

Knowing our mountains

There are many mistaken notions about Nepal and the Himalaya. Nepal is not just mountains — the southern plains make up a quarter of the area and is home to more than half the country’s population. The general perception is that the highest peaks mark Nepal’s northern border with China in one long chain. Actually, only Makalu, Lhotse, Everest, Cho Oyu, Gauri Shankar up to Phurbi Ghychu are on the Nepal-China border. The Himalaya is not one long row of peaks, but is made up of massifs called Himals: for example, Rolwaling Himal, Ganesh Himal, Annapurna Himal or Dhaulagiri Himal. These Himals are separated by rivers that are older than the mountains, and cut through them as they rose after the collision between the Indian and Eurasian plates starting 50 million years ago.



Evidence of this is the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) and the Indus which wander along the Tibetan Plateau until they cut through the mountains. Most of Nepal’s major rivers, including the Karnali, Kali Gandaki, the Marsyangdi, Budi Gandaki, the two Bhote Kosis, Tama Kosi and the Arun originate in glaciers north of the main Himalayan chain.

The Kali Gandaki is the deepest scar on the land surface of the earth, flowing at barely 1,400m with two 8,000m massifs of Annapurna and Dhaulagiri towering only 8km apart on either side.

Along its river bed are ammonites, perfectly preserved fossils of shellfish that lived on the floor of the Tethys Ocean 250 million years ago. Fossilised sea lilies have been found on the yellow limestone on top of Mt Everest — thrust from the bottom of the ocean to nearly nine kilometres into the edge of the stratosphere.

What makes our mountains so scenic is also why they are seismic. The mountains are still rising at about 1cm a year as India continues to plough under the softer Asian plate — not steadily but in gigantic lurches every few decades. The rock strata move at 20mm every year, and bend with the strain until they snap, causing regular earthquakes. Himalayan seismologists estimate the tectonic tension building up beneath us, and have calculated that there are 8-9M earthquakes every 500 years or so, with smaller temblors every 100 years along segments of the Himalaya.

The 1934 and 2015 earthquakes have eased the strain in central Nepal somewhat, but in western Nepal there is a ‘seismic gap’ because there has been no megaquake for at least 500 years. A 8.5M earthquake there could lead to surface displacement of 8m or more, causing widespread destruction in Nepal and all over the densely populated north Indian plains. Aside from the danger of building collapses, an earthquake of this magnitude can cause landslides to block rivers and unleash catastrophic floods of the kind that probably caused the Pokhara Valley to fill up some 600 years ago.

The world’s youngest mountain range is already very fragile, but haphazard infrastructure and settlements without risk assessment makes it even more dangerous. And the climate emergency with its weather extremes adds to the hazards of Himalayan seismicity, including the threat of simultaneous glacial lake outburst floods.

We need to know our mountains, our own survival depends on it. Nepal’s planners and government ought to factor in earthquake and climate risks in future development. The mountains will seek their revenge if we mistreat them.

Wilful ignorance, greed and incompetent implementation are sure to invite disaster.

The Himalaya is not just a mountain range. It is the entire watershed from the Tibetan Plateau, through the Himals, Mahabharat and Chure foothills to the Tarai. This is the water tower of Asia, it stores ice and groundwater not just for Nepal but for hundreds of millions of people downstream.

It is Nepal’s duty to protect the Himalaya not just from and for ourselves, but for humans and other life forms we share this planet with.

The Himalaya is not just mountains, it is the entire watershed from the plateau to the plains.

GUDMUNDUR PALL OLAFSSON

20 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Collateral Damage

In the 10 years of the Maoist insurgency, most of the 17,000+ casualties were innocent Nepalis who were caught in the crossfire between the state and the rebel group. One such tragic incident took place in December 2002 when men suspected to be Maoists were killed by the security forces in Bajura only for them to be members of an anti-Maoist resistance force.

Excerpts of the report published in Nepali Times 20 years ago this week on issue #122 6-12 December 2002:

On the way up to Dhamkane from the district headquarter at Martadi, we met a cheerful 12-year-old boy on the trail. He approached us and asked "Would you like to buy apples?" How much, we asked. He said ten apples would cost Rs 25. "I want to buy a pair of shoes from the money I earn selling apples," he said.

What the boy didn't know was that bad news awaited him in the village. His father, Ramlal Damai, had been shot by the security forces a day earlier, and had just died of his wounds. Six other villagers were also killed: Surya Raut, Tula Raut, Nara Bahadur Bohara, Chandu Bohara, Rup Damai and Kashi Sarki.



A unit of the army and police had left Martadi on the evening of 28 October on patrol. When they reached Angapani just after dawn the next morning, they saw a light inside Hari Krishna Raut's house and muffled voices from inside. They immediately cordoned off the house, and asked those inside to open up.

The seven people inside had just finished harvesting millet the previous day, and had been playing cards all night. Villagers think they may have suspected the people outside to be local Maoists, who have banned drinking and gambling. So they turned the lights off and kept quiet. This made the security personnel even more suspicious.

When the villagers did not respond even after the second order to open the door, the troops broke it down, stormed in commando style and shot everyone. Ironically, three of the dead (Tulka Raut, Nara Bahadur Bohara and Chandu Bohara) were members of the 'Kaal Sena', an anti-Maoist resistance group that the villagers had formed after they couldn't bear harassment by the Maoist militia anymore.

From archive material of Nepali Times of the past 20 years, site search: www.nepalitimes.com

ONLINE PACKAGES



LOCAL CLIMATE KNOWHOW

Watch Himalayan geographer Alton C Byers talk about his latest research findings from Kangchenjunga including how the locals are adapting to climate change. Vegetation ecologist Elizabeth C Byers explains the importance of Himalaya from the biodiversity point of view. Watch Nepali Times Studio on YouTube Channel. Read profile on [page 10](#).



WHY THE HIMALAYA MATTERS

The Himalaya sustains nearly 2 billion people downstream with food and water. National and international experts weigh in on why the Himalaya is so important and its accelerated melt a matter of global concern. Mountain special package on [pages 2, 6-7](#) and [10-11](#).



RINGING THE BELL

In this Nepali Times Studio conversation with Sonia Awale, atmospheric scientist and Rastriya Swatantra Party adviser Arnico Panday talks about finding political solutions to environmental problems. Turn [pages 4-5](#) for the interview.

MIGRANT DEATHS

I wish Nepali journalists would highlight some families who have lost a loved one ('My uncle died in Qatar', Ramu Kharel, [nepalitimes.com](#)). Or show the permanent injuries some workers live with due to working in Qatar. These stories are out there. The world needs to read personal stories, not just statistics. These victims are in the Kathmandu suburbs right now.

Trekker

■ I have also boycotted the World Cup in memory of Nepalis who died in Qatar.

Anne Thiery

■ I am a regular visitor and know the price many Nepalis have paid in order to offer their families a better future.

Alan Roadnight

TEACHERS

Education in Nepal has turned into a business ('Teaching Nepali teachers to teach better', Tom Robertson, [nepalitimes.com](#)), solely created to make tons of easy money, like the medical field. Therefore, most students feel the need to earn foreign degrees in the US, UK and Australia to feel fulfilled and get better, high-paying jobs.

Salman Gurung

■ The "one size fits all" mentality is partly to blame. Different areas, populations, interests and neuro-profiles require different ways of learning. It would be easy to lay the blame for this just at the feet of the centralising state. But this is also the result of a core tenet of the prevailing global education paradigm. It's worth teasing out that Nepal's schools are not only failing the students who need the most support to succeed, but also the students with the most potential to succeed.

Sakar Pudasaini

■ There's a long road ahead and many changes need to be made to improve the education system in Nepal. There's no quick fix. But steps need to be made and momentum created.

We all Rotate

TUNDIKHEL

Tundikhel should stay, it is one of the last open spaces that Kathmandu has ('Giving Tundikhel back to the people', Sahina Shrestha, #1138).

Sangeeta Giri

■ It would also be great if the large areas of land occupied by the Nepal Army in downtown Kathmandu/Lalitpur/Bhaktapur or nearby were turned into green public parks for the valley denizens.

Masked & Fully Vaxed

■ A great read for understanding the history of Kathmandu's once-largest public space and its encroachment. Thank you for this in-depth look at why stakeholders and experts are opposed to any construction at Tundikhel.

Occupy Tundikhel

2022 ELECTION

Back to square one ('The past is foretold in Nepal poll results', Shristi Karki, #1138). It is a disgrace that after our struggles, these old and new shameless people are not able to be inclusive.

