



BE NATURAL

For true driving pleasure, There is no other choice.

The Subaru FORESTER.

VIJAY MOTORS PVT. LTD.  
sales2@vmp.com.np  
Contact: 9841469878



BIKRAM RAI

## Left behind

Those who think there is no hope for Nepal should just look at Bihar. Until a decade ago, it was India's poorest, most corrupt, violence prone state. Today, twice-elected Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is busy transforming his state, turning 'Bihar' from a pejorative word into one that evokes praise. To be sure, Bihar has a lot of catching up to do. But it is on the right track: for the past five years, the state has posted an 11 per cent growth rate even though its mineral-rich south had broken away. Bihar is an example of how elections can throw up enlightened and accountable rulers who can deliver. If Bihar can do it so can we.

### BIHAR FOCUS

**Editorial** p2  
Going the Bihar way

**By the Way** p3  
Glimpses of Bihar by Anurag Acharya

**Interview with Nitish Kumar** p12-13  
"We want to see Nepal develop."

Winds of change south of the border p12-13

### SKA and PUNK

Kathmandu's punk underground stages a semi-secret concert where it holds forth with rage lyrics.

p8



### Trash into cash

Garbage brought down from Mt Everest are being recycled into souvenir trinkets to fund future cleanup operations.

p6-7

**CONSTELLATION**  
**THURAYA XT**  
The most rugged satellite phone in the World!  
www.constellation.com.np  
Tel: +977-1-5549252

**LAVAZZA**  
ITALY'S FAVOURITE COFFEE  
Jazzabel - Jhamsikhel  
Sundae Cafe - Jawalakhel  
For Business Inquiry: 9841505390

**HP Probook 4430s Notebook**  
High Definition Entertainment!  
Anytime, Anywhere  
Core i5 (2.3 GHz)  
2GB DDR3 Memory  
500GB Hard Drive  
14.1" WXGA Display  
DVD RW, BT, Wireless  
Intel HD Graphics  
Free DOS  
**CAS CAS TECHNO SALES PVT. LTD.**  
Address : Putalisadak, Kathmandu  
Phone : 977-1- 4440271, 4440272  
E-mail : amar@cas.com.np

**Ultimate Decor**  
fine furniture  
www.ultimatedecor.com.np • Tel: 4672997

**KENNETH COLE** NEW YORK  
MAKE A STATEMENT  
DURBAR MARG | CITY CENTER | BLUEBIRD  
Ph: 4221451



trèsmode  
**SALE UPTO 40%**  
AVAILABLE AT

redefines  
**pulchowk.**

TRESMODE STORE, GROUND FLOOR, LAXMI BANK BUILDING, PULCHOWK, LALITPUR, TEL: 5524812



GOING THE BIHAR WAY

An article in this newspaper in 2000 (#4) bemoaned the fact that Nepal bordered India's poorest state and asked: 'Is Nepal going the Bihar way?'

Bihar used to be a pejorative word, a collective noun that encapsulated everything that was wrong with India: inequality, injustice, insurgency and indigence. It was synonymous with crime, corruption and caste. Nepal was in the same boat, but somewhere deep inside we felt superior because we thought there was a place worse off than us. This was proven by the numbers of beggars on Thamel sidewalks, the scavengers on our dumpsites, the barbers from Darbhanga, vegetable vendors from Motihari and plumbers from Muzaffarpur.

How tables have turned. Unbeknownst to most Nepalis, Bihar is being rapidly transformed after the election of reformer chief minister Nitish Kumar in 2005. One indication of this is that the barbers, traders and plumbers have gone back to Bihar, not just from Kathmandu but from other parts of India as well. Haryana farmers now line up at railway stations in the harvest season with sacks of cash to grab Bhari farmhands as they get off trains.

After hitting bottom, Bihar had nowhere to go but up. For the past five years, the state has posted an annual 11 per cent growth even though its mineral-rich south had broken away. Nitish Kumar, a chela of great Indian socialist Jaya Prakash Narayan, has taken a four-fold path to uplift his state: crime, education, healthcare and roads. Massive investment in infrastructure has created jobs, and also improved connectivity to remote villages so that farm produce now has access to markets.

Because the best rate of return on investment is in



educating girls, he is heavily subsidising female enrollment. He has ensured basic health services even in remote areas and is now working on a state-wide health insurance scheme. And he has taken crime and impunity head-on with a carrot-and-stick approach of cleaning up the judiciary and police.

When our reporters Anurag Acharya and Navin Jha interviewed Nitish Kumar earlier this week in Patna, the chief minister had just returned from a visit to China to woo investors. He admits there are huge challenges ahead. Like in Nepal, there is a backlog of neglect and social injustice to be addressed. But, as he says in our interview, "The task was enormous, but one had to start somewhere, and I stuck to basics."

With India's huge corruption scandals, there are those here who call India's democracy dysfunctional and warn the drafters of our new constitution not to use its blueprint. Bihar is an example of how elections can throw up enlightened and accountable rulers. Nitish Kumar was re-elected last year on performance in elections that were the freest, completely peaceful and had the highest-ever turnout of women voters. Bihar is proof that democracy is necessary for development, to ensure service delivery. But, as Nitish Kumar has shown, you have to also simultaneously tackle crime and corruption which can undermine gains.

For all those who despair about Nepal ever turning around, we can only say: if Bihar can do it so can we. Our leaders should stop promising Nepalis that they will turn this country into Switzerland or Singapore.

Is Nepal becoming another Bihar? Let's hope so.

KQ

ON THE WEB  
www.nepalitimes.com

DESPONDENT

I detect a sense of despondency in your editorials lately ('In a state of impunity', Editorial, #559). This one almost reads like you have given up. Please don't, *Nepali Times* is a beacon of hope for me and my colleagues, and we appreciate what you are doing to bring out the inspirational stories of Nepalis who are hard-working, honest and committed to their communities and not just the predictable news 'analysis' of politics in the capital. Thank you for standing up for democracy and violence-free politics.

Gert

• The lack of progress on peace and constitution, the economy, law and order and governance is due to factors that you deliberately do not touch upon in your editorials. The politicians of this country are living in a state of paralysis that they cannot extricate themselves from. Each political group is fighting for its long-term relevance, as well as survival. This means that they will do everything within their power to build and maintain alliances with power, and money, brokers. Over the next two months (of the three) we are unlikely to see much progress. The alternative that everybody is talking about will also produce another status-quo assembly, bringing us back to, as the literary giants of our time so finely put, square one.

Soni

RICE AND YARSA

A really uplifting and hopeful story ('Nepal's hunger solution', Rubeena Mahato, #559). Thank you *Nepali Times* for casting your eyes beyond the Kathmandu Khaddo to Kailali and Rukum in search of stories of how

resilient and hard-working Nepalis are. Rajendra Upreti deserves a presidential medal of honour, and hopefully the government will take this technology to a larger public.

KiranL

• SRI is not too good to be true, it is perfect for Nepal. The only thing holding back its wider application are:  
1. government disinterest and inertia  
2. farmers' resistance to change  
3. the extra effort that is needed for weeding

J Joshy

• Yes, Nepal can feed itself if we be able to extend irrigation. It doesn't need big investment now but it can turn this country around. Only a new green revolution can make Nepal prosperous and peaceful. We have to halt farm fragmentation this is reducing productivity. Also important is to provide fertiliser and better seeds in time.

Laxman Karki

• SRI is controversial, and may not work in Nepal because it is too labour intensive, needs complete control of water, and requires sensitive handling of seedlings. There need to be more studies and verification.

Agronomist

• Here is another concrete proof that successes in Nepal can happen without the 'government' in Kathmandu. Another case for fresh local elections. Farmers can govern themselves. They don't need Kathmandu to set "government policy" for them. I eagerly anticipate and read every piece by Rubeena Mahato.

Battisputali

• Staggeringly beautiful pictures, and for the time I see yarsagumba treated as a human story that shows the strength and



hard work that Nepali people do in the absence of a government that provides jobs, security and development ('Yarsa-land', Dipendra Bhandari, #559). This is the kind of story that gives me hope about Nepal.

Howie

• Story and pictures of yarsa-picking by Dipendra Bhandari worthy of *National Geographic*!  
Suresh Joshi

ACHARYA B

OK I get the implied sarcasm but what is the real point being made in this story? ('Rise and fall of Acharya B', Jyoti Malhotra, #559). Are Ram Dev and his sidekick charlatans? And also, what is not clear is how this 'story' is related to the tamasha of Ram Dev's hunger strike?

Milan

• It is a pity that the writer spends so much time harping against one Acharya B, whom nobody knows, rather than focusing on issues that affects people's lives like corruption. People like Ram Dev and Anna Hazare are trying to highlight this issue and

bring it to the Indian peoples attention. Without providing any proof, the writer insinuates that the government is cracking down on Ram Dev because he is involved in criminal activities. The only proof she has to offer is that the trust established by him has prospered financially. But so has Satya Sai Baba's trust. If these trusts are used for good causes for the people, like fighting corruption, more power to them.

Dev Batsya



nepalnews.com  
Weekly Internet Poll # 560

Q. Should the Minsiter of Information, Agni Sapkota step down from his post?

Total votes: 1,791



Weekly Internet Poll # 561. To vote go to: www.nepalitimes.com  
Q. Should the government try ex home ministers for the Sudan APC scam?



# Glimpses of Bihar

When there is so much to do to catch up, progress can be slow



ANURAG ACHARYA



## BY THE WAY

Anurag Acharya

The 5:30 am Hajipur Express from Raxaul was uncannily familiar. I had travelled through Bihar many times in the last three years on my way to university in Delhi and back. But Bihar then was just a moving picture from the train window. This time, me and my colleague Navin Jha explored the state which was less known for its glorious history and more for notorious politics and crime.

