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Landmark policy in MULTI-CULTURALISM launched in Victoria



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Editorial

Revamped Policy on Multiculturalism

Victorian Government launched the latest policy on Multiculturalism- Victoria's advantage - Unity, Diversity and Opportunity. The new and improved policy builds upon the principles and values of multiculturalism and citizenship enshrined in the Multicultural Victoria Act 2011.

The most important feature of the new policy is that it contains a set of indicators which will monitor how Victoria is faring in the support of multiculturalism, citizenship and social cohesion. Collecting and reporting on indicator data will assist government and communities to better identify trends and emerging issues. The newly introduced policy has also adopted the whole-of-government rather than single agency approaches which can have a greater impact on achieving policy goals.

Multiculturalism has been a contested policy and concept since its introduction in Australia in the 1970s. While maintaining some core principles, in the four decades since its introduction, the federal multicultural policies have evolved in response to changing government priorities and responses to the challenges facing Australian migrant communities.

Today all Australian States and Territories have active policies and programs dealing with multiculturalism. Leading the way is Victoria with the reputation of being the most diverse and multicultural state not only in Australia but in the world. With twenty six percent Victorian born overseas and almost forty six percent at least one of the parent born overseas, the state has identified the need to keep updated with the



Ramjee Poudel | Editor
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policy to tackle the issues associated with ethnic diversity. The new policy comes as a step to harness the benefit of that diversity.

From Nepalese community perspective the timing for the new policy could not have been better. The period between 2006 and 2011 Victoria saw the fastest rates of growth in new migrants over the past two decades and that's exactly the time majority of Nepalese had arrived in Australia and the trend continues on. For that very reason, the indicators presented in the new policy seem significantly resonating with the Nepalese being the first generation migrants, as it is going to monitor their productive participation in the broader Australian society, objectively.

Step forward from here is to measure the benefits and impacts of the new policy and programs to determine what works.

As the fastest growing community in Australia, Nepalese are sure to be faced with the challenges of assimilation. So to address that, the Victorian Government has heightened their policy framework to ensure that the community such as ours are equipped to deal with the complexities of diversified society.

We as Nepalese community welcome the Victorian government's new policy and commitments to programs and policies that support the shared benefits of multiculturalism.

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How is the first month of autumn looking for you?

Horoscope March 2014



ARIES

You have quite a few opportunities for professional and financial success and you can work through some trust issues that might be causing you to avoid financial and romantic partnerships. Just be very careful when entering into romantic or financial activities involving friends, teammates, committees, and/or Internet entities. Your professional life and home life are still clashing and both are still upset with you personally. The good news is that you get to launch a "whole new you" during the final days of this month and it may seem to fire them up even more, give yourself permission to re-launch your outer personality.



TAURUS

Friends, teammates, colleagues, and/or the Internet are able to help you with issues concerning an adversary and also with the ongoing political, religious, cultural, academic, legal, travel, or relocation oriented challenges that keep arising. It could be as simple as researching ideas online, asking a friend to help you, or creating a dynamic team to help you bring peace and balance to these areas of your life.



GEMINI

Your boss, father, or an authority figure might be able to help you with a financial challenge. However, it is also highly likely that your own hard work, leadership roles, and willingness to take the high road at work are helping you to resolve the financial issues without assistance. You might want to make a new friend, join a team or club, or launch some kind of an Internet project, but it is probably going to be tough to fund this new activity or you are trying to make this new beginning happen in response to your current financial situation.



CANCER

You are still up to your eyeballs in drama involving you, a partner or rival, and your boss, leadership roles, reputation, or professional goals. However, there are some great opportunities to mediate peace agreements and eventually a completely fresh start with an authority figure and/or within your leadership, reputation, or professional goals.



LEO

I know I keep telling you that the dramas at work are still happening and that you are finding joy in other areas of your life so that you do not pull your hair out, but it is still true. Things are building to a crescendo that will peak next month. Then it sort of just fizzles out. The good news this month is that you two chances to make fresh starts, launch new projects, or to make new connections. One involves romance, loyalty, or finances and the other involves travel, relocation, politics, cultural activities, or advanced education. So, consider how these might help you position yourself for where you want to be when the drama finally ends.



VIRGO

There is still a bit more drama happening at work than what you are comfortable with, but finances seem to be benefiting. Maybe the drama is causing you to work overtime and this adds to your financial security even though it is annoying to have to stay late to fix mistakes and problems caused by others. Your partnerships are doing really well, but you need to be careful about entering new financial or romantic partnerships because there is a bigger than usual chance that things will end up chaotic, argumentative, and could end up feeling rather rebellious about the whole thing.



LIBRA

There has been an ongoing battle between your private life and your public life. This is usually about balancing domestic responsibilities and professional aspirations. To make matters worse, a partner or rival is unhappy with these things and adding to the drama. Towards the end of the month, you will try to create a new alliance, a fresh start, or a renewed battle with this person or with a new partner or rival. The good news is that you have a lot of opportunities to have fun and to make progress towards achieving your professional and financial goals.



SCORPIO

During the first few days of the month, you could give yourself permission to begin having some fun despite all of the drama that is still unfolding at work. Then during the end of the month, you are able to launch some kind of a new beginning or new project at work. You could decide to accept a big assignment, a new client, or a new job working for a completely different company. If you have been struggling with unemployment, you may finally find work. Whatever it is, you will begin creating positive changes by giving yourself permission to enjoy life, including your work.



SAGITTARIUS

Your financial situation or the pursuit of wealth and financial security is making it difficult for you to enjoy some playtime. Your relatives and neighbors are still providing a mixture of fun and annoyances. What has changed is that you are able to bring a lot of emotional, financial, and/or romantic security into your home, private life, and/or retirement plans. You are really enjoying spending time at home. You may decide to host guests rather than going out.



