refugees might

THE MINISTRY FOR THE FUTURE

KIM STANLEY ROBINSON

The Ministry for the Future

By Kim Stanley Robinson

Orbit, 2020

576p

\$20.49 (hardback)

NOMAD CENTURY

HOW CLIMATE MIGRATION WILL RESHAPE OUR WORLD

GAIA VINCE

Nomad Century: How Climate Migration Will Reshape Our World

By Gaia Vince

Flatiron Books, 2022

288p

\$18.99 (hardback)



# Dasain is postponed

The Ass has been reminded that this paper takes a break over Dasain, and we skip one issue next week. Yay! Also, there is a full page nude on the back page. Double Yay! But the editor tells me I still have to submit my weekly column. Nay!

It is therefore incumbent upon yours truly to circulate this strong internal memo against the media typhoon who owns this paper who sold his soul to Mammon, sacrificing the donkey's designated Backside place and squeezing the Ass into this obscure inside section.

I will therefore not beat around the burning bush indulging in frivolous chitchat, supposedly witty repartees, idle banter, lame puns, below the belt innuendos about the Prime Minister, ridiculing the President's taste in upholstery from the Ministry of Interior Decoration, or muttering allegedly hilarious asides about the posterior body parts of some prominent members of the Council of Ministers.

No, today we shall tackle deadly serious national issues so that we can roll our loins and gird up our sleeves to ensure that Fedex Elections are held as scheduled in November. We should doubly redouble our efforts to protect the Constitution (the world's best, in fact) that ensures politicians of all hues and cries have equal rights in our democracy to pillage and plunder.

We now break our usual programming for this important grabberment announcement:

Hear ye, her ye! It is hereby notified to all concerned that this year's Dasain festival has been postponed until further notice because of the need for belt-tightening during these tumultuous times.

All concerned should watch this space for new Dasain dates, but it will most probably be next April, when it will be held in conjunction with New Year 2080 in order to reduce Nepal's petroleum import bill and the country's carbon footprint.

There will also be a moratorium on mountain goat imports from Tibet till next April because of our balance of trade deficit with China. Water buffalos have also been included in the list of 'luxury items' together with iPhone 14s, Old Monk Rum, and Odomos mosquito repellent creams, that are currently restricted for import to save Indian currency reserves from further depletion.

Mountain goats and buffaloes will therefore be allowed to carry on with their daily lives until such time as they may again be required to be decapitated in the epic struggle of good against evil next April. For further information, contact the Dept of Humanitarian Sacrifices.

Despite austerity, MPs in the prorogued Parliament who knew their days were numbered voted themselves fat Dasain bonuses. Former Chief Justices, Ministers, and Reps in the August House had till end-August to award themselves posthumous pensions so they can keep on enjoying legislative perks, and official cars in their afterlife.

As you may have heard, Prime Minister Dubya has decided to give election tickets to Baddie candidates recommended by Comrade Awesome rather than to dissidents within his own party who could challenge The Foremost Lady in future. These tickets are so sought after that they are being sold in the black market, or so I am told.



The Ass

Saleways

SalesBerry

SalesBerry EXPRESS

Ashoj 8<sup>th</sup> to Kartik 30<sup>th</sup>, 2079

SalesBerry

FESTIVE

Dhamaka

हरैक दिन : ५४ जना

हरैक हप्ता : १६ जना

Bumper बिजेता : ५ जना

Surprise बिजेता : ४ जना

YEAR 2079 WINNERS

“जति किन्यो ;  
त्यति नै जित्यो”

fonepay

यो योजनामा Fonepay QR मार्फत मुक्तानी गर्नुहुने ग्राहकहरूबाट ५४ दिन सम्म दैनिक एकजना, साप्ताहिक १६ तथा सराप्रैज ४ जना ग्राहक महानुभावहरूले आफुले शपिङ्ग गरेको रकम बराबरको निःशुल्क शपिङ्ग गर्न पाउनु हुनेछ । साथै ५ जना भाग्यशाली ग्राहकहरूले १ लाखको निःशुल्क शपिङ्ग गर्ने बम्पर पुरस्कार प्राप्त गर्नुहुनेछ ।

CASH BACK 10% UPTO RS. 300

NIC ASIA

UPTO 17% OFF LG

UPTO 30% OFF SAMSUNG

UPTO 25% OFF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Offer Valid Till 22<sup>nd</sup> Ashoj

Shineदार घर वर्षौं वर्ष...

10 YEARS WARRANTY

asianpaints

ULTIMA PROTEK SHYNE

High Sheen Finish with PU Technology

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

ULTIMA PROTEK SHYNE

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

ULTRA LUXURY SHEEN

UV HYBRID TECHNOLOGY

Conditions Apply





# NUDE

SUPERIOR VODKA



SUPERIOR SPIRIT OF CHARACTER