We reached Hajipur at noon and from there shared an auto rickshaw with 12 people. It was 40 degrees but I instantly felt at home. For the next two days we wandered around the streets of Patna till late at night. Navin had been there before and told me how much Patna had changed. We ate dinner at a local dhaba and it were surprised to see families up and about at midnight. A woman with her sister-in-law and four year-old-son had come out to eat panipuri on Boring Road. "I still remember the days when women were attacked on the streets of Patna in the broad daylight," she said, but things have improved now and we feel safe going on our own even at night."

On the third day of our visit, we went to the Department of Information. The walls were plastered with portraits of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's with enthusiastic quotes about his vision of a poverty-free and corruption-free Bihar.

But when there is so much to do to catch up, progress can be slow. Outside, we came across a slum in the middle of

the VIP zone. Around 10 small tents made out of patched plastic bags were scattered under the sign board that read Netaji Marg. Obviously, the Netas including 'Susasan Babu' Nitish Kumar had not yet noticed these half-clad men and women outside their gate wallowing in the filthy water that had overflowed from a nearby drain. An eight-year-old boy paralysed by polio and visibly malnourished was lying in the pavement staring blankly at the sky while flies swarmed around his face. Few meters ahead, the mother who was peeling at half dried potatoes looked up for a second and then went about her work.

In Mahnar we tracked down Professor Prafull

Kumar Singh, a social critic. We had run out of our mobile batteries, and as I reached for my charger the professor waved his hand fan and said, laughing: "You are not in Patna my dear. This is Bihar." Power demand soars in the hot season and electricity is rationed, just like back home.

He took us to the nearby block office where the newly elected gram panchayat members were being sworn-in. Women in Bihar have been given 50 per cent reservation in local bodies while the Laalus and Mulayams continue to block women's bill from being tabled in the parliament.

The road from Mahnar to Muzzafarpur, which used to be just a pot-holed dirt

track, has been widened and fly-overs were under construction. From the bus to Sitamadi, we gazed out at the bucolic scenes of rural Bihar at dusk, while the aroma of rice fields and cow-dung smoke wafted in through the window. We were rudely jolted from our reverie as we passed a camp of the federal paramilitary CRPF, and I was reminded of the painful life people of this area live everyday as the mighty Indian state wages war against an enemy without a face.

In his interview with us in Patna, Nitish Kumar had said the root cause of Naxalism was poverty and inequality and he would defeat them with his development work. As the bus slowed down near

the CRPF camp, we saw a group of men and women farmers walk through the checkpoint at the head of the narrow alley leading into the fields, just as we used to do in Nepal during the 'People's war'. Here in Chhapra district, people live under the barrel of the gun and the state seemed to think everyone is a Naxal unless proven otherwise. There are no banners here with Nitish Kumar smiling at his people.

We took a room at a hotel in Sitamadi and next morning made our way to the Bhattamod border. As I stood on the Nepali side and looked back, I couldn't help thinking about how the histories and futures of Bihar and Nepal are intertwined. ■

## A greener way to fly...



We at Yeti Airlines share your concerns about climate change and are doing our little bit to help the world grow into a greener place. So, in partnership with our Dhangadi GSA, RAAIKA Tours and Travels, Tiger Mountain Karnali Lodge & Camp and District Road Support Programme, we have launched our pilot Green Project. For every passenger flying on the Kathmandu-Dhangadi-Kathmandu and Kathmandu-Nepalgunj-Kathmandu sector, we will plant a suitable tree in one of the chosen community forests in the various rural areas of Nepal. Rs. 20 from the air fare of each passenger will be set aside for the tree plantation program in the above mentioned sectors.

Come fly with Yeti Airlines and help us make the world a little more greener.

**Yeti Airlines Domestic Pvt. Ltd.**  
Corporate Office: Tilganga, Kathmandu  
Tel: 4465888 Fax: 4465115 Reservations: 4464878 (Hunting Line)  
Kathmandu Airport: 4493901,  
Website: www.yetiairlines.com  
E-mail: reservations@yetiairlines.com, eticket@yetiairlines.com



## "Flying is not the only thing we do"

As part of our Social responsibility, Yeti Airlines donates Nrs.4 per flight ticket to the following Four Social Organizations, involved in various social activities.



CWIN works for the advocacy, protection and promotion of the rights of the child through lobbying, campaigning and social concretization. It also directly works with children at risk for their rescue, support, socialization, education, empowerment and social reintegration.



The United Mission to Nepal (UMN) seeks fullness of life for all Nepalese, and works towards this in partnership with Nepali organisations, addressing the root causes of poverty, pursuing for peace and justice for all, and empowering communities to meet their own needs.



CVICT is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that rehabilitates victims of torture and trauma (domestic violence, witchcraft related violence etc.); advocates the eradication of torture and promotes human rights in Nepal.



Save the Children's 'Every One' campaign has raised voice for the rights of healthy life of children below 5 years of age.

- If a newly born baby having his/her weight less than the normal is kept attached naked to his/her mother's chest then it helps in increasing the weight of the infant.
- Registering your child's birth at the earliest ensures his/her every right as a citizen of the country.
- Washing your hands properly before touching your baby, will reduce the susceptibility of infection.

**Bhadrapur** 023 455232 **Biratnagar** 021 536612 **Janakpur** 041 520047  
**Bharatpur** 056 523136 **Pokhara** 061 464888 **Bhairahawa** 071 527527  
**Nepalgunj** 081 526556 **Dhangadhi** 091 523045 **Tumlingtar** 029 575120





“Let's not be the laughing stock”



Ramesh Singh Malla worked for many years in Nepal before joining ActionAid International as CEO. He was visiting fellow to the Hauser Centre for Nonprofit Organisations at Harvard University and will soon be joining the Open Society Institute in New York.

**Nepali Times: How is Nepal's development record viewed by the international community?**  
**Ramesh Singh Malla:** My impression is that the international donor and development community generally likes Nepal for a positive and welcoming attitude of Nepali government and institutions for anything donors bring to

or do in Nepal, the ability to do more for less money and for hard work frontline communities and institutions put in. However, I doubt that we command respect of donors and international communities. Our institutions are weak, even corrupt, and we lack the vision, determination and strength to negotiate international assistance on our own terms. If we are able to do that not only would we command their respect but also would have made much better out of all international assistance that comes to the country.

**What have been Nepal's greatest achievements so far?**  
A lot of progress has been made in physical infrastructure like roads and telecommunications. All physical quality of life indices such as life expectancy, child mortality, maternal mortality, school enrolment etc show great progress. The UN HDR 2010 congratulated Nepal for making the third fastest progress in HDI over the period between 1970-2010. And of course, the restoration of democracy is worth being

proud of, even though the present political chaos and utter failure to bring out our new constitution makes us a bit of a laughing stock.

**What else have we failed in?**  
Nepal continues to be one of the poorest countries in the world and all international reports and rankings put Nepal near the bottom. The basic feudal and patriarchal structure of the society and our institutions continues to remain violent, exploitative, discriminatory and corrupt with impunity. Our institutions and politics are still dominated by leaders who have failed us over and over again and continue to divide society.

**Are you going to return to Nepal to try to set things right?**  
During my two decades of work in Nepal, it has never failed to amaze me how our community-led efforts have done wonders even in the bleakest times. These are the things Nepal can be proud of and teach other countries too. There is a lot of hope for this country, especially with the younger generation taking charge. I wish to work with them.



# उज्यालो 90 नेटवर्कमा

## आर्थिक खबर

हरैक दिन बिहान ७:०० बजे



**Communication Corner Pvt. Ltd.**  
Kupondole, Lalitpur, Tel: 5546277  
Fax: 977-1-5549357, P.O.Box:6469, E-mail: info@unn.com.np, URL: www.unn.com.np

**Ujyaalo 90 Network**  
Sanepa, Lalitpur, Tel: 5551716





## अब हुन्छन् सबै दंग



**प्रथम बम्पर उपहार**

एक जनालाई काठमाडौं नयाँ बानेश्वर नजिक बागमती अपार्टमेन्टमा २ बेडरुम अपार्टमेन्ट



**दोस्रो बम्पर उपहार**

एक जनालाई **Perodua ViVA 660cc**

**FEATURES & FACILITY**  
Factoryfitted Air Conditioning  
Easy Drive Steering  
Keyless Entry System  
Central Door Locking System  
Rear Defogger  
Rear Wiper  
Factoryfitted CD Player with FM Stereo  
Cigar Lighter, Genuine Boot Tray  
Genuine Foot Mat  
Body Coloured Bumper Door Handles  
Best Claimed Mileage in Nepal 23 Km/Ltr



**तेस्रो बम्पर उपहार**

३ जनालाई **32" Sony Bravia LED TV**

**Key features**  
Edge LED  
Full HD 1080  
BRAVIA Engine™ 3  
Intelligent Picture Plus  
MPEG Noise Reduction  
USB Photo/Music/Video



**चौथो बम्पर उपहार**

५ जनालाई **Hasee i3 Laptop**

**Key features**  
Fully Loaded : Stronger WiFi, Stylish look  
Sleek & Light weight, Easy to carry  
Robust : for Rough & Tough use  
320GB HDD, 2GB DDR-3 RAM  
14" Screen, 3.5 hrs Battery



वार्षिक ग्राहकलाई एउटा **Steam Iron**



अर्धवार्षिक ग्राहकलाई एउटा **FM / LED Rechargeable Torch**



३ महिने ग्राहकलाई एउटा **LED Rechargeable Torch**



हरैक साता २ जनालाई **Lemon Mobile Phone**

### हामी आउँदैछौं तपाईंको घरदैलोमा फेरि एकपटक

थप जानकारीका लागि  
नेपाल रिपब्लिक मिडिया प्रा.लि.  
जे.डि.ए. कम्प्लेक्स, बागदरबार, काठमाडौं, फोन: ०१-६२०२६८१, ४२६५१०० (Ext. २०४/२०५), ईमेल: circulation@nagariknews.com

नोट: बम्पर उपहार योजनामा वार्षिक ग्राहक मात्र सहभागी हुनेछन्।  
\*शर्तहरू लागू हुनेछ



# All politics is local



STRICTLY BUSINESS  
Ashutosh Tiwari

The last time a Nepali voter elected a local representative was in 1997 – 14 years ago. Since then, she has not had a chance to freely choose her own representative on a periodic basis at the village, district or city level. As a result, for the last 10 years, 3,915 VDCs and 58 small towns and big cities across Nepal have not had a fresh supply of competitively elected public officials, village chairpersons, mayors and so on.