CAPRICORN

The dramas are still going on at home and adding to the battles between you and your spouse, best friend, business partner, rival, enemy, or competitor. The good news is that you have quite a few opportunities this month to mediate, compromise, and work towards some kind of a peaceful agreement. By the end of the month, you are ready to try a new way of doing things at home or you are bringing in a new person or a new relationship with a preexisting person in order to try to get the issues at home to improve.



AQUARIUS

Your career is the main focus of your attention this month. You have some wonderful opportunities to work towards achieving your financial and professional goals. However, you also have quite a bit of drama going on at work too. You are clever and able to maneuver your way around the various challenges, but it is still stressful and something you would rather not have to do.



PISCES

You recently went through a tough time as you were forced or maybe gently enticed into rethinking your political, religious, legal, cultural, academic, media, or travel-oriented philosophies. Now, you are encouraged to explore, learn, and have an open mind as you reconsider what you have always believed. You may end up confirming that what you believe to be true is the truth. Or you may find that you decide to update your beliefs after gathering additional information. This is mostly a fun and fascinating undertaking, not a boring or depressing endeavour.

Nepalese Voice

inclusion, integration & collaboration through media...

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

As this is our 10th edition we would like to thank our readers for the love and acceptance shown towards us. During this journey we have tried to ensure every Nepali household in Australia have an access to our publication. Further strengthen our commitment to deliver the best community news, views and reviews, we have opened up a subscription facility for you.

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Landmark policy in MULTICULTURALISM launched in Victoria

For the first time, a clear set of indicators will be used to measure the state's progress in multicultural affairs. Victorian Government has launched a new multicultural policy amid a press meeting in Melbourne. Minister for Multicultural and Citizenship Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras and Victorian Premier the Hon. Dr Danish Napthine jointly unveiled the new and improved multicultural policy, *Victoria's Advantage - Unity, Diversity, Opportunity*, a landmark Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Policy.

The Policy focuses on three major themes: Maximising the Benefits of our Diversity; Citizenship, Participation and Social Cohesion; and Responsive and Accessible Services.

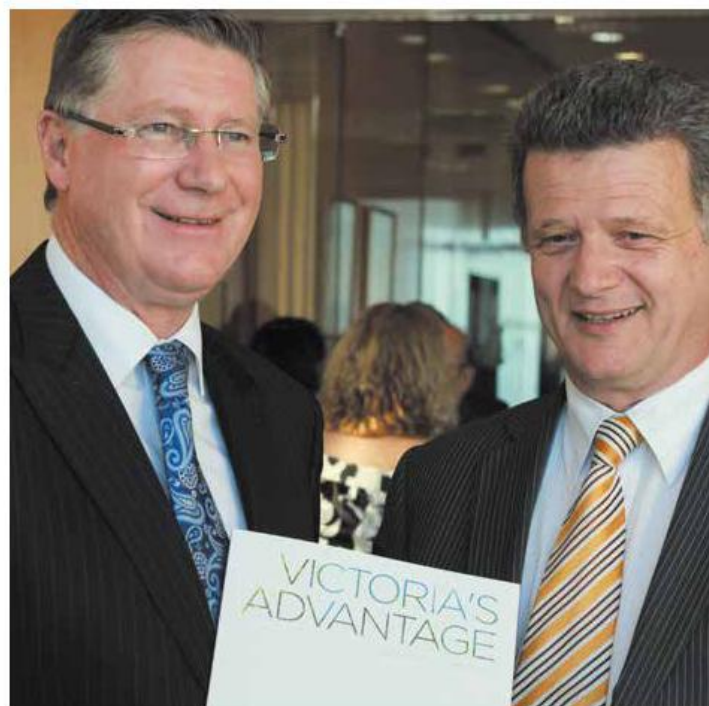
The new policy also stipulates the role of the Victorian Government in relation to multiculturalism, government's approach to legislation, policy and responsive services and programs, understanding the trend of Victoria's growing diversity as well as recognising the challenges and the opportunities that comes with the state's changing demography.

Victoria's Advantage outlines a plan to support social cohesion and citizenship, while reducing instances of racial and religious discrimination.

Addressing the event Hon Minister Kotsiras said Victoria is one of the most culturally diverse and cohesive societies in the world that is built on rich and multifaceted cultural heritage and this diversity underpins our identity as community. He asserted that multicultural community offer important connections to the rest of the world and make considerable contributions to the future prosperity.

Mr Kotsiras, himself a first generation Greek immigrant, paid tribute to the important contributions of Victoria's multicultural communities.

"Our state's cultural diversity is embraced as a source of pride and



presents tremendous opportunities going forward," Mr Kotsiras said. "As a government and a community, it is vital that we commit ourselves to strengthen Victoria's harmonious reputation for future generations."

Talking about the newly formed policy Minister Kotsiras said that the new policy was developed after extensive community consultation and is built on a solid foundation of partnerships within the Victorian community. He pointed that the new policy aims to establish social cohesiveness.

Premier Dr. Danish Napthine spoke about how the migrant community has contributed to the economic prosperity of Victoria. He said without the waves of migration to Victoria and Australia over the past centuries, we would not have the strong economy or the rich, diverse society that we have today. He added that the Victorian Government has always been proud of its cultural diversity and has a strong reputation for harnessing and developing its benefits. Premier also made a point that the Government

has made international engagement a priority, through Government led trade missions. He emphasised that the Victorian Government is committed to programs and policies that support the shared benefits of multiculturalism and the new policy is the testament of that.

"With more than 26 per cent of Victorians born overseas, Victoria is already a leading example of the many ways in which cultural diversity enriches our society," Dr Napthine said.

"This policy demonstrates the Victorian Coalition Government's commitment to diversity, using clear indicators such as labour force participation and school retention to strengthen multicultural affairs and citizenship in our great state."

Victoria's Advantage outlines a plan to support social cohesion and citizenship, while reducing instances of racial and religious discrimination.