Shreezna Singh

WHAT'S TRENDING



Speaking the language of overseas work

Diaspora Diaries

Raju Subedi, a Nepali returnee from Korea, found a new future back home because of the Korean he learnt while working there. Follow his journey online.

f Most reached and shared on Facebook



My uncle died in Qatar

by Ramu Kharel

US-based Nepali physician Ramu Kharel writes about his uncle Pitamber Bhattarai, who died working in Qatar, and about why he is not watching the FIFA World Cup in Qatar this year. Read the story at [nepalitimes.com](#)

“ ” Most commented



Giving Tundikhel back to the people

by Sahina Shrestha

The vast open space of Tundikhel that was once on the fringe of the old town became the heart of the new city. Today, not even 15% of Tundikhel's original expanse is open to the public, and the city now wants to build a parking lot in Kathmandu's last remaining open space. Join the discussion online.

t Most popular on Twitter

At the edge of tomorrow

by Mark Turin

Ningwasum, the bold and beautiful sci-fi feature by Indigenous Yakthung (Limbu) artist Subash Thebe Limbua, is a powerful assertion of Indigenous possibilities. Read the full review of the film on our website.

🔴 Most visited online page

QUOTE TWEETS



Nepali Times @NepaliTimes

Nepal's culture of teacher education is broken. Years of pre-service and professional development efforts have made little dent on how Nepali teachers teach.



Lincs2Nepal @Lincs2Nepal

By using modern western methods of teaching at our sponsored school, these shortcomings have been all but eliminated. Wouldn't be possible without the personal sacrifice of the #teacher trainers that volunteer their services, well done all.



Nepali Times @NepaliTimes

The appropriately named 'crusher' industry is crushing #Nepal's natural environment with irreversible damage, scarring #mountains and killing #rivers. Then again, what else could be the future of a nation built on sand? Read full story:



Uendra Sapkota @usapkota

This has to stop. No hope from old MPs. Will new MPs act on this?



Nepali Times @NepaliTimes

Know your female MPs. There might be just nine of them directly elected but they vow to raise their voices in Parliament, and not just about gender issues.



Neeti Aryal Khanal, PhD @mail2neeti

Gender issues are intersectional, are interconnected. This can't be "just about genders" as gender is embedded in politics, culture, economy, society.



Nepali Times @NepaliTimes

Today, not even 15% of #Tundikhel's original expanse is open to the public. But now the city wants to build a parking lot in #Kathmandu's last remaining open space. #longread Giving Tundikhel back to the people by @sahinashrestha.



Forester @kuenvmgt504

No to Tundikhel basement parking.



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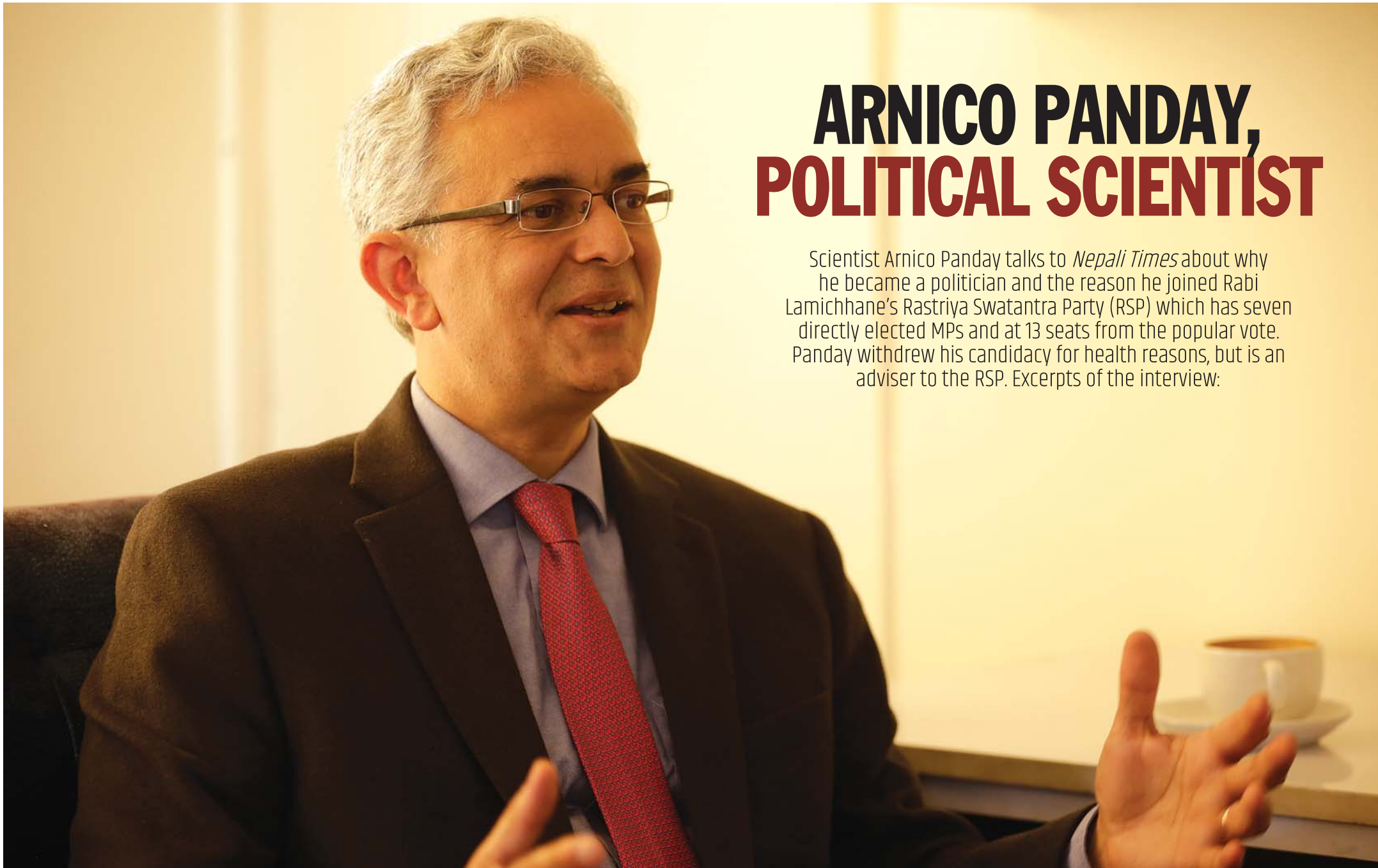
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STAR ALLIANCE



25
YEARS



SUMAN NEPALI

ARNICO PANDAY, POLITICAL SCIENTIST

Scientist Arnico Panday talks to *Nepali Times* about why he became a politician and the reason he joined Rabi Lamichhane's Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) which has seven directly elected MPs and at 13 seats from the popular vote. Panday withdrew his candidacy for health reasons, but is an adviser to the RSP. Excerpts of the interview:

Nepali Times: You are an atmospheric scientist, what motivated you to stand for elections?

Arnico Panday: I didn't necessarily think about coming into politics because I was an atmospheric scientist. But because of the direction the country was going regarding issues, including climate change, environment, heritage conservation, urbanisation, I felt a need for myself and others like me to have a louder voice in national affairs. Issues like air pollution and climate change need attention and solutions that go beyond finding new knowledge. For the past decade, I have been working in various policy advisory roles and found that they were not sufficient

to get the change happening. The people who had the mandate and the power to make the decisions were not doing so, or were listening to outside advice. Also, I did have an inspiration in my friend Marcela Omena whom I knew as a PhD student. She went on to become a minister of environment in Chile and got a lot done.

But you stepped down as a candidate after contracting Covid and your replacement candidate Toshima Karki had an upset win from Lalitpur-3. Did that surprise you?

The whole time I was thinking I would contest from Lalitpur-3, the thought was that the chance was very slim. And a month before the

election, we thought it was a long shot for Toshima too. But about a week before the election when I went door to door with her, I realised how popular she was, and how much support there was for her.

I suppose the trouble she had with the Election Commission gave her a lot of free publicity, and that must have helped. But we saw that in many places people were just tired of the lack of delivery by old political parties and they saw candidates from our party, many of whom are a generation younger, represent hope for the change they wanted.

What will your role now be in the RSP?

I'm on the central committee of RSP

and I work very closely with party chair Rabi Lamichhane. We now need to expand the party structure and switch from a start-up mode to a functioning organisation. What my exact role will depend on what the party's role will be next, whether we will be in the opposition or part of the coalition government.

I will continue to strongly represent the issues of climate change, environment and urban planning, and a lot of other key issues too that resonated with our voters, like bringing people back to Nepal. Nepal depends quite a bit on remittance, but that comes at a very high cost. We need to have jobs at home and more industries that create products we can export. We also have a very strong anti-

corruption message.

Has the RSP been invited by the Nepali Congress to join the coalition government?