Nothing is more damning about our Democracy (the one with a capital ‘D’, and the one that seems to be synonymous with the heads of major political parties in Kathmandu) than the fact that it has completely smothered democracy (the one with a lowercase ‘d’, and the one that is about how ordinary people in all corners of Nepal choose local representatives to provide local public services without always obsessively having to worry about what party heads think and do to one another in the capital).

How did we come to this stage?

In 2002, six years after the start of the Maoist insurgency and at the end of the five-year electoral cycle, the then-Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba could have called for local elections. But amidst the drumbeat of Maoists’ threat to incite more violence, worries about safety and possible victories of Maoist sympathizers led Deuba to dilly-dally and ultimately decide otherwise. His decision ultimately led to him being sacked for ‘incompetence’ by the then-king.

Deuba replaced locally elected officials with government bureaucrats. Thinking that this was a temporarily necessary measure put in place until the insurgency could be quashed, the mainstream pundits and the press did not challenge Deuba’s decision at the time.

Democracy has to be locally responsive to deliver development

After taking over from Deuba in 2005, the king held local elections. Those were boycotted by most political parties. Since the king’s absolute rule did not command legitimacy in the eyes of the many, whatever the

elections concluded, it did not last long.

Looking back, it’s fair to say that Deuba’s decision and the further decision by all political parties to keep the issue of local elections on the backburner seem to have sucked the life out of our Democracy. What’s more, they have contributed to the state of affairs that we are seeing today, whereby Nepal’s Democracy has not risen above Kathmandu’s party-heads’ personality-based politics.

To no one’s surprise, the vacuum created by the absence of locally elected bodies was occupied by politically appointed bureaucrats and local outfits of all major political parties.

These outfits constantly quarrel with one another, engage in corruption, and derive their power not by winning the confidence of the local people but through the blessings of their political masters in Kathmandu.

So entrenched has been this arrangement that its results have recently played out in different ways: a reporter was beaten up in Biratnagar. Local law enforcement machinery could not take on the local politicians who provided shelter to the alleged culprit. Instead, it looked to Kathmandu’s party heads for what to do and not to do.

In Dadeldhura, CA members went on a rampage and beat up school headmasters in front of students and parents, forcing them to resign. There was no local recourse because everyone knew that the fist-wielding politicians enjoyed their Kathmandu-based party heads’ blessings.

Early this year, Chitwan was proud that all its residents were about to have access to improved sanitation services. Its residents looked forward to declaring Chitwan Nepal’s first open-defecation free district. But long-running local party-political quarrels over who gets how much over what contracts put a damper on the residents’ enthusiasm.

Locally responsive democracy is the heart and soul of Democracy. Unless we achieve it in a competitively electoral manner, the hollow smugness of Democracy would only add to bad governance on all levels.

## BIZ BRIEFS



### Nano in Nepal

Tata Motors launched Tata Nano in Nepal. All three variants of the car Tata Nano, Tata Nano CX and Tata Nano LX are on sale in Sipradi-owned and authorized dealerships across Nepal. The first phase of booking has been opened with the introductory price of Rs 798,000.

### BOK honored

Bank of Kathmandu has received an award for ‘Most active GTFP Issuing Bank for SME and South –South Trades in South Asia’ from the International Finance Corporation. BOK has been actively using the facility and expanding its Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) portfolio through 39 hotspots throughout the country.

### Best fly

Dragonair, a Hong Kong-based airline has been voted ‘World’s Best Regional Airline’ in the annual Skytrax awards second year in a row. The customer satisfaction-based award was given to the airline in recognition of its product and service quality.



### Gifting brightness

Clean Energy Development Bank joined hands with the Ultra Group for its Gifting Brightness program and donated solar home lighting systems to the Maniharsha retirement home. This program under the bank’s Clean Circle movement helps communities counter the ongoing power crisis through green technologies.

### Free massage

Navaratna Oil has started a campaign under which it is offering free head massage. This campaign is being carried out in 17 districts all over Nepal for 45 days.

Nepal's No.1  
CONSUMER DURABLES

LG  
Life's Good

GET **WiFi** PHONE  
AT AMAZING PRICE  
**Rs. 7,777**

LG wink  
T310i

- Embedded Windows Live Messenger™
- Dedicated Social Networking Features
- Virtual QWERTY Keyboard
- 2.8" Lcd / 103X57X12.3Mm
- Fun & Fast Cartoon UI
- Web Browsing/Wi-Fi
- Oxford Dictionary
- 2.0 MP Camera
- Wireless FM

PAPAYA T300

- 2.4" Full Touchscreen Display
- Virtual QWERTY Keyboard
- 1.3 MP Camera
- Embedded Windows Live Messenger™
- Bluetooth/MP3/MPEG4 Player
- Dedicated Social Networking Features
- Fun & Fast Cartoon UI
- Micro SD Slot Supportive up to 4GB

FREE Worth Rs. 1500/-

EAR PHONE

DATA CABLE

2 GB Memory Card

BEST BUY 5,999/-

twitter facebook myspace.com

LG Mobiles are made in Korea .

Marketed in Nepal by CG Impex Pvt. Ltd.

Prices are inclusive of VAT.

CG ELECTRONICS  
imagination, unlimited.

LG Lifestyle Shoppe Pvt. Ltd.  
(LG Exclusive Company Showroom) Gorkha Complex  
Minibhawan, Kathmandu, Tel: 01-4106530, 016206462

CG Digital Pvt. Ltd.  
(Multi Brand Showroom) AC Complex  
Chabahil, Kathmandu, Tel: 01-6205707, 4461234

LG Mobile Concept Store  
Civil Mall, Sundhara, Kathmandu  
Contact No. 4254025, 4253974

12 Months Warranty

3G



# Mountains of



PICS: BIKRAM RAI

## TSERING DOLKER GURUNG

Since Edmund Hillary’s ascent of Mt Everest in 1953, approximately 35,000 trekkers and 80,000 porters have visited the

region each year leaving behind a total of 50 tons of waste. If it was all piled up on top of Mt Everest, the mountain could very well be higher than 9,000 m. The garbage ranges from plastic food wrappers

and beer bottles up to base camp, and climbing rope, aluminium ladders, oxygen cylinders higher up. There are even crushed remains of an Italian helicopter that crashed at Camp 2 in the Western Cwm in 1972, which

is only now emerging from the Khumbu Ice Fall. Most of the waste is at Base Camp or the South Col, but even the summit is littered with trash. “Up until 2008, there was no organised cleanup of the mountain,” says Dawa

Steven Sherpa, who for the last four years has led Eco Everest Expedition initiative, a privately funded cleanup campaign. In its first year, the team brought back 975 kg of waste, and this year 1,068 kg. The garbage is brought



THIS IS IT  
Rubeena Mahato

# Never too free

Bloggers go where mainstream journalists fear to tread

After a series of exposes on VAT bill fakers was uploaded to mysansar.com in April, the Press Council sought clarification from the popular blog site, acting on a complaint. The blog named an industrialist and also listed other tax defaulters. The personal assistant of the businessman filed a complaint, which led the Council, as is the practice, to demand a clarification. However, this time the answer was sought not from a mainstream newspaper but a blog site which does not fall under the Council’s jurisdiction. The Press Council Act of 1992 is silent on blogs and its code of conduct is not binding for bloggers. My Sansar, nevertheless, responded to the call and defended itself saying it had investigated a relevant story that the mainstream media dared not cover. The case jumpstarted a discussion among bloggers about whether the Press Council can, or should, add blogs to its existing mandate. Blogger Ujjwal Acharya says that the Council’s terms of reference can include blogs. “Compulsory registration for blogs is against



the standard norm. But the choice of registration with the Press Council should be left to bloggers, and this would also make them eligible to receive government ads,” says Acharya. Across the world, privacy and defamation issues are clashing with the free-for-all on internet sites, leading to calls for regulation. This is being fiercely resisted by bloggers and citizen journalists who say the mainstream press is seriously compromised by commercial bias and advertising pressure. If Nepali blogging sites start accepting revenue from government ads, would they have dared to carry the fake VAT item? The national broadsheets did not touch the story, and bloggers may not either in future if they are beholden to government regulators or to corporate interests. Mainstream journalists are prone to question the credibility of blogs, while ignoring the limitations to their own ability to cover certain stories. For example, the fake VAT bill story was largely ignored by the mainstream press, probably



# trash



The tail rotor of a helicopter, whiskey bottles, rusted cans, oxygen cylinders and aluminium ladders

to Namche, where it is separated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable items. Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee, a local group responsible for waste management in Khumbu, turns the biodegradable waste into compost. But the cans, cylinders and mountaineering equipment are stored in a warehouse in Khumjung and are air-lifted to Kathmandu every time there is cargo space on a helicopter or plane flying out.