The policy focuses on three major themes: Maximising the Benefits of our Diversity; Citizenship, Participation and Social Cohesion; and Responsive and



Premier Dr. Danish Naphthine spoke about how the migrant community has contributed to the economic prosperity of Victoria. He said without the waves of migration to Victoria and Australia over the past centuries, we would not have the strong economy or the rich, diverse society that we have today. He added that the Victorian Government has always been proud of its cultural diversity and has a strong reputation for harnessing and developing its benefits. Premier also made a point that the Government has made international engagement a priority, through Government led trade missions.

Accessible Services.

"A more comprehensive picture of Victoria's progress in multicultural affairs and citizenship, will better assist in identifying emerging trends and issues," Dr Naphthine said.

Program was attended by several ethnic media representatives and community leaders. Hon. Consul General of Nepal to Victoria, Mr. Chandra Yonzon, President of Nepalese Association of Victoria Mr. Bom Yonzon and the Chairman of Victorian Multicultural Commission Mr. Chin Tan were also present at the event.



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Embassy promotes Nepal in the largest multicultural festival in Canberra

The Embassy of Nepal in Canberra participated in the Multicultural Festival held at the Canberra Centre in the Australian Capital Territory by putting an Embassy Stall on 8th February 2014. The stall was decorated with beautiful Nepali posters depicting the various natural, cultural and historical sites of Nepal which attracted many visitors and helped generate interests in Nepal as a unique tourist destination. A Nepali promotional audio-visual CD was played on TV screen continuously the whole day.

The Embassy stall was manned by the Embassy staff and families and all the visitors were handed posters, tourist brochures and promotional materials about Nepal. Posters of Lumbini, the sacred birthplace of Lord Buddha, and Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) were also included in the packages distributed to the visitors explaining their special attractions and significance. Queries and curiosities of the visitors were explained and answered by the attending Embassy staff so as to encourage them to make



Nepal their next travel destination.

On the last day of the event, the Nepali community in Canberra had also presented Nepali dance performance representing various aspects of the rich Nepali culture and tradition. The Multicultural Festival is the largest annual event of its kind organized in Canberra by the ACT authorities and the three-day event attracts an estimated crowd of about three hundred thousand visitors.

Rajendra Pandey, new deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of Nepal



Mr. Rajendra Pandey has assumed his role as a new deputy chief of mission in the Nepalese Embassy in Australia. Mr Pandey was the director at the department of passport before arriving to Australia to take on his new role.

Mr Pandey was born in Manebhanjyang VDC-4, Guranse Bhojpur. He entered government service in 1998 as a section officer in the ministry of foreign affairs and later worked as first secretary in the Embassy of Nepal in Qatar and Canada.

Mr Pandey succeeded the former deputy chief of mission Mr. Lok bahadur Thapa who completed his term successfully before returning home recently.



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Table Tennis Australia acknowledges Atul's Talent

Nepali origin boy from Victoria, Atul Shrestha has been acknowledged by Table Tennis Australia. TTA has made a statement to encourage the remarkable talent and the strong work ethic that Atul possess in his game of Table Tennis.

According to the statement, Atul is a current member of the National Junior Squad and he has achieved outstanding results on a national level in both the U13 and U15 boys age group. The highlight of some of his achievements are Silver medal at Australian Cadet Top - 10 Ranking Tournament, Silver medal at Australian Junior Open U15 Boys

Team Event, Bronze medal at Australian Junior Open U15 Boys Doubles Event, Gold medal at Victorian Cadet Championship.

The statement also says that Atul has the potential to represent Australia at international benchmark events such as Commonwealth Games or World Team Championship in the mid-to long term future. Atul has committed himself to become an internationally successful table tennis player.

Atul currently ranks fourth in the national ranking of Table Tennis in Under-15 category.



Nepali section in state library of NSW

The State library of New South Wales has opened up a separate Nepali section. The state government has started the collection of Nepali language books in the library owing to the increasing number of Nepali spoken migrants in the state.

Readers can borrow Nepali books from the state library or talk to the local council as they are said to be working together to give easy access to books for Nepalese living across the state.

The library has collected more than one thousand Nepali books so far. The Nepali branch of the library will be unveiled formally on Saturday, 22 March, 2014 at Rockdale library in Sydney's north. The program will be held in association with State Library, Rockdale City Council and St George Migrant Resource Centre.

Books on Nepali literature, art, culture, politics, civilization, history and so on will be available at the library.

Nepali literature echoes in Sydney

Nepali literary figures are getting more organised to promote Nepali language and literature in Australia.

A poetry recitation program was held in Sydney recently in the presence of Nepali writers Basu Shakya and Shovakanta Gaudel who have arrived from Nepal. A number of Nepali writers living in Australia also attended the poetic function.

Various genres of poetry in the languages that exist in Nepal were presented during the monthly program organized by the International Nepali Literature Society (INLS), New South Wales.

Aspiring and experienced literary living in Sydney recited their creations at the function. They presented their creations such as poems, songs and satire. Basu Shakya, Prakash, INLS, NSW chairman- Bhimshen Sapkota, Vice chairman Kumar Giri, General Secretary Sanu Ghimire, Treasurer Mahendra Paudel, members Rumu Neupane and other writers such as Nisprav Sajee, Kened Pradhan, Shree Napit, Santoshi KC, Pratichhya Pandey including others presented their literary piece.

Stating that non-resident Nepalese have contributed a lot to promote Nepali language and literature, the participants



said INLS should take initiatives to preserve and promote Nepali national language. Writer Shakya also offered some of his literary deeds to INLS. INLS organizes a literary function every month in Sydney.