We've had all kinds of informal reaching out. Our position has been that we are not opposed to joining the coalition government, but it will depend on who will be on the overall Cabinet and what kind of joint agenda there will be. Will joining the coalition help us deliver some of the promises we made to the voters? Will it allow us to build our profile as a no-nonsense party that gets things done at a low cost? Or does it just turn us into another one of the same? We are not here for just the next two years, we would like to get a majority in the next



NMB BANK
एनएमबी बैंक

Best design airline

Turkish Airlines has been recognised with Design Airline of the Year, Europe 2022 at TheDesignAir awards for its Istanbul Airport customer touch points and in-flight experience



designs. Says Chief Marketing Officer Ahmet Olmüstür: "From the entrance to the check-in counters and lounges at Istanbul Airport, and to the new cabin and seat designs on board, we meticulously inject our Turkish Airlines brand identity at every touch point."

JICA for migrants

JICA and the Nepal government have signed a five-year 'Career Development and Entrepreneurship Support Program for International Migrants' to support skilled returnee migrants from Japan who want to start a business or career in Nepal.

EU quake relief

The European Union is providing aid worth Rs27 million to assist families affected by the 6.6 M earthquake in Doti district last month. The funding also supports the Nepal Red Cross Society to deliver shelter material, blankets and mattresses. The humanitarian aid will directly benefit 11,000 affected people.

MCC contract

US aided Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has entered the implementation phase by inviting an open bid for the construction of a high capacity 400kV transmission line that will transmit 3,000MW of electricity. Three contracts for the construction of Lapsipedi-Ratmate-Butwal transmission line, the Lapsipedi-Ratmate-New Hetauda line, the Ratmate-New Damauli line and the New Damauli-New Butwal and New Butwal to the Indian border.



Nabil with EXIM

Nabil Bank has been recognised as a member bank under the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) trade facilitation initiative 'Trade Assistance Program (TAP)'. Nabil is the first and only bank in Nepal to get such a facility under



which the Exim Bank will issue a payment guarantee to accept LCs in India in support of payment obligations. This will help ease the recent increase in foreign credit risk and limited access, and enhance the capacity of financial institutions to facilitate cross-border business transactions.

Civil goes digital

Civil Bank has launched a digital payment campaign in Dhangadi and Mahendranagar so customers can now pay through QR codes for goods and services. Similarly, the Bank also inaugurated the 'Go cashless' campaign in Nepalganj which includes providing banking literacy about cashless digital transactions.



City Express gifts

City Express Money Transfer handed over gifts from its Dasain-Tihar festival scheme to winners during a programme held at Hotel Loft on Monday. The event was attended by Khaled Al-Brahim, head of Saudi Arabia-based TeleMoney Bank, a partner of City Express.



Marriott Christmas

Kathmandu Marriott has put up a 'sustainable Christmas tree' 4m tall made up of more than 6,000 discarded plastic water bottles. In the holiday spirit, the hotel has also built a walk-in gingerbread house displaying various goods, hampers and festive deals.

election five years from now. We got a lot of votes because people had high hopes that we would do something. Next time we will get votes because we will have shown that we get things done.

What would be some of the reasons your newly-formed party managed to win so many seats in the federal Parliament?

A lot of voters are tired of old political parties, their lack of delivery, lack of care for common people's problems and corruption. I think Nepali voters have a pattern of giving new guys a chance. We are a fresh group of people, we don't know how to do politics, many of

us do not know how to do speeches, we are coming with good intentions.

Our party chair Rabi Lamichhane being a very well-known face also made a big difference. In parts of Nepal, he is a folk hero who has done a lot from building a hospital in Kalikot, working with the Nepali diaspora, to organising oxygen cylinders during the Covid-19 pandemic.

It doesn't seem like the RSP supports federalism much. But isn't devolution a good thing?

We have nothing against devolution of power, budget or decision-making. Our only concern has been with the provincial government

structure which is extremely costly yet not delivering anything. We are not against having provinces, but it is set up all wrong, and we want to improve it. We have put forth some proposals for a much leaner provincial government system.

Does your shift to politics signify that politics is the best way to find a resolution for a lot of our environmental problems like air pollution, waste management and climate change?

As a scientist working in policy advisory coming into politics, I think you need a combination of a lot of things to work. You need knowledge created by science,

but that alone will not bring about change. People have known about the basic science behind climate change since the 1960s but actions didn't take place. It is elected leaders and people in positions of power who make the decisions. So we need knowledgeable, responsible politicians who will act in the best long-term interests of the people.

In my own personal journey, this seemed like the right time to engage in politics even though it is not something that comes naturally to me. I wouldn't say this is the best way universally to address the issues, but without sufficient attention in politics, things are not going to move forward.



RINGING THE BELL

In this Nepali Times Studio conversation with Sonia Awale, atmospheric scientist and Rastriya Swatantra Party adviser Arnico Panday talks about finding political solutions to environmental problems like climate change and air pollution.

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KIMFF at 20

After two years of virtual events, the Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival returns to town for physical screenings

● Ashish Dhakal

From 8-12 December the capital is hosting the 20th iteration of the much-awaited Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival (KIMFF), bringing a carefully curated mix of films from around the world focusing on mountain communities and cultures to Nepali audiences. The festival is timed to mark the International Day of Mountains on 11 December, and is back to full physical screenings after two years of an online-hybrid event because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Screenings will happen at Rastriya Sabhagriha and Nepal Tourism Board in Kathmandu. The theme for this year is ‘Sustainable Summits’, and features over 60 documentaries, fiction, shorts and animations from 30 countries including Burkina Faso, France, Iran, Nepal, South

Korea, UAE and Wales. The latest episode of *Herne Katha's Bagh ko Bangara* kicked off KIMFF 2022 on Thursday. This 55 minute-long film from Nepal by directors Bidhya Chapagain and Kamal Kumar depicts the adventures of honey hunters from Jajarkot in Karnali Province. The festival will close with a special screening of *Fly from Everest* (60mins) by director Joe Carter about an Australian paraglider's attempt to fly off Everest to help raise funds to eradicate polio. Indian filmmaker Prakash Jha of acclaimed features like *Gangaajal* and *Raajneeti* joins KIMFF 2022 as its keynote speaker, and his film *Matto ki Saikil* will get a special screening on Thursday. Jha will be present for the Q&A after the showing with the film's director M. Gani. The festival will bring filmmakers, film enthusiasts, critics, scholars, journalists, artists and mountaineers for several special screenings, dialogues and discussions on the future of Nepali film, with filmmaker Abhinash Bikram Shah, director Pradeep

Bhattarai, actor Surakshya Panta, theatre artist Akanchha Karki and co-founder of the animation company Incessant Rain Kiran Bhakta Joshi. In between the films, attendees will also be able to join the panels on children in film, ‘Young Person in Film’, and a workshop on adventure filmmaking. The international jury for the festival includes Michael Pause from Germany, Kiran Bhakta Joshi from Nepal, and Jinna Lee from Korea and they will be judging the 18 shortlisted films for the international competition, and 19 for the top documentary film and fiction film in the Nepal Panorama selection. KIMFF 2022 is organised by Himal Association, co-hosted by the Kathmandu Metropolitan City, and promoted by NTB. It is supported by UNESCO, the EU Embassy in Nepal, the Swiss Embassy, WWF, FDB, NMA, British Council, Mila Production, Toni Hagen Foundation Switzerland, ICIMOD, Contemporary Art of Nepal Foundation, Pasang Lhamu Foundation, and the Australian Embassy. Some highlights:



Bagh ko Bangara (The Tiger's Jaw)

55 min | Nepal | 2022
Original language: Nepali
Directors: Bidhya Chapagain and Kamal Kumar

High on the rugged mountains of Jajarkot in western Nepal, a documentary about four wild honey pilots who risk their lives to harvest honey from the topography of Jajarkot, and across the mental human spirit, *Bagh ko Bangara* is a story about people in these mountains have undertaken to stay away from death. Now, for the first time, outside

Fly From Everest

67 min | Australia/ Nepal | 2022
Original Language: English
Director: Joe Carter

Retired Australian police officer and mountaineer Ken Hutt, 63, set off to do something that has never been done before: to climb Everest and then fly a solo paraglider off the summit, all to raise funds and awareness for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign. An epic story of adventure, sacrifice, and daring – with an incredible ending no one saw coming.



Snow leopard redux

Photographer Tashi R Ghale's exhibition of the elusive cat in its melting Himalayan habitat

● Tayama Rai

Brown eyes meet green eyes in the icy crags of Upper-Manang. Tashi R Ghale is camouflaged like a commando, and keeps perfectly still, just 4m from the mother snow leopard and her two cubs as they feast on a Himalayan tahr. Ghale knows that even though snow leopards are shy creatures and do not attack humans, a provoked mother can defend her cubs. Imperceptibly, he raises his camera and takes a burst of shots, the clicks muffled by the wind and din of Griffon vultures wheeling overhead. Growing up in Manang, Ghale found it difficult to discern the *panje* (as snow leopards are known in his mother tongue) because their spotted pelt blended so well with the cliffs they climbed. It is still difficult to catch a glimpse of the endangered Himalayan big cats, but Ghale has since trained himself to track them. He has had close encounters at least 30 times since first photographing them in 2006 and this has earned him the moniker, Snow Leopard Whisperer.





rkot in Karnali Province, locals harvest wild honey
ouTube series *Herne Katha, Bagh ko Bangara* is a
ts whose lives are bound together with the cliffs of Khal
ealth is found inside a tiger's jaw. Along the extreme
ental and emotional geographies of the tenacious
y about the perilous journey into the tiger's jaw. The
aken this journey for generations, always one step
y, outsiders can witness it.