Eco Everest has also found more creative ways of disposing of oxygen cylinders, ice picks and crampons, which may have historical value and are being offered to the Mountaineering Museum in Pokhara. Other metal wastes have been handed over to the Kathmandu University School of Art and Design which organised an art exhibition in April 2009 called 'Garbage Out Of Thin Air'.

The Everest Summiteers

Association in partnership with Eco Himal also implemented the 'Save Everest Campaign' in April this year, spending \$750,000 to bring back 8.1 tons of garbage from the mountain and trekking trails.

Diwas Pokhrel of the Everest Summiteers Association says: "Once the waste is presented to the Prime Minister and the public in a formal program this month, we will forge metal souvenirs out of them." The Nepal Dhallot Udyog Sangh will recycle the metal trash into small *khukuris*, vases and bells to be sold to tourists with income used to fund future cleanup and other environment conservation programs.

Even after these initiatives, Eco Everest and Save Everest Campaign have only managed to skim the tip of the Mt Everest of garbage in Khumbu. A lot of the trash still remains on the mountain, much of the garbage that has been brought down is still in Khumjung waiting to be flown down to Kathmandu.

Says Pokhrel: "Our job doesn't end with collection of the waste. We plan to recycle and reuse them somehow." 📌

[www.everestsummiteersassociation.org](http://www.everestsummiteersassociation.org)  
[www.ideas-action.org](http://www.ideas-action.org)

in order not to offend powerful advertisers, and the story was diverted to the resignation of Finance Secretary Rameshore Khanal.

Few dared to point out the names of people and business houses involved, which included a CA member and a telecommunication giant. The discourse veered so much towards Khanal's honesty that the dishonesty of the businessmen involved was not discussed.

Nepal has no dearth of well connected business reporters, many of whom have gone on to become editors in national dailies and weeklies. But it is rare to see stories of corruption in high places in their papers in which the Big Boys are involved.

Blogs like My Sansar were able to speak out only because they are not constrained by the market economy of media. Blogger and owner of My Sansar, Salokya says: "How this story is covered in my blog and the newspaper I work for are different. This alone proves the independence we enjoy in blogs."

The problem with blogs, however, is of a different kind. A CNN iReport on the VAT scam following the exposes by My Sansar provoked angry reactions from people for its racist undertones. Salokya's report on My Sansar was bashed for singling out a particular community

and engaging in vindictive journalism. When personal biases seep in, they are no less insidious than slants planted by the corporate media. The only consolation with blogs is that the bias is too on the face for readers not to feel manipulated.

It may be tempting for bloggers to demand the privileges of a mainstream reporter: a press card, Information Department ads, membership to an umbrella organisation clearly divided along political lines (FNJ). But there is no free lunch, and the independence bloggers boast of could be compromised.

What would be the difference between the content in a blog and in a national newspaper if they operate under the same restrictive framework of the state?

Many bloggers are already doing better journalism than journalists, even without a press pass. Many don't like being identified as regular journalists, or with the kind of work the mainstream does.

Bloggers say they respond to a higher calling and adhere to values of independence, free expression and citizen vigilance. Blurring the line between citizen and mainstream journalism may obliterate independent voices that may sometimes overstep the bounds, but are more likely to strengthen democracy by protecting the public's right to know. 📌

## Enjoy! Summer Music Festival

..at **MOKSH** with **Heineken**®

**01 JULY NAYA FAYA**  
**02 July NIRVAN 'N' MUSIC LINK**  
**05 July APRIL RUSH**  
**08 July MUKTI 'N' REVIVAL**  
**12 July APRIL RUSH**  
**14 July ACTOR STUDIO**  
**15 July SAPTAK**

**19 July APRIL RUSH**  
**20 July ALL THAT JAZZ**  
**22 July STREETLIFE COLLECTIVE**  
**26 July ALL STAR JAM SESSION**  
**29 July BEAGLES UNPLUGGED**  
**30 July KJC CONCERT SERIES**



(MOKSH @ Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur, TEL: 01-5528362; 7 pm onwards)

Supported By:



STANDARD COLLECTIONS FOR SUMMER, WINTER, DESIGNER & CASHMERE

# Beautiful at any age

Beauty is only skin-deep. So, top it up with something that remains by your side throughout your life – ageless Pashmina.

NPI respects the value you attach to Pashmina – that is why we create our collections to match style and preference of every age.

The best compliment you could ever give yourself.



NEPAL PASHMINA INDUSTRY

OUR EXCLUSIVE SHOWROOMS:

**Soaltee Mode**, Kalimati, Kathmandu  
 (way to Soaltee Hotel)  
 Tel. 4283 644, 4277 023

**Soaltee Mode**, Kalimati, Kathmandu  
 (Soaltee Hotel Compound)  
 Tel. 4270 947

**Thamel**, Kathmandu  
 (opp. Sanchayakosh Building)  
 Tel. 4410 947

**Thamel**, Kathmandu  
 (Close to Sanchayakosh Building)  
 Tel. 4264 775

[www.npi-nepal.com](http://www.npi-nepal.com)



EVENTS

**Destination India 2011**, an expo on education in India for Nepali students. 1 July, 11am, Hotel Annapurna, Darbar Marg



**Screening of *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas***, a fantasy comedy film adaptation of the novel by Hunter S. Thompson. 1 July, 4.30pm, DocSkool Film Center, Gaurighat, 4471104

**Organic Market**, a weekly organic market where along with picking the fresh organic produce for home you can enjoy brunch. 2 July, 10am to 12pm, 1905, Kantipath

**7 Days script writing workshop**, organised by Indigenous Film Archive (IFA) for innovative Nepali writers and filmmakers. 4 to 10 July, 9am to 5pm, fee Rs 1000, application deadline: 29 June, 9851063480

**Expressions in Clay**, ceramic art exhibition by Ceramic Hands, display of works created by local and foreign artists under the tutelage of Kalapremi Shrestha and 'P1' by Man Bahadur Harijan . 23 June to 23 July, 11am to 6pm, Siddhartha Art Gallery, Babermahal Revisited

**Blissful Entanglement**, exhibition of paintings by Sandhya Silwal. Till 3 July, Weekdays 11am to 5.30pm, The Art Shop, Darbar Marg, 4267063, 9841444848

**Career Fair Nepal**, a platform to obtain information regarding career opportunities. 8 to 9 July, 12pm onwards, Bhrikuti Mandap

**First formula Cycle race**, organised by Gyanodaya International Residential School with support from Chain Inc. 2 July, Gyanodaya International Residential School, Khokana, Bungamati



**Etching Art Exhibition**, featuring works of upcoming Nepali printmakers Sangita Ghimire, Manju Shyanla, Tika Datta Dahal and Bhishan Raj Bhandari. Till 16 July, 12 to 8pm, Asian Proofs Print Art Gallery, New Orleans Café, Pulchok

**Mero Kaatha Sunne Ho**, a story telling workshop organised by Sattya Media Arts Collective. 8 to 9 July, 1 to 4pm, Sattya Media Arts Collective, Jawalakhel, Ages 13 to 25, fee Rs1000 (Scholarships available)

**Fellowship for Research**, the Bihari Krishna Fellowship for Ethnographic Research invites applications from researchers interested in themes- Gender relations, construction of good society, narratives of violence, co-operation and conflict over the past 50 years. Deadline 4 July,

*budget for this research Rs 5,00,000, www.sosbahan.org*

**Relaunch party**, Vintage Café & Pub followed by a week long dance and live music. 1 July, Woodland Complex, Durbarmarg

**Funky Fresh E.L.E.M.E.N.T.S**, a youth empowerment program for young hip hop enthusiasts above the age of 13 to harness their skills to become independent hip hop artists. 23 to 30 July, 10am to 6pm, Sattya Media Arts Collective, Jawalakhel/ Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory, Jhamsikhel, fee Rs1000 (Scholarships available), Application deadline 21 July

MUSIC

**Fashion and Music Fest**, launch of the *New Episode* followed by a Fashion show and musical performances by Bijay Gurung (Kalind band) and The Shadows. 1 July, 6pm to 11.30pm, 1905, Kantipath , entry Rs 600, 9849565905

**Music and Fashion- The Grind**, featuring the best DJs in town. 9 July, 2 to 10pm, Hotel Shahanshah Poolside, Rs1000, free entry for ladies, 9803157605, 9851050919

DINING



**9th Annual Wine Festival**, Kilroy's monsoon wine festival will feature 15 varieties of exquisite wines from six different countries. 1 to 7 July, Kilroy's of Kathmandu, Thamel

**Saturday @ Hyatt**, Make your weekend more exciting with family and friends. Enjoy the afternoon with a splash in the pool, relax and sample the sumptuous barbecue brunch. For bookings call 4491234.

Career Opportunity



WAVE Magazine is Nepal's number one magazine and also the most popular read amongst the Nepali diaspora around the globe. Wave is the only non vernacular magazine with a commanding readership share amongst all the youth segments across the country.

A typical WAVE Magazine reader is an young adult with a discerning taste for finer things in life, aware about of social frame conditions and an avid interest in evolving trends and happenings.

WAVE Magazine is looking to fill the following positions:

- An Editor**  
Are you someone who has impeccable English, excellent networking; are well-read and discerning, young and driven; and can effectively manage an eclectic and vibrant young team?  
  
Educational Qualifications: (preferably) a Masters or Honours degree in any of the Liberal Arts
- Two Feature Writers**  
Do you possess excellent written English skills; are aware, creative, organized, outgoing, personable, spontaneous, trendy, unflappable, witty and not afraid to voice your opinions?  
  