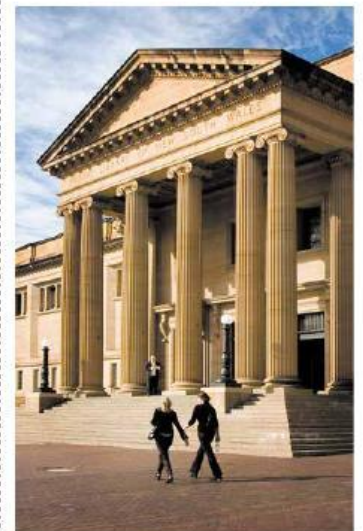
Shabdamala opens its third branch in Sydney

The third branch of Nepali language school "Shabdamala" has begun conducting classes in north Baitara, Sydney. The classes have started in Baitara Public School from February 9, Sunday with 17 students.

According to a parent Ashim Lamshel, the class has been conducted with an aim to teach Nepali language, art, culture as well as tradition to Nepali children living in north Sydney suburbs.

According to the coordinator the Nepali language class will be run every Sunday 10 to 12 pm. Shabdamala has been conducting Nepali language class in Granville and Campsie now. Bikram Sharma Kharel, chairperson of Shabdamala, said it would extend its outlets as per the demand of Nepalese living in Australia. The school has well trained teachers and some of parents have been volunteering, too.

The school is running in compliance with community language school of the state government.



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Nepali Engineer awarded with GN Alexander Medal in Australia

Engineers Australia has awarded the prestigious GN Alexander Medal for Hydrology and Water Resources to Nepali engineer Durga Lal Shrestha. The award has been handed to Shrestha and his co-authors for their research paper in hydrology and water resources in an Australian publication over the period.

Engineer Shrestha and his team's research evaluated rainfall forecasts from the first generation Australian Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models over the Ovens catchment in southeast Australia. It also evaluated stream flow forecasts produced using the NWP rainfall forecasts as input to a hydrological model.

GN Alexander was one of the greats in the early years of Australian hydrology. He was a member of the working committee which produced the first Australian Rainfall and Runoff and a regular



contributor at Hydrology Symposia.

The Award is presented at each Hydrology and Water Resources Symposium, held approximately at eighteen



month intervals. The award is judged by a panel appointed by the National Committee on Water Engineering. It was first awarded in Canberra in February 1988.

Nepalese in Australia launch aggressive campaign to correct Buddha's birthplace info

In a bid to establish the fact that Lord Gautam Buddha was born in Nepal and to preach the relevance of Buddha's teaching in modern world, Nepalese living in Australia have launched a campaign.

The campaign aims at correcting the misconception regarding the birth place of Lord Buddha and promoting Lumbini in global stage. The campaign in association with Australia-based "Buddha Jayanti Mul Samaraho Samiti" is already getting success as they recently corrected a scripted version on Buddha in Nantianyi shrine.

Meanwhile, a dozen of Australia-based Nepali organizations are to organize various programs jointly to mark upcoming Buddha Jayanti and promote Nepal in Australia. The organizations include

NRNA welcomes the guidelines for migrant workers in Qatar

The Non Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) has welcomed the regulatory guidelines to safeguard the rights and working conditions of migrant workers introduced by the Qatar Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy.

For some time, our attention has been drawn by the media on the fact that some Nepalis, among other migrant labourers in Qatar, were not getting the working conditions they were promised, said NRNA in a press statement.

With the new development, we



hope it will send a strong message to employers, who were not doing the right thing, the umbrella organisation of Nepali diasporas said. NRNA also expressed its gratitude to all parties and stakeholders that contributed to voice their support for the workers and most importantly the Qatar Government for stepping and taking such a bold decision in favour of the migrant workers. We urge the Qatar Government to continue and improve its commitment in safeguarding workers' rights, their safe working conditions and welfare, NRNA said.



Nepalese celebrated Maha Shivaratri in Australia

Nepalese living in Australia have celebrated Mahashivaratri festival at the Pashupatinath temple in Sydney. Mahashivaratri was observed at the Pashupatinath temple located in 22 Tawolt Road of Guildford organized by Nepali Hindu Samaj, Sydnev.

A special worship was held at Pashupatinath temple that commenced from 7 am on 27 February, Wednesday that continued till 8 pm. Hindu devotees thronged the temple from early morning to pay homage to Lord Bholenath. They were happy to have got an opportunity to celebrate their cultural festival even when they are away from their homeland.

Bhajan program in NSW on 9th of March

Nepalese Hindu Society of Australia (NHSa) is celebrating 'Maha Shivratri' (the 'Great Night of Shiva') festival organizing a program in New South Wales. NHSa is organizing "Bhajan Program" on the occasion of 'Maha Shivratri' festival. The program is slated for 9th March, Sunday, 2014 at Granville Town Hall, 10 Carlton Street, Granville, NSW.

The program will kick off at three in the afternoon. Local singers will be participating and singing 'Bhajan'. According to the organizer, aspirant

participants can contact Pandit Prakash Dhodari on 0411 838 449 for further information.

NHSA since its establishment in 2010 has been organizing several programs to celebrate religious occasions in Australia.

Maha Shivratri is a Hindu festival celebrated every year in reverence of Lord Shiva. Devotees take all-day fasting and an all-night-long vigil (Jagarana). Throughout the festival, the devotees chant the sacred Panchakshara mantra dedicated to Lord Shiva "Om Namah Shivaya,"

Millions of Hindus attend Shivaratri together from different part of the world at the famous Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu, Nepal. Thousand of devotees also attend Mahasivaratri at all the different famous Shiva Shakti Peetham of Nepal.

The festival was originally celebrated on 27 February this year.

Buddha Darshan Committee, Sherpa Samaj, Tamu Samaj, Guthi Australia, Chinari Nepal, Thakali Samaj including others. They are to organize peace rally, Buddha photo exhibition, sports, Bipasyna, meditation including other programs amid various communities. The joint program will be held at Tempe Park of Sydney on 18th March.

The campaigners said they peacefully and intellectually retaliate against those who try to distort the fact of Buddha's birth place.

Nima Sherpa, the program coordinator, said the event will prove significant to promote Nepal in international arena and establish the fact that Buddha was born in Nepal.