Wantadar,
My Countryman
90 min | Australia | 2022
Original
Language: English
Director: Jolyon Hoff

When former Afghan
refugee and
photographer Muzafar Ali
discovers that Afghans have
been an integral part of
Australia for over 160 years,
he begins to photograph
their descendants in a search
to define his own new
Afghan-Australian identity.
Then the Taliban take over
Afghanistan and his old
country comes calling.

Matto ki Saikil (Matto's Bicycle)

97 min | India | 2022

Original Language: Hindi
Director: M. Gani

Matto Pal is a *beldar* from a village
near Mathura in India, a daily wage-
earning construction labourer whose life is
synonymous with his 20 year-old bicycle.
His family, including his ailing wife, a
teenage daughter and another, a primary
school dropout, depend on it. Matto
struggles to keep his bicycle in working
condition to be able to reach his workplace
on time. Arriving late losing wages is not an
option. *Matto ki Saikil* is the story of how
Matto and his family negotiate the simple
pleasures of life. Will their lives change
when, finally, Matto realises his dream of
buying a new bicycle?



TASHI R GHALE



Tashi Ghale with one of his camera traps in Manang.

"I know the terrain in Manang like the
back of my hand," says Ghale, showing us
around his exhibition, 'Melting Paradise'
that uses his photographs of snow leopards
over the years to highlight how climate
change is impacting the Himalayan habitat.

In Manang, like elsewhere in the
Himalaya, the glaciers that drain the north
slopes of the Annapurnas are shrinking and
the snowline is receding. The Gangapurna
glacial lake was expanding until it got
swallowed up in sediment after a flood
last year -- also depicted in Ghale's
photographs.

Snow leopard photography got some
bad press recently with photoshopped
images by an American trekker ostensibly
taken in the Everest region. But genuine
Nepali field biologists like Tashi R Ghale
know how difficult it is to get
a good shot, and the reward in
terms of personal fulfilment.

The careful patience of a
wildlife photographer shows
through Ghale's work. In Lone
Tree II he combines six shots to

create an expansive panorama that immerses
the viewers in the wilderness habitat of the
snow leopard.

Ujen Norbu Gurung, the curator of
Windhorse Gallery that is exhibiting
'Melting Paradise' says he immediately
recognised the importance of Ghale's work:
"To talk is one thing, but to show is another.
Tashi's exhibit does just that."

The exhibition includes photographs of
snow leopard prey from Dolpo and Humla
as well as the predator in the wilds of
Manang and Mustang.

The Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*)
is in the IUCN's global Endangered C1 red
list with only 300 to 500 left in the wild in
Nepal. Globally, there may be up to 7,000
left, but these populations are threatened by
poaching and habitat decline due to climate
change.

"Being the top predator, the
snow leopard is an indicator
species of the health of the
Himalayan ecosystem," says
Ghale, and that is the biologist
in him speaking.



With global warming, he says,
the tree line is creeping up the
mountains, and this means the snow
leopard habitat is slowly being
encroached upon by competing
common leopards of the lower
valleys. Human disturbance with
new roads and settlements are also
driving away the snow leopard.

"A snow leopard is needed for
every 150 blue sheep to cull their
wild population and reduce pressure
on the grasslands," explains Ghale. A
decline in snow leopard population
will also affect Himalayan vultures
which clean up the carcass that the
cats leave behind.

Tashi Ghale and his team
employed his award-winning
camera-trapping techniques to
conduct a census of predators and
prey, as well as employ a team of
observers to calculate the population
in blocks. Ghale reckons there are
approximately 2,200 blue sheep in
Manang alone. Snow leopards are
studied most intensively in Nepal

and there are signs cat numbers are increasing
in some pockets despite the threats.

Besides snow leopards, Ghale's camera
traps have led him to discover new and lost
Himalayan species like the Pallas Cat and
the Himalayan Grey Wolf of which there are
said to be only 50 remaining in Nepal. In fact,
the Pallas Cat has been renamed Tashi Cat to
honour his discovery.

Ghale founded the Third Pole
Conservancy and has contributed to the
Destination Manang eco-tourism campaign.

Tashi Ghale's father had taught him to fear
the *panje*, which would often kill livestock
and leave paw prints near the family home.
Today, rather than fear the animal, Ghale is in
awe of them.

He teaches secondary students in Manang
to set up camera traps and recognise snow
leopard droppings. He says: "Just like we
have distinctive fingerprints, snow leopards
have individual spots. Recognising individual
snow leopards is the first step in co-existing
with them." 🇳🇵

Melting Paradise
Windhorse Gallery, Jhamsikhel
Till 25 December

EVENTS



Daphā Calling
Explore Daphā music through its dance and drama practice of KahPyakha with panel discussions, performances and an exhibition open till 17 December.
9-10 December, 10am-5pm, Patan Museum, Patan Darbar Square

KIMFF 2022
The Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival is back for its 20th year, with more than 60 films from 30 countries (*see page 6-7*). Check online for the full schedule.
9-12 December, 12.30pm-5pm, Rastriya Sabagriha and Nepal Tourism Board, Pradarshani Marga

Christmas market
Get handicrafts, shopping items for Christmas lists while enjoying Christmas delicacies and some vin chaud at the Alliance Française Christmas market this weekend.
10 December, 10am-4pm, Alliance Française Kathmandu, Jhamsikhel



Night Market
Enjoy a lively evening featuring handmade products, jewelry, winter clothes, books, candles, home decor, baked goods and more.
9 December, 5pm-9pm, The Yellow House, Sanepa

Yomari making
Learn to make the delicious yomari from residents of Bungmati and test culinary skills. Reserve seats now.
10 December, 11am-3pm, Rs2000, Bungamati, Lalitpur, 9813530997

DINING



DanRan Restaurant
Craving some delicious ramen this winter? DanRan is the spot. Don't miss out on the soft tofu, pork cutlets and don varieties.
Jhamsikhel Road (01) 5521027

MUSIC



Jung Trio
Celebrate the 4th anniversary of the Watering Hole with live music from the Jung Trio.
9 December, 6pm-8:45pm, Watering Hole, Tangal Marg (01) 4523724

Hip Hop night
Love Hip Hop? Here's just the right thing: live hip hop performances by artists, along with good food and beverages.
9 December, 6pm onwards, Sunshine Boutique Hotel, Lazimpat, 9814029333

Anuv Jain
Listen to Anuv Jain perform for the first time in Nepal.
17 December, 3pm onwards, The Soaltee Kathmandu, Tahachal

Toast-ea
Book tickets for a fun Friday with band When Chai Met Toast and an opening act by Pahlenlo Batti Muni.
10 December, 7pm onwards, Privé Nepal, Tahachal



The Elements
The Elements will be performing live with an opening act by the Pasa Rockers. Book seats now.
16 December, 6pm onwards, Ai-La Lounge, Kumaripati

Chez Caroline
Tucked away from the humdrum of streets, this is the place for authentic French and continental cuisine. Try the Profiteroles au Chocolat and Choux pastry filled with vanilla ice cream and hot chocolate sauce.
Baber Mahal Revisited (01) 4263070



Tukche Thakali Kitchen
Having a hard time deciding what to make for lunch? Head to Tukche and get a taste of Thakali food made with authentic Nepali flavours and care.
Darbar North Gate (01) 4412462

GETAWAY



Temple Tree Resort
Temple Tree promises best services and the perfect atmosphere at Lakeside to wind down, with comfortable accommodations and delicious food.
Lakeside, Pokhara (061) 465819

Namo Buddha Resort
This traditional Newa-style resort is perched on a hilltop with an amazing view of the Himalayas every morning. The peaceful, tranquil environment is also perfect for short hikes.
Namo Buddha, Phulbari, 9851106802



Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge
Get up close and personal with wildlife, engage in and learn from the local Tharu culture at the Tiger Tops, located four kilometers away from Chitwan National Park.
Kawasoti, Nawalparasi (07) 8690721

Dwarika Resort
Dwarika Resort is the perfect getaway, from the appetising multi-cuisine food to the re-energizing spa experience. Try Crystal salt therapy during the visit.
Dhulikhel (11) 490612



Mad Over Pizza
Mad Over Pizza lives up to its name. Each bite explodes with delicious flavour.
Milan Chowk, Baneshwor (01) 4498970