Educational Qualifications: a Bachelors degree preferably in English/ Mass Communication/ Media Studies
- One Style Coordinator**  
Do you have an eye for detail, are unorthodox and unconventional in your attire, have a strong personal sense of style, good communication and marketing skills, love fashion and everything associated with it? If yes, you just might be the style coordinator we are looking for!  
  
Educational Qualifications: High school and up graduates with an original sense of style are encouraged to apply
- Interns-2**  
Enthusiastic and innovative youngsters with excellent spoken and written English skills with the objective developing their careers in mass communication and event management are encouraged to apply. Interns will get exposure on event coordination, writing skills and other critical professional skills for two months.

If you are the perfect candidate for any of the above positions, do email us your cover letter, resume and writing samples to wavemag@himalmedia.com or write in to us at Himalmedia, PO Box Number 7251, Lalitpur, Nepal. Application Deadline is 10 July 2011.

A ray of anger

In his critical essays *Morning Yet on Creation Day*, Chinua Achebe calls 'art for art sake' "just another piece of deodorised dog shit." The Nigerian writer believes in the didactic purpose of art, that art must produce and in turn be produced within a moral framework. True to didactic purposes, Nepal's punk scene holds fast to a socio-political agenda, quickly gaining ground in a more or less subversive and unconventional manner. A preeminent band in the underground circuit (unnamed for the sake of keeping mainstreamers at bay) performed to a throng of listeners two weeks ago at Upstairs Jazz in Lazimpat, where if maximum occupancy were enforced the show would have been barred. But this is Nepal. Like with most good things, no publicity was necessary; word of mouth was the band's viral promoter. According to its 'herstory', the self-styled anarcho punk group was launched in 2000 and has since organised do-it-yourself (DIY) gigs across Europe, Nepal and Southeast Asia. The group members play charade in alter-ego bands of similar genres of ska, punk and reggae. Beyond extemporaneous shows and collaborations, the band has operated a radical bookstore since 2004, dispersing materials on DIY sustainable living, feminism, queer theory and anarchism. Angered texts and lyrics chime on the need for a feminist, sub-altern gaze on patriarchal normativity. And the music is upbeat and captivating or as a fan described it, "kickass." During the show spectators were so entranced that at one point the band requested the front rows to refrain from stomping, for fear that the floorboards would cave in. When the set was over, the lead vocalist's blunt response upheld the band's punk credibility: "We don't do interviews."  Marcus Benigno



MARCUS BENIGNO

For more go to Moksh, Jhamel, Friday at 8.30pm. Bring Rs 200.



**Arabian Nights**, taste the culinary delights from the Middle-East everyFriday at The Cafe from 6.30pm to 10.30pm. For bookings call Hyatt Regency Kathmandu at 4491234.

**Degaa Restro Lounge**, for mouth watering Newari cuisines. Kumaripati (Old Campion Building), 9849136479



**BBQ Station**, a place for those of you who simply can't do without meat. BBQ Station offers a chance to make your own Barbeque on coal. Jhamsikhel

**Irish Pub**, for the simple reason that the place actually feels like a bar. Don't miss out on their Irish

coffee. Lazimpat, Ananda Bhawan, 4416027



**Tapas Night with Sangria**, for the true flavours of Spain indulge in Tapas buffet snacks with a glass of Sangria @ Rs499. 17 June onwards, every Friday, 6pm onwards, Splash Bar and Grill, Radisson Hotel, Lazimpat

GETAWAYS

**Adventure De' Monsoon Mania**, a two day fun trip that includes beach games, typical Nepali games Guchha, Chungi, Kabbaddi, drinking competition and live performance by the Saayas band organised by Country Road 4 Hamro Soach in association with Himalayan Enchanter Treks & Expedition. 8 to 9 July, Departure time 6.30am, 9am (rafters), 2pm (non-rafters), Royal Beach Camp

Beauty, Health & Well Being

Midas Services: Luxury Facials from O3+, Mezo Facials by Sara, Midas Facials, Facial Top-Ups, Manicure & Pedicure, Waxing, Hair Services, Hydrotherapy, Ayurveda, Reflexology etc.

Midas Medi Spa  
recently opened inside Norvic Hospital for in patient care and staffs.

MIDAS DAY SPA~SALON  
Transform yourself...

Ph: 4230677, 6922436  
Yak & Yeti Road, Durbar marg, Kathmandu, midas2008@live.com  
www.midasspa.com

the event designer...  
**DIRECTION NEPAL**

t : 4117101-8 f : 4117105  
e : info@directionnepal.com  
w : www.directionnepal.com

seminar AGM workshops banquets exhibitions

**DECC**  
SERVICE WITH HEART

**Direction Exhibition & Convention Center**  
4th Floor, United World Trade Center  
Tripureswor, Kathmandu

काम सानो ठुलो भन्ने हुँदैन । पसिनाको कुनै रङ र जात पनि हुँदैन । काम गरेर खान लजाउनु पनि हुँदैन । चोरेर, ढाँटेर, छलेर, लुटेर खान पो लजाउनुपर्छ । जो जहाँ रहेर जुन काम गर्छ ऊ त्यसैमा रमाउनुपर्छ गौरव गर्नुपर्छ र समर्पित भएर गर्नुपर्छ । काम नै शक्ति हो, भक्ति हो र मुक्ति हो । कामको इज्जत गरौं, पसिनाको सम्मान गरौं ।

नेपाल सरकार  
सूचना तथा सञ्चार मन्त्रालय  
सूचना विभाग

RUSLAN  
100% PURE  
MUSIC

SOMEPLACE ELSE

Daring excursions into Thamel likely begin and end at OR2K, a waterhole for witty wanderers constantly pondering the ultimate question, 'What to do in Kathmandu?' As a figurative trading post on the trekker's trail and a *Lonely Planet* top pick, OR2K attracts travelers of all shapes and sizes from flashpackers, stoked hippy folk and WiFi mongerers. But down to the milk and honey, OR2K (an acronym half in Hebrew that translates into 'light

OR2K

MARCO POLLO

to Kathmandu') is a Zion for vegetarians serving only a wide selection of veggie dishes as diverse as its clientele and specialties in Middle Eastern and Israeli flavors. Unless you're looking to stare at your meal and take in a beautiful presentation void of flavor, avoid the stuffed vegetable combination (Rs 395) that promises stuffed

capsicum, mushrooms and tomatoes topped with goat cheese, yellow cheese and paneer. It's an aesthetic, bland mess. Instead break bread with warm focaccia and naan and dip into the OR2K combination platter (Rs 395), an all-around genuine degustation of the Middle East in bowls of hummus, thaini, labane, babaganesh,

matbucha, falafel and Israeli salad. If you're flying solo, don't fret, there's a small combo platter at Rs 230. Alternatives like the 2K pizza, the pumpkin soup and the OR2K health salad are equally generous and satiating. Wash it all down with fresh mint lemonade, a perfect refresher, and end with a Kiss from Zuri, a delectable cheesecake-

chocolate confection. Seating is plenty (but often packed) and shoes-off and on the floor, redolent of a Yemeni *mafraj* or rooftop lounge. Described as the insides of a hippy's knapsack or a child's fantasy tree house, the interior is decked from floor to ceiling with glowing (for a literal light fest come for dinner) illustrations that make magic realism a stitch too real. Fittingly enough, OR2K has a second branch on Kao San Road, the hippy haven and tourist hub of Bangkok--a fact that speaks volumes. Marco Pollo

Coming from Thamel Chowk turn right into Mandala Street at Sagarmath Bazaar, then right and up the first set of steps.

Space	★★★★
Bread 'n water	★★★★
Service	★★★
Deal-icious	★★★★
Rep-eat?	★★★★

Join The V Generation

RUSLAN VODKA  
100% Pure Vodka  
Drink responsibly



# Rash of rashes



**DHANVANTARI**  
**Buddha Basnyat, MD**

Herpes zoster, which is commonly known as shingles in English, has a more descriptive and apt Nepali name, ‘*janai khatira*’ because the skin rashes often follow the distribution of the thread around the chest and back (pictured). With the janai in mind, it should be easy for Nepali medical students to make this diagnosis when they see this kind of skin lesion in their patient.

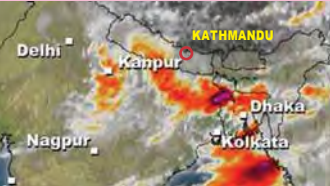
These skin lesions caused by the herpes zoster virus are painful, and it is the same virus that causes chickenpox. A person who has had chickenpox is at risk because the virus, which lies dormant in the nerve can reactivate later in life. Although *herpes zoster* can occur at any age, this problem is more common among people 50 years of age or older. Usually, it starts with a painful itchy rash with blisters. It can appear on the trunk or the face and is usually on one side of the body and lasts for 2-4 weeks. The main complication of *herpes zoster* is the pain

that follows after the rash has subsided, called post-herpetic neuralgia. There is severe skin sensitivity described as burning and sharp pain or itchiness in the area where the rash appeared. Importantly, the pain can be so severe that it can disrupt sleep and make everyday activities difficult to perform. Sometimes shingles may also cause ear pain and vision loss. There are oral antiviral drugs locally available in Nepal like acyclovir, which may reduce the duration of pain and accelerate the healing of the rash. Early treatment may also help avoid complications. But can this painful, common problem be prevented? Yes, but not in South Asia because of the unavailability of this expensive vaccine. In an ideal world everyone above 60 is recommended this vaccine. In Nepal we try to make a proper diagnosis and administer effective drugs. When what is ideal is not practical, what is practical has to be adequate. 🇳🇵



**WEEKEND WEATHER**  
by NGAMINDRA DAHAL

The extra-heavy precipitation this week was caused by the collision of the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal arms of the south-west monsoon over central Nepal. This doubled the amount of moisture, and it fell as rain as the air rose along the southern slopes of the Mahabharat Range. The low-pressure combination of the two monsoon pulses (seen in this satellite image on Thursday) will now move westwards with showers easing up over the weekend. Expect occasional sunny spells in the mornings with overcast afternoon skies and night rain.