Nepalis living across the world have been organizing various campaigns to discard the wrong information relating the topic..

VISITING PARENTS

Bharat Simkhada and Sita Simkhada

The highlight of our Australian tour was that we were able to drink tea while the car was on 100km/hr

Even though I had travelled fair bit around Nepal, my only travel overseas was as far as to India. Years of rigid daily routine had not allowed me to go anywhere. But accepting an invitation from the families living in Australia me and my wife Sita Simkhada decided to embark on a great Australian journey last year. After a long and tiring flight we landed in Melbourne on 4th of June last year.

As soon as we touched down at Melbourne airport my Australian adventure began. The first challenge was thrown at me right away when I was asked to explain the custom officer about the gifts and souvenirs that we had brought from Nepal for our daughter, son in-law and our little grand-daughter. My inadequacy in English language was not helping the situation either. I used whatever little I knew of English and tried to get my message across. After all everyone understands the language of genuineness. After two hours of checking, the officer was satisfied enough to let me out. Anxiously waiting were the families that had come to receive us from the airport. The hugs and kisses with them had just made us forget about what had happened on the way out.

We jumped in the car and headed to Glenroy where my daughter was living. The very first day I realized how punishing can Melbourne's weather be? May be I was feeling it even more cause I had just come from Nepal's summer. The

Not only the infrastructures but I was also impressed with the fact that everyone gets treated equally here. The compassion shown to a patient at the hospital, medical facility a specially designed platform for disables, the time table of public transport time table, we have got to learn so much from this country.

next day we were taken to Melbourne CBD and Swinburne University. Unlike in Nepal, all the similarly designed houses and organised traffic rules and regulation fascinated me. When we got to the city to observe those several storey tall buildings so closely that made me realize how far behind we are back home.

My daughter Jyoti Simkhada and my son in-law Nirajan Gauli have done the best they can to make our stay comfortable in Australia. Since they know that I come from an education back ground they have been taking me around to the educational institutions and universities for a visit. Visiting Melbourne University, Monash and Deakin Universities were pleasant experiences at the same time the realization that we are so backwards made me sad. I also notice that the government invests so much in education here. That has helped the little children get the best education unlike back home where children have to struggle for the most basic facility.

During our nine months stay here, I have had opportunities to travel many places. Adelaide, Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, Great Ocean Road, Queenscliff to Sorrento by ferry, Shepparton and many other places that we have visited, I found



one striking similarity. The facilities are equally distributed. There are proper motor roads everywhere, electricity, transportation, town planning, everything is pre-planned. The highlight for me was that we were able to drink tea while our car was being driven at 100km/hr. That is obviously because of straight roads and smooth drive. That is not a possible scenario in Nepal.

Not only the infrastructures but I was also impressed with the fact that everyone gets treated equally here. The compassion shown to a patient at the hospital, medical facility a specially designed platform for disables, the time table of public transport time table, we have got to learn so much from this country.

In saying that there are things here that I wish there wasn't. People here find it so normal to have left their parents in nursing home. That saddened me a lot. May be that's not in my culture, but I wished if every elderly gets to spend their end days with their families.

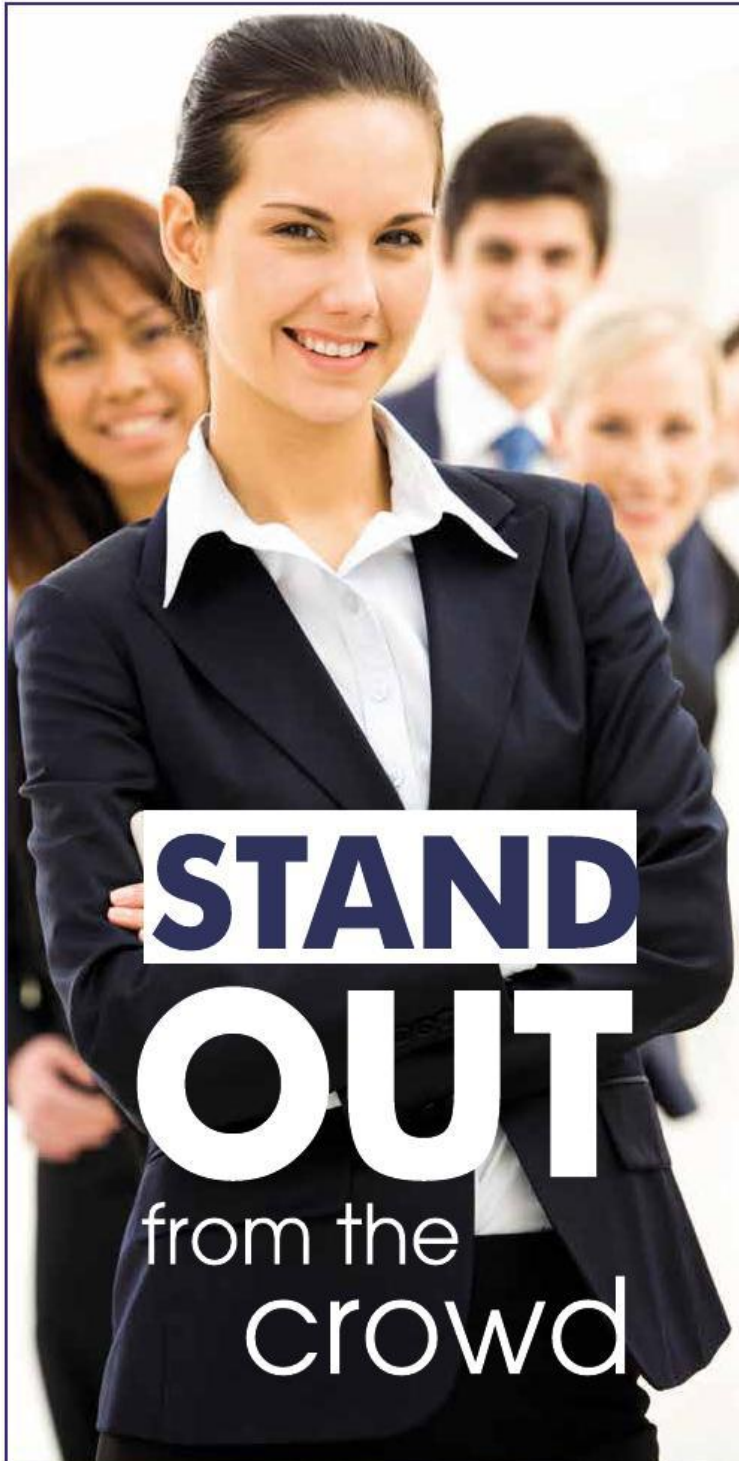
It was quite difficult for us in some ways to adjust with the isolated life-style. Back home we are always on the go but not having to do anything and not having anyone to talk to, was quite hard. But thank god our little princess grand-daughter Nirjala has made our life so much easier. When she is there all