Buingal
Buingal is perfect for the family. Try their vast menu of multi cuisine and enjoy a relaxing ambience this winter. The vegetable sekuwas is a must-try.
Maitidevi (01) 4521393

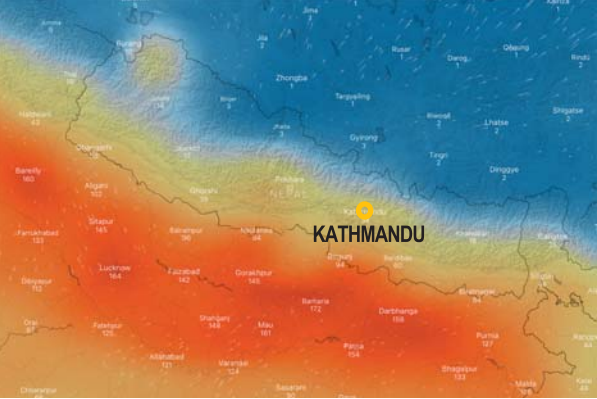
WEEKEND WEATHER



Misty Mornings, Weak Sun
A large low pressure northeast monsoon circulation has entered Tamil Nadu from the southern Bay (*pictured*), and its periphery changed wind direction over northern India and Nepal. This has brought colder, drier air into Kathmandu Valley, sending the minimum temperature down even further. There will be no substantial change in this scenario over the weekend. Misty and smoggy mornings in Kathmandu, and thick ground fog will blanket Panchkhal, Trisuli and Seti Valleys (but not Pokhara) and not lift till noon.

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 21° 6°	 21° 5°	 21° 5°

AIR QUALITY INDEX



The Air Quality Index in Kathmandu Valley has been relatively better the past week because of wind from the northwest. But this is expected to change over the weekend, with wind direction shifting to southwest. This and up-valley afternoon wind will suck in smog that has concentrated over western Bihar in the past week (*pictured*) affecting central Nepal, and reducing visibility. AQI will be in the Hazardous range in Kathmandu, especially mornings and at night.


OUR PICK

Wednesday's child may be full of woe but that is certainly not true about Tim Burton's latest: the supernatural coming-of-age horror comedy *Wednesday* about the beloved Addams family. Based upon the character created by Charles Addams and a spiritual companion to the cult classics *The Addams Family* franchise, this series centres on the adventures of Wednesday Addams, recently expelled from a "normie" high school for setting piranhas on a group of bullies, who is enrolled at the Nevermore Academy, a school for "outcasts" once attended by her parents Morticia and Gomez. There, Wednesday – cold, emotionless and defiant, with unpredictable psychic abilities – comes face-to-face with a monstrous mystery that is terrorising the town. An addictive romp with gothic tones (the familiar Burton touches), *Wednesday*'s dark, diabolique and delightful – perfect for the season. Stars Jenna Ortega, Gwendoline Christie, Riki Lindhome, Hunter Doohan, Percy Hynes White, Emma Myers, Naomi J. Ogawa and Christina Ricci.



सम्पत्ति विवरण समयमै बुझाऔं,
जरिवानाबाट बचौं

- सार्वजनिक पद धारण गरेको व्यक्ति तथा राष्ट्रसेवकले आफ्नो व्यक्तिगत विवरण अद्यावधिक गरौं ।
- आर्थिक वर्ष शुरू भएको साठी दिनभित्र आफ्नो सम्पत्ति विवरण तोकिएको निकायमा पेश गरौं ।
- भ्रष्टाचारमा शून्य सहनशीलता अपनाऔं ।



नेपाल सरकार
विज्ञापन बोर्ड



#SERIOUSABOUTBEER

WE PUT SERIOUS HOURS IN
YOUR HAPPY HOUR.



Drink responsibly



Kathmandu University, 28th CONVOCATION CEREMONY – Phase I

15-December-2022, Thursday

KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY: BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Kathmandu University (KU) is a public institution established in 1991 through an Act of Parliament as an institution of higher learning dedicated to maintaining a standard of academic excellence. Guided by its motto of taking knowledge and skills "from campus to society," KU has dedicated all its efforts to creating human resources, a knowledge base, and sustainable solutions for the technical problems relevant to Nepal.

The university consists of seven Schools: School of Arts, School of Education, School of Engineering, School of Law, School of Management, School of Medical Sciences and School of Science.

At present, the University offers more than 200 academic programs and courses from Bachelors to Ph.D. levels. Most of the academic programs are credited for being pioneers as they are introduced for the first time in the country.



SCHOOLS, DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS

School of Arts	
Department of Arts and Design	Bachelor in Fine Arts
Department of Development Studies	Bachelor in Community Development; Economics Master in Development Studies; Human and Natural Studies; Urban Studies Land Management and Heritage Studies
Department of Languages and Mass Communication	Bachelor in Media Studies
Department of Music	Bachelor in Music MA (Music)
Respective Departments	Bachelors in Yogic Science and Wellbeing Ph.D
School of Education	
Department of Educational Leadership	PGDA Educational Management Master of Education in Childhood Development; Leadership and Management M. Phil in Educational Leadership
Department of Language Education	Bachelor of Education in Chinese Language Teaching
Department of Steam Education	Bachelor of Technical Education in Civil Engineering; Information Technology; Mechanical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering (Automobile) Graduate Diploma in Higher Education PGD in Mathematics Education Masters Program (One Year or Two Years); M.Phil; Ph.D.
Respective Departments	
School of Engineering	
Department of Chemical Science and Engineering	Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering
Department of Civil Engineering	Bachelor of Architecture; Civil Engineering
Department of Computer Science and Engineering	Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Engineering
Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronics Engineering
Department of Geomatics Engineering	Bachelor of Engineering in Geomatics Engineering
Department of Mechanical Engineering	Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering
Respective Departments	M.S by Research (Science/Engineering) Masters of Engineering (Mech/Power/Comm/M. Tech IT/ Structure/ Civil); Masters of Health Informatics Ph.D (Science/Engineering Program)
School of Law	
Respective Departments	Bachelor of Economics and Law (BEO-LL.B) Bachelor of Business Management and Bachelor of Law (BBM-LL.B) MS by Research (Law)
School of Management	
Department of Management Informatics	Bachelor of Business Information Systems (BBIS) Bachelor in Professional Hospitality (BPH); Business Administration (BBA) EMBA (Individual)
Respective Departments	Master of Business Administration (MBA): Public Policy Management (MPPM) M.Phil; Ph. D.
School of Medical Sciences	
Dental Department	BDS MDS Community Dentistry; Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics; Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; Oral Medicine & Radiology; Oral Pathology; Orthodontics; Pedodontics; Periodontics; Prosthodontics
Department of Anaesthesia	MD Anaesthesiology
Department of Biochemistry	MD Biochemistry
Department of Community Medicine	MD Community Medicine
Department of Medicine	DM Cardiology; Gastroenterology; Nephrology; Neurology
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology	MD Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Department of Pediatrics	MD Paediatrics
Department of Physiotherapy	BPT
Department of Radiodiagnosis and Imaging	B.Mid.
Department of Surgery	M. Ch. CTVS; Neurosurgery; Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery; Urology; Surgical Gastroenterology MS General Surgery B. Sc. in Nursing
Nursing Department	BNS M. Sc. in Child Health Nursing; Community Health Nursing; Medical Surgical Nursing; Midwifery
Respective Departments	M. Sc. Medical Anatomy; Medical Biochemistry; Medical Microbiology; Medical Pharmacology; Medical Physiology; Public Health (Epidemiology); Public Health (Global Health) MBBS MD Dermatology; Forensic Medicine; General Practice; Internal Medicine; Microbiology; Pathology; Pharmacology; Physiology; Psychiatry; Radiation Oncology; Radiodiagnosis MS Anatomy; Ophthalmology; Orthopaedics; Otorhinolaryngology
School of Science	
Department of Biotechnology	B.Tech in Bio-Technology and B.Sc. Agriculture M.Tech (Biotech); Ph.D. (Biotech)
Department of Biotechnology/Pharmacy	M.S by Research (BT/Pharmacy)
Department of Computer Science and Engineering	B.Sc. Computer Science
Department of Environmental Science and Engineering	B.Sc. Environmental Science B.Tech in Environment Engineering M.S by Research (Science/Engineering) M.Sc. Environment Science M.Phil (Environment Science/Physics/Math)
Department of Environmental Science/Physics/Math	
Department of Life Sciences	B.Sc. Agriculture
Department of Mathematics	B.Sc Computational Mathematics
Department of Pharmacy	Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm) Masters of Pharmacy Ph.D
Respective Departments	

International Collaborations of KU

Kathmandu University prioritizes International Collaborations as an integral part of its international outreach and recognition. As of November 2022, Kathmandu University has 243 academic and non-academic collaborations. The international collaborations includes faculty and student exchanges, exchange of scientific and technical materials, joint conferences, workshops, exchange of scientific, academic and technical knowledge, exchanges of material, publication and information, joint research, collaborative projects, etc, to name a few.