FRI	SAT	SUN
23-17	24-17	26-18



## WEATHERCOAT

All Guard

WEATHERCOAT All Guard Truly Durable Exterior Paint



BIKRAM RAI

**SAY SPLASH!** Photojournalists take snaps of children celebrating 15 Asar at a field in Bageshwori, Bhaktapur on Wednesday. The day traditionally marks the beginning of rice planting season.



SAHARA SHRESTHA

**ON THE RISE:** New York City Comptroller John Liu with Gyan Chandra Acharya at a program of Non-Resident Nepalis Association National Coordination Council (USA), held at Intercontinental Hotel, Times Square, New York City, on Sunday. The program celebrated the registration of 1000 new members in the council.



MARCUS BENIGNO

**UPSTAGED:** Blue in Silence, winners of the Alliance Française Kathmandu Music Contest 2011, outshines headliner Betty Argo at the final show of Fête de La Musique at the Nepal Academy Hall in Kamaladi on Sunday.



Empowering Technology

Don't Settle for Old Processors

# Launching the Latest

## 2nd Generation Intel®

### Core™ i3-2310M / i5-2410M Processors



Aspire 4750 / 4750G



Available Through All Our Dealers

**MERCANTILE OFFICE SYSTEMS** Hitti Pokhari, Durbar Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel: 4440773, 4445920, Fax: 977-1-4437088  
Email: market@mos.com.np

**Kathmandu Dealers:** Star Office Automation, Putalisadak-4266820 / Max International, Putalisadak-4415786 / Interactive Computer System, New Road-4227854 / The Waves Group, Lazimpat-4410423 / Click Solution Center, Lalitpur-5536649 / Virgin Mobile, New Road-4260173 / Flash International, New Road-4222384

**Outside Kathmandu Dealers:** Himalayan Office Automation, Pokhara-061-525300 / ECSC Group, Butwal-071-542699 / Birat Infotech, Biratnagar-021-538729 / E-Net Solution, Chitwan-056-572096 / Advance Computer & General Suppliers, Banepa-9851081595 / Ugratara Trading House, Dhangadi-091-523601 / Dinesh Computers, Dhangadhi-091-521392 / Manakamana Hi Tech, Nepalgunj, 081-521473 / Smart Link, Dang-082-561022 / Ugratara Technical Goods & Suppliers, Mahendra Nagar-099-523872 / Gagan Enterprises, Birgunj-9855022388 / 9725141388 / Mega Tech, Biratnagar-021-521794 / Quality Computer, Birtamod-023-540150, 9852672548 / Dinesh Trading house, Nepalgunj-081-527092 / HI-TECH Trade Concern, Chitwan-056-571564





Oh Kathmandu’s a wonderful place, come steaming heat or drenching rain, there’s no doubt about that. Despite the socio-political turbulence with all the dynamism of a quagmire, it’s comforting to live in the heart of the beast, jostling for space with family, friends, and all manner of strangers.

Lately, though, the Valley’s horizons have seemed confining. Meeting people coming and going beyond these green ramparts, as they seem to be doing all the time, I can’t help but feel sometimes that I’m running around in circles, chasing my own tail. Surely interactions with the outside world cannot be sated with cursory headlines and electronic correspondence.

This desire for new experiences is not something that can be quelled for long by a walk through the mountains, or a pilgrimage to western climes to punctuate what is essentially more of the same afterwards. Travel is therapeutic most of the time, but can be oddly akin to what it negates. Being in no place can be as unsatisfying as being in one place.

In Nepal, I’ve



RABI THAPA

# Cabin fever

The monsoon is conducive to staying home, but what’s behind those thunderclouds?

lived at length in Nayabajar, Maitidevi, Gyaneshwor, Maharajgunj, Budhanilkantha, Dhapasi, Mangal Bajar, Sanepa and Kupondole. These are vastly contrasting neighbourhoods, each with their own constellations of society and commerce to provide one

with different perspectives on this ancient place. But they are all facets of the Kathmandu Valley. One is still yoked to the same larger polity, that of the capital of Nepal, meaning one is necessarily beholden to certain provincialisms that are unique to Nepal’s

metropolitans. Travel cleaves through some of these certainties, but for how long and to what degree?

Kathmandu, for all its distortions, offers a combination of amenities that is not available elsewhere in the country. It’s no wonder so many Phorenens, Netas, and Government Employees have made their home here. But many of the Kathmandu Valley’s modern-day attractions exist only because of these species of Sapiens. If a thousand Phorenens or Netas fanned across the towns of the Tarai, would not their residents respond

by furnishing them with the lifestyles that they have become accustomed to?

Three years ago, I moved out of the comfort zone of home sweet home by crossing the river and taking up residence in a series of flats. The idea of moving away from a larger comfort zone and settling in another community within the country is intriguing, but also unsettling. Dharan, Pokhara, Janakpur, or the Limi Valley? I lament the dearth of out-of-Valley narratives I’ve come across to fuel this imagining, but recommendations are welcome. 🇳🇵

New

*Tuscan singles*

**Italian Inspired  
Thin Crust  
Gourmet Toppings**

Tuscan cuisine, from Florence, Central Italy, is known for using flavourful and natural ingredients. Inspired by this fine cuisine, our chef brings you a new range of specially crafted pizzas to tempt your palate. Each of these pizzas is made with our signature hand-stretched thin crust and unique gourmet toppings, specially selected and designed by our chef.

**PEPSI**

Visit Pizza Hut at 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Annapurna Arcade, Durbar Marg  
Available in dine-in only

\*Terms and conditions apply.

**Pizza Hut**

**What are you celebrating today?**



# “We want to see Nepal



In an exclusive interview with *Nepali Times* and *Himal Khabarpatrika*, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar speaks about how his government transformed India’s poorest and most corrupt state into its fastest-growing one. He talks about the challenges ahead and Bihar’s unique relationship with Nepal.

**Nepali Times: What were the key interventions you made to bring about Bihar’s transformation?**  
**Nitish Kumar:** When I assumed office in 2005, I was concerned about poverty, growing inequality and crime in Bihar. The task was tedious, but one has to start somewhere, and I stuck to the basics. If I could address fundamental problems, most of the secondary problems would be taken care of.  
Poverty in Bihar has its roots in lack of access to state distribution of basic services like education and health. We realised that large number of children, especially the girls, stopped going to school after class four or nine. Either, there was no secondary education facility

and they could not travel, or the parents married off their daughters early. So, students from class three onwards are provided with cash every year for school uniforms. The class nine students are given bicycles as an incentive to continue their education. But the biggest decision we took was to open a fixed deposit of Rs 2000 in the name of a girl child from a family living under the poverty line, which is paid to the child when she turns 18. This provides an incentive to the parents to educate their daughter and not worry about their marriage.  
We launched a program under which children up to 14 years and adolescent girls are provided a health card for medical check-ups

and treatment free of cost at government hospitals. Our aim is to provide health insurance to every citizen for which we are studying various health insurance models adopted by other nations.  
**From the least developed state in India, Bihar now ranks among fastest growing states in India, second only to Gujarat. But it is funded by massive central government spending, and your critics call it “denting and painting”. How do you respond to that?**  
Firstly, I disagree with us being compared to Gujarat. Our experience is completely different, they already have a healthy infrastructure in place and their growth is mostly fuelled by multinational

investments, especially in the industrial manufacturing sector. We started from the scratch. The entire state was in ruins when I took over and the economy had slumped to negative growth in 2003-2004  
I agree that Central

government’s budgetary allocation has been crucial to us, but it is also a fact that this huge investment has led to creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs. The planned expenditure of Bihar, which was Rs 32 billion in

Winds of change

ANURAG ACHARYA AND NAVIN JHA in BIHAR



In 2005, Bihar’s annual budget was INR 40 billion. This year it has reached INR 240 billion. In 2005, 2.5 million children were not enrolled in schools, the number has dropped to 730,000 this year. In 2004-2005, the state built only 385km roads, in the last fiscal year alone it has built 3,500 km of roads and 312 bridges. Bihar was once notorious for crime

and political violence. Today, not only Patna even cities in the hinterland have seen sharp decrease in crime.  
To be sure, Bihar still faces a lot of challenges. But if these indicators are anything to go by, the state’s chief minister Nitish Kumar is set to use Bihar’s blistering growth rate of 11.5 per cent to good use in improving infrastructure, ensuring social equity and controlling crime.

Under his ‘Agriculture Road Map’ Nitish Kumar has unleashed what he calls a “rainbow revolution” (*see interview, above*) which tries to combine high productivity, low use of expensive pesticides and fertilisers for organic agriculture. The government is setting up seed banks and farmer schools, promoting sprinkler irrigation and vermi-compost programs. The idea is to improve

Bihar is on the right track, but it still has a long way to go  
harvests and allow multiple cropping throughout the year. A groundwater pumping program will benefit small farmers with irrigation. The grain production in Bihar has already doubled in the past five years.  
In the education sector, the Bihar government is trying to improve girls enrollment by improving accessibility, affordability and awareness among rural folk. It has invested in upgrading 15,000 primary schools to secondary level, and parents are given cash



# develop”

2004-05, increased to Rs 142 billion in 2009-2010. The revolution in transport system in Bihar has had a huge impact on agriculture as farmers from remote areas can now easily transport their produce to the nearest market. So yes, we are actually “painting” a picture of Bihar as the opposition calls it, but certainly a better one than what they managed after 15 years in office.