the loneliness goes away. She has been a great companionship.

I was very happy to discover that there are so many Nepalese living here. I have attended many Nepali community events in last nine months. From the father's day ceremony organised by Narayan Kafle Bhai, Lumbini Kapil Vas-tu Day ceremony, Pipalbot tea party or the mega event like MAHA Yatra, every time I went to these Nepali functions I felt closer to home. It's quite pleasing to see our new generations putting in so much effort to preserve our culture and tradition in foreign land.

I also figured that the bunch of Nepalese here is the intellectual ones that came filtered from Nepal and left behind the ones that are of no use. I also understand that if there is any hope for Nepal to get better, it's you guys who have to take responsibilities. Quarter of the country's population is now overseas. Most of them are either old or too young. Who is going to work for the country's prosperity? That is my worry. If we can bring the political situation back on track there is so much we can do. And I want you all to come back home with skill, knowledge and little bit of money so you can return the love to your elderly parents and the country. And thank you all for making my Australia stay enjoyable.





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WEAVING OF CULTURES

Nepal marches in PAKO FESTA

Nepal participated in one of Australia's premier multicultural festival Pako Festa in Geelong on 22nd of February. This was the second consecutive year that Nepali team marched the vibrant town to ensure Nepal's representation in the culturally enriching event.

The annual 32nd Pako Festa was organized by Diversitat on which more than ninety different organizations of indigenous nationalities took part. The event was expected to attract more than hundred thousand visitors and would inject about AU\$ 2.5 million to the local economy.

Pako Festa is the largest free celebration of cultural diversity in Australia being organized annually since 1983. It provides a common platform for multicultural communities, professional performers, community groups, schools, businesses, street traders and artists from all walks of life to be acquainted among each other. The festa includes cultural food stalls, folk dancing, the famous Pako Parade, workshops, art exhibitions, films, craft displays, free activities for children and an amazing day of non-stop entertainment. It is a free event that welcomes all who want to share the enriching experience of multiculturalism.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Nicholas Kotsiras inaugurated the festival this year. Addressing the event, Mr Kotsiras said the festa is a major highlight on Victoria's multicultural events calendar, and makes a significant contribution to Victoria by promoting the values of diversity, acceptance and harmony.

The Victorian Coalition Government has provided \$70,000 to Diversitat through the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship and Citizenship's Unity Through Partnerships Program for the festival. Mr Kotsiras said the Victorian Government is proud to support the Pako Festa, and it recognized the invaluable work of Diversitat.

The theme of this year's event was 'Weaving of Cultures' which openly welcomes visitors and participants to celebrate ethnic diversity.

In the Festa, Nepali participants set up stalls to promote Nepal as a land of

Lord Gautam Buddha and Sagarmatha (Mt Everest). Clad in Nepali traditional attires, Nepalese attempted to promote Nepal through Nepali flags, banners, posters, and other typical Nepali handicrafts. A number of foreigners also mingled with Nepali team while taking out a march pass. A Nepali 'Lakhe Naach' remained a centre of attraction for visitors for its unique feature of tradition.

Chandra Yonzon, honorary consul General of Nepal to Victoria, conferred 'Lumbini-Kapilbastu Day Campaign, Friends of Nepal 2013' award on two Australians Brad Clark and Graham Kent who have been actively contributing towards the community development of Nepal in various ways. Addressing the award felicitation function, Mr

Yonzon extended his gratitude to all of those involved in the festival to ensure Nepal's participation. He especially thanked Ram Kumar Shrestha, Global co-ordinator of Lumbini-Kapilbastu Day Campaign who initiated the idea since last year. Co-ordinator Shrestha, on behalf of the campaign, expressed gratitude to all for being part of the event. Likewise, Nepalese Association of Victoria President Bom Yonzon said it was a matter of pride for Nepal and its people to attend such a massive international function.

Similarly, NRNA coordinator Rishi Kandel explained how Victoria is a place of unity in diversity and Nepal an integral part of this multicultural community. Miss Nepal Australia 2012 Dipashree

Shah who resembled Kumari (living goddess) and Anupam Dhoj Kiran who personified of Lord Buddha with his attire attracted the attention of many. At the another phase of the program, 11-year-old Atithi Acharya and 7-year-old Paribhasa Shrestha performed traditional Nepali dance.

Lumbini-Kapilbastu Day Global Campaign and Geelong Nepalese Association had played an important role to make the participation possible for Nepalese team.

Similarly Nepali Sanchar Radio, Nepali on-line radio from Melbourne and the event management company Solangture had contributed a great deal to ensure Nepal's meaningful participation in Pako Festa-2014.