Region wise Collaborations

Continent	Number	%
Africa	3	1%
Asia	121	50%
Australia	5	2%
Europe	87	36%
North America	27	11%

Scope of International Collaborations

Area	Number	%
Academic	151	62%
Joint Projects	23	9%
Collaborative Research	36	15%
Non-Academic	2	1%
Others	31	13%

As of the first phase of the 28th Convocation, the University has produced 40,035 graduates with 45.76 % female students. According to reports, KU graduates account for more than 45 percent of Nepal's total medical practitioners.

In the 28th convocation ceremony (Phase I), 1,696 graduates are receiving degrees from Ph.D to undergraduate level in various programs. Among them 962 (56.72%) are female. Of the total, 186 (around 11%) are foreign students from 14 countries including Austria (1), Canada (1), China (1), Germany (3), India (159), Italy (1), Maldives (5), Portugal (1), Russia (1), Singapore (1), Spain (1), Sri Lanka (6), Taiwan (1) and USA (4). In this convocation, Kathmandu University is conferring degrees to the graduates of two new programs, namely, the Master of Engineering in Sanitation Technology and the Master of Science in Sanitation Technology, for the first time in its history.



Graduates in 28th Convocation - Phase I

Schools	Graduates		Total
	Female	Male	
Management	254	208	462
Science	15	22	37
Engineering	2	24	26
Arts	132	85	217
Education	99	103	202
Law	29	11	40
Medical Sciences	431	281	712
Total	962	734	1696

Graduates Till Date

Schools	Graduates		Total
	Female	Male	
Management	3669	3619	7288
Science	1661	1987	3648
Engineering	541	3791	4332
Arts	1934	1346	3280
Education	863	1066	1929
Law	104	52	156
Medical Sciences	9550	9852	19402
Total	18322	21713	40035



Top Countries collaborating with KU:

Country Name	No. of International Collaborations	Country Name	No. of International Collaborations
India	36	Germany	16
South Korea	25	Norway	13
Japan	23	Switzerland	11
USA	23	UK	9
China	19	Austria	7

AFFILIATED AND EXTENDED PROGRAMS:

Bachelor of Professional Hospitality (BPH)	MBBS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Aspire College, BiratnagarGlacier College, BanepaGlobal Academy of Tourism and Hospitality Education (GATE), Kathmandu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Birat Medical College, BiratnagarCollege of Medical Sciences, BharatpurDevdaha Medical College, LumbiniKathmandu Medical College, KathmanduLumbini Medical College, Palpa
BoSS	Manimal College of Medical Sciences, Pokhara
<ul style="list-style-type: none">National College, Kathmandu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nepal Medical College, KathmanduNepalgunj, Medical College, NepalgunjNobel Medical College, Biratnagar
B.Tech.Ed.	BDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Butwal Technical Institute (BTI), ButwalJanaki College for Professional Studies, DhanushaSindhuli Community Technical Institute (SCTI), SindhuliTraining Institute for Technical Instruction, Sanathimi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">College of Medical Sciences, BharatpurKantipur Dental College, KathmanduNepal Medical College, KathmanduNobel Medical College, Biratnagar
BSc (Nursing)	BBA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">College of Medical Sciences, BharatpurKathmandu Medical College, KathmanduManimal College of Medical Sciences, PokharaNobel Medical College, BiratnagarScheer Memorial Nursing College, Banepa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Little Angel's College of Management, LalitpurNepal College of Management, Kathmandu
BBIS	BITM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Little Angel's College of Management, Lalitpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Little Angel's College of Management, LalitpurNepal College of Management, Kathmandu
BDevs	BDEin
<ul style="list-style-type: none">National College, Kathmandu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">National College, Kathmandu

Major Research Projects at Kathmandu University:

Cutting-edge research paves the way for academic excellence. Research is an integral part of Kathmandu University's efforts to establish itself as a thought leader in the country and the region. Additionally, the research projects provide students with job opportunities. Over 62 graduates are currently employed as Research Assistants in the research projects at different schools.

MAJOR PROJECTS AT DIFFERENT SCHOOLS

Project Name	Scope of the Project	Total Fund
SCHOOL OF ARTS	Total Number of research Project:2	
ESP4OOSC-AC-SOA-IDRC	Effectiveness and Scalability of Programs for Children Who are Out of School and at the Risk of Dropping out	21,835,665
TGP-KUSOA-AC	Incorporating technology for sustainable Agriculture	2,054,572
PMKS-Nepal-AC-SOA	Public Policy	975,000
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION	Total Number of research Projects: 6	
SOED Project Training Account	Training and Research	7,651,389
LELAM AC-KUSOED-ETH Zurich	Linking Education and Labor Markets	7,140,978
NORHED Rupantaran Account	Capacity building of the local levels for the improvement in quality of teaching and learning in basic educational levels.	4,884,768
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING	Total Number of research Projects: 40	
Energize Nepal 2016-KUSOE AC	Energy Research	55,582,368
Hydro Himalaya-SOE-AC	Hydropower Research	22,512,707
HEP-Nepal-KUSOE-AC	Green Hydrogen Research	20,383,252
COS-WASH II-KUSOE-AC	Global Sanitation	11,528,915
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT	Total Number of research Projects: 2	
Management Training & Research Program	Training and Research	3,065,784
ERASUMS-FAB-AC-KUSOM	Family Business Management	2,035,353
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE	Total Number of research Projects: 26	
EVENT-II-JMT Project AC-WB-SOE	Equitable access to market relevant training programs and strengthening Technical and Vocational education in Nepal	10,144,000
Glacier I-UGC-AC-KUSOS	Hydropower research, climate change, glacier variation	7,260,000

SCHOLARSHIPS

One of Kathmandu University's main goals is to make high-quality higher education more widely accessible. Kathmandu University provides a wide variety of scholarships at various institutions. Over 500 students earn full or partial scholarships each year, making up more than 10% of the school's total student intake capacity.

The wide variety of scholarships offered by KU includes Merit based scholarships, Need based scholarships, Entrance Topper Scholarships, Fee Waiver, Semester Topper Scholarships, Project Funded Scholarships, Silver Jubilee Graduate Scholarships, Educational loans, Partner Institution Scholarships, Metropolitan Funded Scholarships, Local Government Funded Scholarships, Formula Funding Scholarships, etc, to name a few.

Schools	Name of Scholarship(s)
Arts	UGC Formula Funding, Semester Topper, Project based Scholarship, Partner Institution Scholarship, Lalitpur Metropolitan Scholarship, Loan Scholarship.
Education	UGC Formula Funding, UGC fellowship, Local Government LUPIC.
Engineering	Semester Topper, CBT Topper, Need Based Scholarship, LMTG government scholarship, Formula funding, Project funded scholarships.
Law	Semester Topper , Need Based Scholarship
Management	KU Scholarship, Shilva Shrestha Scholarship, Formula funding scholarship.
Medical Sciences	Open Category Scholarship and Reserved Category: Women, Dalit, Adivasi / Janajati, Khas Arya, Madhesi, Tharu, Muslim, Marginalized group, Handicapped (Apanga), Family member of Martyrs (Sahid), Family member of Disappeared (Bepatta), Family member of Injured (Ghaite) warrior, Dwanda Pidit. (Allocated by Medical Education Commission)
Science	Merit Based, Need Based, Loan Scholarship, CBT entrance topper, Bhupendra Bdr Thapa, Bidhya Acharya Smriti, UGC Formula Funding, Project funded, Faculty Development.

Major Funding Sources For Scholarships

- Judda Bahadur Scholarship Fund
 - Shilva Shrestha Scholarship Fund (SOM)
 - Hinu-Ramesh Nath Dhungel Scholarship Fund
 - Dr.Mahesh Nath Parajuli Scholarship Fund
 - K.U. TTL Eldar Onsoyen Fellowship
 - FTCTC endowment Fund
 - Shilva Shrestha Scholarship Fund
 - Dr. Bipin Adhikari Endowment Scholarship Fund
 - Late Bikash Adhikari Scholarship Fund
 - Bhoos Games Scholarship Fund
 - Dr. Prem Raj Panta Scholarship
 - Toya Nath Adhikari and Parvati Adhikari Scholarship Endowment Fund
 - Bishwo Nath Adhikari and Nanda Kumari Adhikari Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Bishnu Pd. Adhikary Scholarship Fund
 - Madhuri & Mohan Man Sainju Scholarship Fund
 - Bidhya Acharya Scholarship Fund
 - Dr. Nhuchhe Ratna Tuladhar Scholarship Fund
 - Bhupendra Bdr. Thapa memorial endowment Fund
 - Prof. Dr. Ramesh P. Singh Scholarship Endowment, etc.
 - KU Educational loan endowment Fund
 - Scholarship Endowment Fund
 - KU-Simule/Prof Magne Scholarship Fund
 - KU-NEA Energy Research/Scholarship Endowment Fund
 - Birat Rewanta - Rukmini Scholarship Endowment Fund
 - Formula Funding by UGC

BIOSKETCH OF THE CHIEF GUEST DR. MRIGENDRA RAJ PANDEY



Dr. Mrigendra Raj Pandey, a senior physician and cardiologist of Nepal, established Mrigendra Samjhana Medical Trust (MSMT) in 1975 with a vision to help underprivileged communities of Nepal with medicare, health and social services. To support its activities, Dr. Pandey donated a building situated in the heart of Kathmandu in Jamal. The income is used to buy medicines and pay for the services of doctors and helpers who go to the remote areas of the country to treat the sick and disadvantaged people in the communities. The Trust was established with the hope that his token contribution would serve as a foundation on which bricks would be added by others making it a nationwide medical charity dedicated to philanthropic services. Pradesh Academy of Sciences (FAPAS, 2016).