**Last week, while you were visiting China, your deputy was talking to the American envoy in Patna. Is this a shift in Indian diplomacy, where economy seems to have outweighed traditional geo-politics?**

I went to China on a goodwill visit. The central government had been asking me to lead a delegation to China for sometime now because India and China have this year jointly declared as an ‘year of exchange’. Personally, I was curious as to how a big and populous nation like China could consistently achieve high growth rate over the last decade and I must confess I was thoroughly impressed with their zeal and love for their work. They respect labour and are

sincere about their work. It is their commitment to execute what they set out to do, that has made China what it is today. We have lot to learn from the Chinese and you (Nepal) must learn too. However, the Chinese experience cannot entirely be replicated in India. We are different nations with different governance systems. India has paved its own path to development but we can certainly learn from their technological advancement, culture of hard-work and sincerity.

As far as foreign investment is concerned, Chinese or the American, it has to be seen as an investment in India and not merely in Bihar. The Chinese have expressed their interest in investing in hydroelectricity in our state but it is ultimately for the Government of India to decide.

**Is there a durable solution to the annual flooding on the Kosi and Gandaki?**

Honestly, the problem in finding a durable solution to the flooding problem is neither lack of solution, nor the absence of mechanism. It is the trust deficit. There

are serious misgivings, especially in the Nepali media regarding India’s intention. For some reason, they feel that India wants to protect its areas from floods at the cost of submerging Nepali villages. But this is not true. Nepal is our neighbour and we would never want our neighbors to suffer, not because of us. We want to see Nepal develop. I can say for certain that if Nepal harnesses its hydropower potential, it can become one of the most prosperous nations in the world. Forget about the dams, invest in run-of-the-river projects. You have a guaranteed buyer next-door.

But the fact is, although Bihar is most affected by the flooding, it cannot directly be involved in finding a solution. It is a bilateral issue between India and Nepal which needs comprehensive negotiations and strong political will to implement whatever is mutually agreed upon.

**There have been reports in the Indian media that you have been prevented by the central government from visiting Nepal. Is it true?**

Yes, I have wanted to visit Nepal for sometime now. Once I wanted to go there to encourage and see what our engineers are doing to control Kosi floods. On another occasion, I expressed my desire to visit Nepal to pay my last respects to the late GP Koirala. I am a socialist and have been very close to a socialist leader like BP Koirala when he, along with his brother GP Koirala, lived in exile in India. So it was quite natural for me to want to go to Nepal to pay my respects to the great leader. Unfortunately, the central government did not approve of it.

infections. Bihar’s per capita income is mere \$360 in comparison to India’s national average of \$1265 and one-third of the population of 104 million lives below poverty line. Nearly 60 per cent of the population is below 25.

Bihar has a long way to go before it can claim to be a prosperous state, but the winds of change are blowing south of Nepal’s border. 🇳🇵



ANURAG ACHARYA

## What they don’t tell you

The Nitish Kumar government has indeed transformed Bihar in the last five years. But we have to de-construct this success story.

PRAFFUL KUMAR SINGH

The chief minister certainly has a vision for a prosperous Bihar but he is surrounded by the same people that were there when Laalu and Rabri were in office. After all, no matter how good your policies are, it is up to the authorities at the local level to execute them.

For instance, his incentive-based education policy has led to surge in the enrollment rate but the quality of education in public schools is still very poor. Whenever I pass by a public school in Mahnar and elsewhere in remote Bihar, I see children mostly playing in the field rather than studying.

Once I stopped by and asked the teacher why the children were not in class and guess what she says, “*Hum kathi padhebei? Hamra apne nai kuchho abai.*” (What will I teach? I do not know anything myself.) From “santri to mantri” there is a strong nepotism and appointments are made on the basis of political affiliations. The entire system feeds on corruption.

When I completed my post-graduation from Bihar University in Muzzafarpur, I could not get a job because I did not have any political connections. Five decades down the line, things have not changed much for young graduates here who are all going outside Bihar for opportunities. In 1963, I applied for a job in Nepal and was sent appointment letter by telegram to teach in Mahendra Morang Campus. I was overwhelmed and shocked that they offered me a job without personally knowing me.

Nitish might be a good man but he is surrounded by crooks. The government is building bridges and constructing six-lane roads which will be useful to fuel industrial growth, but how is that possible when we have chronic power shortage? Children study in candle light and if generators don’t work, the whole of Bihar, except Patna, is in dark.

Rice mills in Jainagar and Forbesgunj have been closed for ten years. A big sugarcane factory in Vaishali has been shut for the last 20 years another one in Darbhanga has been shut for years. Patna is safe these days but there is still widespread crime and Naxalite violence in the districts. This is largely, a manifestation of poverty and inequality.

People still go to Patna to get treated for minor ailments and although government hospitals there provide free treatment, they have to spend huge sums of money on pathological tests, medicines, food and accommodation. So, all this hype about ‘change’ mostly boils down to catchy slogans and good media management. Nitish might have come out with his own report card, but Bihar still has a long way to go. 🇳🇵

*Prafulla Kumar Singh is a Professor at RPS College in Mahnar and a social critic. He was recently felicitated by the Nepal government for his outstanding contribution to Maithali literature.*



incentives to send their daughters to school. So far, 1.36 million girls have got free school uniforms, shoes, and bicycles. (pictured, above)

Bihar is the second fastest growing state in India, but the backlog of past decades of corruption and bad governance means there are still serious challenges ahead. “Bihar did not have bad governance, it had no

governance,” Nitish Kumar likes to say. The state faces an acute electricity shortage, and protests against power cuts in April spilled out into the streets with people blocking roads and attacking government offices across Bihar.

The state still has one of the poorest public health facilities. Children regularly die of diarrhoeal dehydration, malaria and other preventable



# Government excesses

Ratna Sansar Shrestha in *Kantipur*,  
27 June

कान्तिपुर

The energy minister announced army deployment to the Upper Karnali hydropower project in Dailekh recently. The radical move comes after activists vandalised and set fire to the office, despite an international convention guaranteeing local rights over water. Actions by both the government and the protestors are unjustified.

The project licence limits generation of 900MW when the potential capacity is 4,180MW, where if full capacity is reached, 11 billion units of electricity can be generated and irrigate 1.5 millions hectares of land. Project proposals will yield only low quality 3.15 billion units. And in terms of revenue, full capacity generation would earn Rs 4.28 billion



BIKRAM RAI

while the 900MW generation would deliver only Rs 833 million. So, local frustrations over the projects are understandable, but vandalism and violence are unacceptable and condemnable.

Unconfirmed news of Maoist and political involvement in the Upper Karnali raid is unfortunate. It is not in the interest of the country to be biased against Indian investment. Nepali investors should get first priority, but generating 4,000MW requires a huge investment for which Nepal's internal resources are insufficient. In the name of power generation, Nepal's sovereignty should not be bargained like Bhutan's.

To reign in local support, a probable solution is to give locals a sense of ownership and involvement in the projects. Deploying the national army, which by law is mandated only in times of war, isn't the answer.



## Getting A NEW LEASE OF LIFE With Transplantation

Transplantation has been known to save lives. It brings hope and life for those suffering from end stage organ failure, blood disorders and blood cancers. Continuous evolvement in research and pharmacology has now opened doors to transplantation which provides better and longer quality of life.

At ParkwayHealth, we believe in providing our patients a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to the clinical treatment and management of their conditions. Haematopoietic and stem cell transplant, living donor kidney and liver transplants form the pillar of our Transplant & Cellular Therapy Programme; and they bring hope and provide life-saving therapies to patients in the world.

### Haematopoietic and Stem Cell Transplant

We provide comprehensive transplantation care from infants to adults with both malignant, benign, genetic and/or blood disorders. This treatment procedure is applicable alone or in combination with other treatments for conditions such as leukaemia, solid tumours, thalassaemia, sickle cell anaemia, metabolic diseases, immune deficiencies and autoimmune diseases.

### Living Donor Kidney Transplant

Our multi-disciplinary team of specialists offers a complete range of medical and surgical interventions to treat patients with kidney diseases including acute and chronic disease management, end-stage disease management and kidney transplantation. We adopt the latest medication and quality care to undertake complicated transplantations for blood group incompatible and crossmatch positive (sensitised group) patients. ParkwayHealth is the first in offering such solutions to patients in Southeast Asia.

### Living Donor Liver Transplant

ParkwayHealth is the first hospital in Asia to perform a Living Donor Liver Transplant in 2002. With the first fully integrated centre for liver transplant and treatment in Asia, ParkwayHealth's Gleneagles Hospital is the only private hospital in Singapore with a dedicated liver Intensive Care Unit (ICU) within the ward. The liver ICU is equipped with sophisticated equipment, liver dialysis machines, monitoring devices, ventilators to ensure that every patient receives the best treatment for his specific liver condition.



**ParkwayHealth Patient Assistance Centre (Nepal)**  
**24-Hour Helpline : (977) 1 422 2908**

Mobile : (977) 985 111 7408 • Fax : (977) 1 422 6795 • Email : ppac@parkway.com.np  
Website : www.ppac.sg

Our ParkwayHealth Patient Assistance Centre (PPAC) provides a seamless and one-stop 24-hour service to our patients, connecting them to a comprehensive choice of medical services and doctors across ParkwayHealth's hospitals.