PAKOFESTA

Festival Experiences:



RAM KUMAR SHRESTHA

Co-ordinator of Nepal's participation in Pako Festa



We learnt that there was this huge multicultural festival called Pako Festa that happens in Geelong every year since 1983. The festival had seen around one hundred thousand visitors since last four years. As Nepalese living in Australia, we thought there could not be a better opportunity than this to promote Nepali arts, culture as well as to assert Nepal's identity as the country of Lord Buddha and the Mt. Everest. We are extremely satisfied with the participation of our community in the festival two years in a row. Last year we had Nepalese come from Melbourne and Ballarat, this year some even made it from as far as Warrnambool.

There are many things that could have been better in terms of our participation. Nepali stall was not adequately set up, Lakhe Dance started twenty minutes later than scheduled but these technical glitches are part of every event management process. What mattered was our participation.

Lastly, I want to make a point here that I still feel the majority of the Nepalese living in Australia have not been able to utilise the great platform that we have in this festival. We are willing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in Nepal festival but we hesitate to take part in an event that is of even more significance, free and in someone else organises it for us. Why can't we use it as Nepal festival every year? I notice people from other countries have understood that and they make the most out of this festival. I hope our community will understand this so we have better participation next year.

This year Newar community showed their strong participation and I am hoping we will have our entire ethnic groups taking part in Pako Festival next year. It is after all about Unity in Diversity.

Deepashree Shah

Miss Nepal Australia-2012



Nepal was promoted at the Pako Festa for the first time in 2013 by the initiation of Ram Kumar Shrestha, global co-ordinator of Lumbini Kaplivastu Day Movement. Back then, I was the flag bearer of Nepal wearing a traditional Thakuri Red Dress and had performed a Kumari Dance at the stage to show talent from Nepal. The dance and my get up as Kumari were appreciated by many audiences. I still remember many people gazing at me and very keen to know who I am and where I was from, when I was walking down the street as Kumari. The look of kumari made many people excited. At one point, I was sitting at a Nepalese stall when people came to ask me for a photograph and wanted to learn about Kumari and the culture of Nepal.

That very instant, I set up my mind to become Kumari in 2014 and walk in the parade along with other Nepalese participants to try and seek more attention and admiration from a large crowd of people to our country, Nepal, as compared to the previous year. Being Kumari and walking at the parade this time was a good decision, I felt. According to my observation, many people cheered and called out Nepal, many were clapping for Nepal, shooting videos and taking our pictures. Indeed, we all Nepalese Participants were able to make a mark at this year's Pako Festa as the response from the audience was huge this time. All in all, I am very glad that we were able to nail it like this and am looking forward to be a part of this event again next year in February, 2015 and would also like to encourage every Nepalese from Australia to be a part of it.

Pranish Manadhar

Musician



I got a chance to represent my country in Pako festival this year, which was a great experience for me. It was the first time in my life that I wore a Newari (Ethnic group from Kathmandu) traditional dress "jyapu dress", which gave me a great sense of pride. To march amongst several thousand people carrying country's flag felt like as if I was in an Olympic parade representing my country. The feeling was indescribable. The parade became exceptionally satisfying when Lakhe dance was performed. To witness Lakhe dance be performed in Australia was a pure joy and some newari live music on the scene had added to the atmosphere.

Attending Pako Festival was definitely a highlight out of many events I have attended, not only because I got a chance to represent my country and culture but also because I got to see many different cultures converge in one spot to exchange their originality and their ethnicity. That is the great characteristic of the multicultural society that we live in.

In short, Pako festa was an experience that would last for a lifetime. I would like to urge all the Nepalese people living in Victoria to attend the next year's Pako festival.

NADF holds 7th convention in Sydney, elects new executive board

Nepalese Australian Democratic Forum (NADF), the oldest organization of Nepalese living in Australia, held its 7th General Convention on Saturday, 22, February 2014 in Sydney.

The program was held at Oban Soccer Club. In the close session, incumbent treasurer Rabindra Ghimire presented financial report whereas General Secretary Rajkumar Adhikari tabled annual report of the organization.

Incumbent chairperson Surendra Sigdel chaired the convention that unanimously elected new executive committee for next two years.

Bal Chandra Bhattarai, a former member of the organization, has been elected unopposed as chairman after another candidate, incumbent vice-chairman Niraj Shrestha, withdrew his candidacy.

Likewise, Rajkumar Adhikari has been elected as vice chairman, Gyanendra Regmi as general secretary, Madhav Gaire and Bipin Thapa as secretary, Dila Kharel as treasurer and Bharat Paudyal, Krishna Giri, Komalraj Pathak, Kshitiz Koirala, Chhabi Sapkota, Shree Ram Lamsal and Santosh Koirala have been elected as members.

The convention has also nominated Niraj Shrestha as a senior advisor.

Representatives from various organizations and members of NADF attended the convention.

Addressing the function, newly-elected chairperson Bhattarai pledged to move ahead with new programs keeping the organisational integrity intact.

Former NADF general secretary Janaki Paudel, NRNA Australia former president



Ganesh K C, vice president Prem Sapkota, NRNA ICC spokesperson Mana KC, officiating chairman of Public Relation Committee Australia Suresh Gurung including former NADF chairpersons addressed the meeting.

NADF was established on 28 September 1998 in Surry Hills, Sydney Australia. NADF is a non-profit Nepalese social and community organization that aims to link Nepalese living in Australia who believe in democracy and democratic values.

ONF convention concludes, Dr Shrestha elected chairman



Overseas Nepalese Forum (ONF) Australia held the second general convention in Sydney electing an executive committee under the leadership of Dr. Binod Shrestha.

CPN-UML foreign department Chief Bhim Rawal was present at the program as the chief guest.

The convention was held on 1st and 2nd of March in Sydney that elected three vice chairmen, general secretary, secretary, treasurer and members. Ram Ranabhat from Melbourne has been elected the first vice chairman, Ramesh Paudel from Brisbane as second vice chairman and Santosh Dahal from Sydney as third vice chairman through a vote in the new executive committee.