Born in 20 June 1932, now in his 91st year, he is a source of inspiration to all engaged in medical and social work. Dr. Pandey completed MBBS from Calcutta in 1954, followed by DTM&H from England in 1957, MRCP from Edinburgh in 1959, FRCP from Edinburgh in 1969, FACC from USA in 1975, FFPHM from UK in 1992 and FNAMS from Nepal in 2005.

He contributed academically and professionally in the national level as Emeritus Chairman of Nepal Health Research Council; as the President of Nepal Hypertension Society; as the Chairman of Forum for Indoor Air Pollution and Health, Nepal; as Patron and Founder President of Cardiac Society of Nepal; Founder President of Nepal Heart Foundation; President of National Front Against Tobacco Use; Patron of Nepal Diabetes Society; Chairman of Preventive Cardiology Committee, Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology, majorly among many other contributions.

At an international level, he has delivered series of lectures in reputed international medical education centers like Post-Graduate Medical School, London; Stanford University Medical Centre; School of Public Health, University of Berkeley, California; East-West Centre, Honolulu, Hawaii; The Mayo Clinic and UCLA, USA; and, Universities of Tromso, Oslo and Bergen, Norway. His academic and professional contributions in the international level include his roles as Regional Advisor at Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in Nepal; Coordinator of MRCP UK Part-I Examination in Nepal; Country Representative at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in Nepal; Chairman at Director of Medical Research Councils and other Analogues Bodies; Concerned Research Foci in the relevant ministries and WHO/SEARO, Kathmandu, November 1990, among others.

Dr. Pandey was decorated in the national level by Birendra Aiswarya Sewa Padak in 2002; Om Ram Patta in 2001; Bisistha Sewa Padak in 1999; Jyotirmaya Subikhyat Trishaktipatta (Class I) in 1998; Suprasiddha Prabal Gorkha Dakshinbahu (Class I) in 1996; SAARC Smriti Padak in 1988; Subikhyat Trishaktipatta in 1983; Dirgha Sewa Padak in 1981; Coronation Medal in 1974; Prasidha Prabal Gorkha Dakshinbahu in 1973; Bikhayat Trisaktipatta in 1972; Bishesh Sewa Padak in 1970; Janapada Sewa Padak in 1969; Subikhyat Sewa Lankar in 1968; Suprabal Gorkha Dakshinbahu in 1966; Prakhayat Trisaktipatta in 1964; Prabal Gorkha Dakshinbahu in 1963 and Mahendra Vidya Bhushan in 1961. He was decorated internationally by L.A. Por Isabel La Catolica, Spain in 1987; CVO (Hony), British in 1986 and Order of Merit Class II, Federal Republic of Germany in 1967.

For his Academic & Professional contributions, he was honored by Lifetime Achievement Award by Swasthya Khabar patrika, Abhinandan Patra by Lions Clubs International, Lifetime Achievement Award by Diabetes Nepal, Lifetime Achievement Award by Public Health Foundation of Nepal, Lifetime Achievement Award by Nepal Medical Association, Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding contribution in the field of clinical and preventive cardiology in the world, Distinguished Service Award in the field of cardiology in the world by HE President of India, Srimati Pratiba Patil, Lifetime Achievement Award in the field of Cardiology in the World by HE President of India, Abdul Kalam Azad, Chief Guest and Oration on "Household Energy, Indoor Air Pollution, Health and Poverty" at 11th Anniversary Celebration of B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan, Nepal, Social Services Council National Award, Dr. Balaram Joshi Science & Technology National Award, Life Time Achievement Award by Siddhartha Hospital Ltd., Life Achievement Award - House of Rajkamikar, Bhuma Paraskar, Honorary Consultant to the Cromwell Hospital, London, Declared distinguished Man of the Year by "Antarastriya Manch" for people oriented services in the field of health, Fellow by distinction of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom, Commemorative Tobacco or Health Medal, World Health Organization (WHO) and HFA (Health For All) Medal, World Health Organization (WHO).

The climate crisis is a water crisis

Global heating is disrupting the water cycle of the mountains, affecting rainfall, groundwater, rivers and the ice cap

● **Sonia Awale**

The Himalaya is the largest storehouse of water as ice after the polar regions, which is why it is called the Third Pole. The world's highest mountain range is also referred to as the Water Tower of Asia, but the roof of the world is running out of water.

Sky rivers bring moisture from the ocean and precipitate it as rain or snow on the mountains. Much of it seeps into the ground with the mountains acting like gigantic sponges. The rest is stored as ice and melts slowly in summer when glaciers bring them down.

But climate change is heating up the Himalaya faster than the global average, disrupting this water cycle. The rains are becoming more erratic, either coming in torrents or not at all, groundwater is depleting, and glaciers have shrunk.

Rivers originating in the Himalaya and the Tibetan Plateau

that sustain the inhabitants of the mountains as well as 1.9 billion Asians downstream will have less water in the dry season in the coming decades.

If greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced, scientists predict that two-thirds of Himalayan glaciers will be gone during this century. Already, there is a river running through Everest Base Camp, and runnels in the Khumbu Icefall may turn it into a waterfall in the not-too-distant future.

Khim Lal Gautam, who was part of the team that measured the height of Mt Everest to greater accuracy in 2020, has climbed the world's highest mountain twice and has noticed the changes.

"The moraine and permafrost here at the Everest Base Camp is melting dangerously. The glacier is collapsing, every time I come here there is less and less ice," says Gautam.

He adds: "The accelerated melting means there is now this big river running through Base Camp. In the last six years, the average temperature here has increased by six degrees."

Across the Himalaya, iconic peaks like Mt Machapuchre have turned into bare rock during some seasons. Between October 2008 to October 2020, Mt Saipal at 7,031m in far west Nepal lost most of its ice.

In 2006, the serac below the summit of Ama Dablam that gave the mountain its name broke off, killing six climbers. "Ama Dablam means mother's necklace,



CALVING OFF: In the past 30 years, the Imja Glacier in the Khumbu has grown into a lake 2km long as the permafrost and ice melts.

Including local knowledge to study climate change

Scientist couple spend six months researching climate impact on glaciers and biodiversity below Kangchenjunga

● **Kunda Dixit**

When American mountain geographer Alton Byers was investigating a devastating flash flood that blocked the Arun River in 2017, he trekked up the Barun Valley to find a vast area covered in thick white dust.

He was not convinced this was a monsoon flood, or even a glacial lake that had burst. The white dust was a clue.

Sure enough, a local yak herdsman told him that a mountainside had come down causing the dust cloud. Comparing earlier photographs, Byers discovered that an entire side of Mt Saldim had broken off, fallen on a glacial lake and sent a massive debris flow down to the river's confluence with the Arun.

Last year, Byers was investigating a historical flood from the Nangama glacial lake below Kangchenjunga, when local elders told him about eight other floods in the 1960s in the area.

For Byers, who is a frequent contributor to this newspaper, these two examples and many others in Nepal proved the benefit of including local people in the research process.

"A lot of glaciologists still do not include local knowledge, and that is unfortunate," Byers says. "What we try to do is include local communities as an interdisciplinary approach to studying climate change."

Byers and his wife, the botanist Elizabeth Byers, spent most of the past two years in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area in eastern Nepal, tapping local knowledge about how the ecosystem is coping with the climate crisis and a post-Covid increase in trekking.

"The older generation has a phenomenal knowledge about the ecosystem, and this is being lost as the younger generation moves to the cities," Byers says.

This is happening across Nepal, and the couple observed this in Kangchenjunga as



CONJUGAL SCIENTISTS: Elizabeth and Alton Byers below Mt Kangchenjunga in October 2022 following six months of glacier hazards and alpine flora research.

well. The population of yaks, for example, had gone down because younger people were no longer interested in rearing them, and also because of the demand for yak meat across the border in China.

Elizabeth Byers has spent the last seven years developing a wild flower identification app with 600 species of Himalayan flowers and 2,400 photographs that can be downloaded for free.