**Gleneagles Hospital • Mount Elizabeth Hospital • Parkway East Hospital**



(Best Healthcare Experience)

## Anti-corruption mission

Rabi Dhami in  
*Annapurna Post*, 28 June

अन्नपूर्णपोष्ट

Clandestine plans by the Home Ministry to investigate police involved in corruption and bribery were thwarted after the police at headquarters alerted their subordinates.

According to the plan prepared by Home Minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Home Secretary Lila Mani Poudyal and Police Superintendent Rabindra Pratap Shah cross examinations were to start on Monday. But after the headquarters issued the order, police sent circulars to all the officers under the five regional offices.

Following the warning, a dozen highway check posts notorious for collecting bribes including Prithvi, Kodari and Arniko were removed, claims a source.

Spokesperson of the Home Ministry Sudhir Kumar Shah said that he had no knowledge of the secret mission, but expressed grave concern over the leakage from the headquarter.





# Nepalis targeted in Britain

Nabin Phokhrel in London, *Kantipur*, 29 June

कान्तिपुर

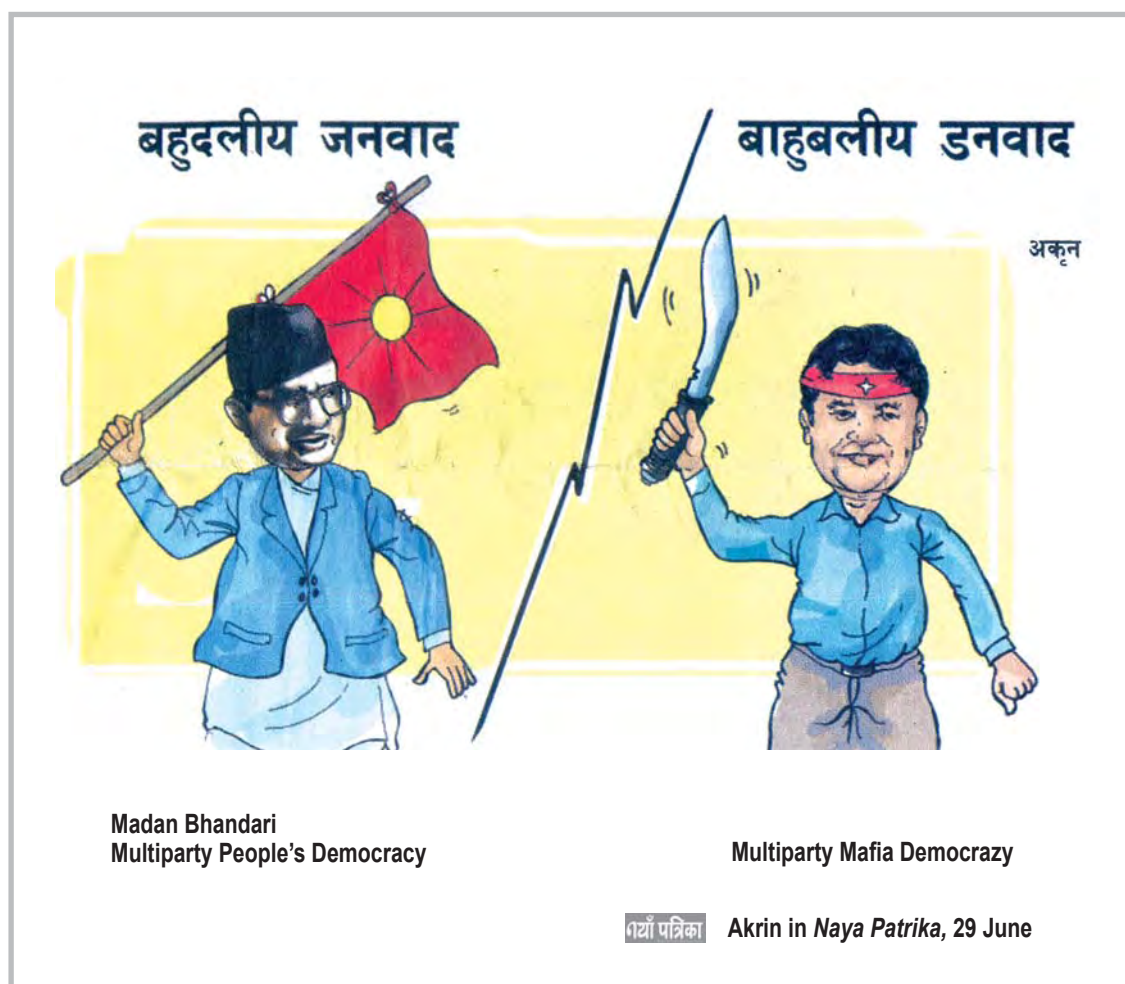
Local authorities in Greater Rushmoor, UK, are investigating motives in a string of attacks against Nepali residents recently.

“It has become hard to walk alone at night,” says a local Nepali, who wishes to remain anonymous.

Clashes between Nepali and British youth in Farnborough, Aldershot and surrounding areas have been on the rise. “A few months ago, local MP Gerald Howarth had expressed dissatisfaction on the increasing Nepali population in the area and now there is a growth in such attacks,” says Tekendra Dal Dewan, president of Greater Rushmoor Nepali Community.

Dewan took the matter to the Rushmoor Borough Council and the Rushmoor Safer Neighbourhood inspector to discuss the issue and discovered that gangs of British boys, involved in the attacks, had been detained in the past but were then released without proper investigation.

But the Rushmoor Safer Neighbourhood inspector Justin Brown insists that authorities are taking the incidents seriously: “We are conducting in-depth investigations on these cases to ascertain whether they are racial or not.”



**TREND MICRO**  
More than an Antivirus

**TITANIUM**  
MAXIMUM SECURITY

**Rs. 999**  
\*Price Inclusive of VAT

neoteric  
NEOTERIC HOTLINE  
18800163631  
Free & Easy At Your Service

**HIMAL**  
KHABARPATRIKA  
30 June – 16 July

**COVER**  
Revolutionary Knots

**EDITORIAL**  
Burden of Revolution

**COMMENTARY**  
Face behind Facebook  
Gender Trouble  
UCPN(M):  
Break-up within

**REPORTS**  
Twenty +2  
Fighting Crime  
Liquidity Crisis  
Inter-basin River Projects

हिमाल  
खबरपत्रिका

बिहे जनवादी  
परिणाम बर्बादी

**BlackBerry**

ECHOAD/NCELL/BB/NO411

**Black & White**

Get your BlackBerry® Bold™ 9700 smartphone, now also in white\*, for Rs. 39990 (incl. of taxes) at Ncell Centres and enjoy complimentary BlackBerry service until July 16, 2011.

**Ncell**

Ncell, Here for Nepal  
www.ncell.com.np

\*limited quantity

BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion® and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Used under license from Research In Motion Limited.



Love is love, no matter what the color

ROYALE PLAY

Love thy Color

For more information email us at [royal.play@asianpaints.com.np](mailto:royal.play@asianpaints.com.np)

asianpaints

# Boxer rebellion

Some people say we need a Lee Kuan Yew to fix things in Nepal. I think things have gone beyond even the Minister Mentor. For example, when the Homeward Minister gave the order last week that there would be undercover spot checks at police stations to curb petty corruption, an alert went out on the police walkie-talkie system: "Spot checks tomorrow. Look smart, keep your hands clean."



Trust the kangresis to be outraged about the Japanese ambassador's proposal to change the name of BP Rajmarga to 'Japan-Nepal



Friendship Highway'. This is probably the first time in the history of Nepal-Nippon relations (after the Neps vs Japs jungle warfare in Burma during WWII) that bilateral ties have been strained. There is no

way the NC is going to agree to letting go of the BP tag, it would be like renaming the 'Nelson Mandela Stadium' the 'FIFA Stadium'. So there is only one way out of this before war breaks out between the two countries again: the Japanese could build us an **East-West Shinkansen**, and call it the Nepal-Japan Friendship Ballot Train.



The Boxer rebellion within the Baddies is getting badder. After Janadisha got shut down, the

feud between the PKD and BRB factions has spilled into Mirmire FM and the national airline. The new Touristic Minister sacked both rival Baddie and UML-backed CEOs and installed his Kalikot left-hand man and revolutionary poet, Comrade Neptune (that is his real name) at the helm. The story is that Khadga Budder kamred wanted Com Yummy's crony out of NAC, and his crony in.



As far as we can make out, Chairman Fearsomeness's game plan is to fill up the entire state machinery with his relatives and cronies. He has already padded the Baddie ethnic state councils with sons, dotters, sons-in-law, nephews, and bros-in-law. His own ABC channel is serialising the life and times of First Lady Sita kamred. CDOs have been replaced, DSPs

and SPs have been transferred to ensure a two-thirds majority in elections next spring. The strategy is to stymie any effort to draft a news constitution till Dasain by backtracking on integration numbers, being absent from Special Committee meetings and wasting time meeting American businessmen.



You must have heard that the census enumerators when along to Nirmal Niwas to count the ex-king. They wished Kingji happy birthday and asked him his ethnic group. His ex-Majesty's reply: "Nepali." After KingG refused to be more specific, the exasperated enumerators themselves ticked 'Thakuri' and left.



# DROOL MUNCH SLURP

Introducing the summer fillers! A succulent, mouthwatering range, that's hard to resist.

Introducing the **BOXMASTER**

A succulent fillet of Hot n Crispy chicken, spicy hash brown, fresh veggies, pepper mayo and cheese wrapped in a toasted tortilla. It's the biggest thing to happen to a meal.

Introducing the **Choc' Amor**

A drool-icious dessert filled with molten chocolate. Bite in and let out the devil inside you.

SPARKLING Virgin Mojito

CRUNCHY Choco Lash

SMOOTHIE Mango Burst