With Nepali scientists Til Kumari Thapa and Richa Chhetri she is finishing a new book about the wildflowers of the Kangchenjunga region that have four new hitherto unclassified species even though the region was first explored in 1844 by British botanists.

"If we could find four new species in a part of Nepal that has been studied for over 170 years, imagine what there must be in the rest of Nepal," says Elizabeth Byers.

She says delicate alpine plants, like Nepal's 12 species of insect-eating Bladderworts, are especially vulnerable to climate change due to extreme weather and invasive species moving up the mountains. Uncontrolled tourism could add to the threat to Himalayan biodiversity.

"On a global scale, it is hard to imagine a place more important than Nepal in terms of biodiversity," she adds. "Climate change is happening too fast for the plants to adapt and we could lose plants with unknown medicinal value for the future."

Alton and Elizabeth Byers spent this monsoon in Kangchenjunga looking at how the climate crisis and tourism could change the ecosystem of the region below the world's third highest mountain.

Ten years ago, Alton Byers was involved in an exchange of scientists from Peru and Nepal. Experts from Nepal were taken to the Andes to see how Peruvian scientists had drained expanding glacial lakes after big losses of life when they burst.

Peruvian experts later advised the Nepal government in a project to drain Imja glacial lake in the Khumbu to lower its water level and reduce the danger of it bursting.

Byers says he has been surprised by how much the Himalayan peoples in Nepal know about the weather extremes they have witnessed lately.

"They have a remarkable understanding of why it is happening and they know they are absolutely not to blame," says Byers, who was also encouraged to see that communities are adapting to glacial lake floods by building embankments, higher bridges and moving settlements away from river banks. That knowledge and adaptation now needs to be scaled up to the national level so that large infrastructure projects take into account the risk of destructive climate-induced debris flows, like the one that hit Melamchi in June 2021.

"Glacial lakes are a clear danger. The Arun for example has three big dam projects, and upstream is the massive Lower Barun glacial lake that is calving every year and soon will be right under the Barun Icefall," Byers warns.

He suggests that Nepal's hydropower industry should start incorporating the threat of glacial lakes upstream in Nepal and China with early warning systems.

Adds Alton Byers: "We think the mountains are invincible but these are the most fragile ecosystems on the planet." 🇳🇵

crisis in the Himalaya



KIRIL RUSEV

and a chunk of this big block of ice collapsed and thundered down,” says environmentalist and entrepreneur Dawa Steven Sherpa. “We are not just losing our mountains but a large part of our identity and what they mean to us.”

Researchers have made similar observations in the Karakoram in Pakistan, in the Tibetan Plateau, Bhutan and India where the permafrost is melting and glaciers receding.

“In the past, glaciers in the Karakoram were more stable than elsewhere in the Himalaya ... but now even these glaciers have started melting,” says Pakistani remote sensing specialist Sher Muhammad, who is with the Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

Accelerated melting has also meant that the number of glacial lakes is increasing. Nepal’s longest glacier, Ngozumpa below Mt Cho Oyu, now resembles Swiss cheese, riddled with melt pools and debris. Imja Glacier has turned into a glacial lake in just 30 years.

“Imja didn’t used to be a lake, it used to be a solid glacier,” adds Dawa Sherpa. “My father camped on the glacier 60 years ago with a Japanese expedition. Today, we need a rubber boat to be where he was back then.”

There are 3,252 glacial lakes in Nepal, and they are shrinking

three times faster than in 1998. Many of these are filling up with melt water and are in danger of bursting. Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) are a threat not just to human settlements but to infrastructure projects, many of them hydropower plants which are built along rivers downstream.

The massive debris flow on the Melamchi River in June 2021, that killed at least 30 people, submerged settlements, and nearly destroyed Nepal’s biggest infrastructure project to supply water to Kathmandu, was caused by a heavy monsoon downpour bringing down glacial sediments no longer cemented by permafrost.

While melting mountains are more visible, many more people are affected across the Himalaya by springs going dry, and reduced flow on rivers. People are abandoning villages and homesteads because of prolonged droughts and dry springs.

Women left behind are having to shoulder the burden of household chores including fetching water from further away, even as there is less water to irrigate terrace farms. In parts of Nepal, this has led to an increase in child marriage and the school dropout rate for girls, undermining the country’s past gains. The theme of this year’s International Mountain Day on 11 December is ‘Women Move Mountains’. Climate change in the

mountains is not just a crisis but also an opportunity to empower women and local communities.

From rainwater harvesting, reviving ponds and drip irrigation to planting sugarcane and Napier grass on riverbanks to reduce flood risks, there are many successful examples in Nepal of local adaptation.

But much like air pollution, tackling the impact of climate change in the Himalaya needs a cross-border and regional collaboration. In fact, worsening regional air pollution is leading to an acceleration in melting.

Black carbon and soot particles from vehicular emission, industries and fires are reaching higher altitudes and increasing the melt rate of glaciers which are already thawing due to global warming.

Says ICIMOD Director General Pema Gyamtsho from Bhutan: “We need to put more focus on building transboundary cooperation. That has always been our mandate, but I think now we need to fast forward these initiatives.”

The Himalaya has more biodiversity than any other place on earth because of its elevation and moisture range, making it an extraordinary place for species to flourish. But climate change is impacting on this diversity of plant and animal life that have evolved in the sensitive mountain ecosystem. Many have never been studied and could have immense medicinal and utilitarian value.

The recently concluded

COP27 Climate Summit in Egypt agreed on a mechanism to compensate poorer countries for loss and damage from climate change, but fell short of required decarbonisation targets. There is now serious doubt if global average temperature can be limited to 1.5°C.

Scientists and governments are meeting in Montréal this week to find ways to avert what they call the ‘sixth extinction’ -- the largest loss of biodiversity in the planet since the meteorite strike that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Some of this is due to the climate crisis, but human settlements and consumption is also destroying habitats. Just as at COP27 in Egypt, the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montréal will also set targets for the global biodiversity framework.

Himalayan geographer Alton C Byers who has been studying the impact of climate change on the ecosystem of the Kangchenjunga region (*see below*) warns: “People think mountains are invulnerable, invincible. They are not, they are some of the most fragile ecosystems in the world which is why we need to give them special consideration and protection.”



The Himalaya sustains nearly two billion people with food and water. National and international experts weigh in why the Himalaya is so important and its accelerated melt a matter of global concern. Watch full video.

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Errata, etc

As the guardians of the Fourth Estate, it is our job to tell it like it is, and let the potato chips fall where they may. Every once in a while, however, there are facts that need to be tweaked.

There are alternative truths and it is our duty to objectively report them as well. But, as they taught us in Morale Science class: to err is humane, and forgiveness is the devil’s workshop — or words to that effect.

Which is why when we know we have made an error of judgement, or got our facts wrong, our journalistic Code of Ethics and Press Council rules mandate us to lie low, hope no one noticed, and slyly correct it in the online version.

No erratum is too small to be correctum. It may be a small typo or it could be a major gaffe like mixing up the name of a notorious smuggler with the name of the Minister of Finance, but we make it a point to set the record straight, warn the unsuspecting public, say sorry, and learn from our mistake so that we can go on to make even bigger blunders in future.

Let us acknowledge that one cannot live life to the fullest without making mistakes, so let us go boldly forth and commit major faux pas, déjà vu and je ne sais quoi. The important thing is to make it a point to rectify the errata retroactively, like these corrections of recent errors in this paper:

- Our Editorial team cannot not make head or tail of the power struggle in the ruling coalition, which is why we goofed up on the name of the prime minister in our op-ed, and referred to him as Sher Kamal Dahal. As everyone knows,

the current prime minister’s name is actually the Right Horrible Pushpa Bahadur Deuba. We offer our sincere apologies to both prime ministers.

- We have learnt that a headline in last week’s edition of this paper that read ‘PKD Is a Chinese Stoooge’ may have caused offence to Comrade Awesome of the Communist of Party of Nepal (Centrist Maoists). The headline should have read ‘PKD Is an Indian Stoooge’.
- We have received a complaint from Prof (Dr) Chintamani Ghooos that a list of CIA deep penetration agents in the upper echelons of the Nepal government in our expose based on Wikileaks last week left out his name. We regret the omission. - Ed
- Deeply sorry that the headline ‘Nepal Badly Beaten’ caused Comrade Madhav Kumar Nepal of the Communist Party-goers of Nepal (US) deep anguish. The news item was actually about the ongoing One Day International Match of Tri-series under the ICC Cricket World Cup League-II in Windhoek in which Nepal was bowled out for a paltry 140 runs in 40 overs.
- The Ass regrets that several readers have needed hospital treatment for taking literally a recent column that advised drinking Kathmandu tap water as a guaranteed way to lose weight. Hope you have your shit together now. Any incontinence is regretted.



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