Likewise Keshav Joshi has been elected as general secretary, Pawan Acharya as secretary, Ram Prasad Ghimire as treasurer and Goma Mainali, Sagar Prajapati, Hari Lamichanne, Ramesh

Pandey, Raj Kumar KC, Madhu Panthi, Krishna Prasad Neupane, Raju Gauchan and Raju Upadhyaya have been elected as members.

Addressing the convention held at Russian club of Sydney, chief guest Rawal urged all to be optimistic that new constitution of Nepal would address the demands and aspirations of entire class, region and ethnic group of Nepal.

Forum's former chairman Hari Lamichanne chaired the formal function. Similarly, Nepali ambassador to Australia Rudra Kumar Nepal, Honorary Consul General of Nepal to Victoria Chandra Yonzon, Non-Residential Nepali Association's Patron Indra Ban, secretary Ranju Thapa, spokesperson Mana KC, and NRNA Australia chairman Mahendra Oli congratulated new executive committee and wished for successful completion of their tenure.

Likewise, other representatives of



Nepali organizations active in Australia, Public Relation Committee chairman Santosh Sitaula, Public Progressive Forum Australia's general secretary Himlal Gaire, Federal Socialist Party chairman Ganesh Tamang including others also extended their best wishes to new executive committee. Likewise Dharmaraj Adhikari, senior advisor to the forum, Dr. Jagdish Timilsina as well as other representatives of Nepali community in Sydney expressed their views at the event.

Similarly, representatives, supporters and well-wishers of the Forum from Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, Darwin,

Adelaide and Canberra also attended the convention.

Speaking at the program, newly elected chairman Dr. Shrestha pledged to make the institution active for the welfare of Nepali people living in Australia by coordinating with other organizations. Stating that Australia's experience on democracy, federalism and good governance can be the guidelines in the development of Nepal, and ONF will also work in these areas. Incoming President Dr. Shrestha vowed to run various programs in a bid to assist Nepalese living in Australia and their welfare.

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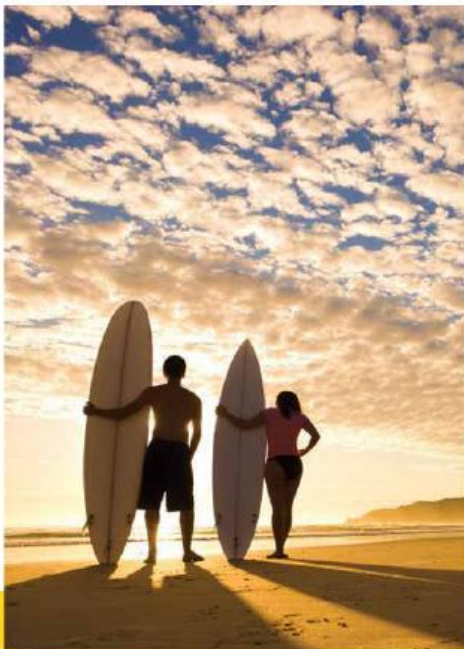
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Dr Chintamani Yogi to visit Melbourne

Spiritual Guru, Dr Chintamani Yogi is visiting Melbourne on 8th & 9th of March for Pravachan and Kid summer camp.

He will deliberate Pravachan at Ramayan Satsang program being held in Glen Waverly and run the kid summer camp at the Nepalese Consulate office.

Dr Yogi has founded and led several organizations in Nepal all with a strong and conscious commitment to interfaith ideals. In particular, he established the Hindu Vidya Peeth movement consisting of 3 schools supporting underprivileged and orphaned children to receive education on a non profit basis. The children are encouraged to develop human virtues such as peace, harmony and love in the form of international brotherhood. He also established Shanti Sewa Ashram whose objectives are: "To promote peace and spirituality at every level of society, to help the poor and disadvantaged, and to provide a forum for spiritual and peace-oriented organizations in an attempt to unite the effort." In addition, he founded a Youth Society for Peace aiming to support young people in understanding the values of peace, tolerance and selfless service, and to develop various projects enabling these ideals to be put to voluntary action, for example a street-children food program designed to provide food, care and education. Similarly, he runs various other community based programs-Helping Children Study Club, Children's Peace Home and Women's Education/Training Program etc to reform society in totality.

kids summer camp & Prawachan

- by Guru Dr Chintamani Yogi

Prawachan at Ramayan Satsang

Saturday, 8th March 2014
Date: Saturday, 8th March 2014

Location: 4 Crows Lane, Glen Waverly, VIC 3150.
Melway Ref: 62 C10
Start Time: 6:30 p.m. (Sharp)
End Time: 9:30 p.m. (approximately)



Cultural & Spiritual Kids Summer Camp

1. Bhajans
2. Yoga and meditation
3. Powerpoint presentation
4. Games based on "moral stories"
5. Leadership skills
6. Values for kids
7. Enhancing relationships
8. Listening and communicating
9. Chinanu Nepal
10. Be a proud Nepali

Date: Sunday, 9th March 2014
Location: Nepalese Consulate Office,
Level 7, 28-32 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Start Time: 1:00 PM (Sharp)
End Time: 5:00pm (approximately)



For further information kindly contact:

Dr. Raju and Susan Adhikari
8802 8752

Dr. Deepak and Bahini Pant
9759 6292

Mr. Rishi and Jaya Kandel
(Email: rishi_kandel@gmail.com)

Nari Nikunja to organise fund raising Gala Dinner to celebrate International Women's Day

The women wing of Non Resident Nepali Association Australia (NRNA), 'Nari Nikunja' Australia (NNA) is organising a gala dinner to raise funds to go towards the welfare of women particularly from rural Nepal. The organisation has extended its invitation to be a part of the event and contribute towards the positive social change. 'Inspiring Change' is the theme of the event that is also supported by Nepali Embassy, Canberra and Nepalese Consulate office in NSW.

Nari Nikunja Australia (NNA) was formed in 2009 with sacred purpose of helping women in the areas of education, health and self-employment. NNA also emphasis on women's health rights and conducts activities to empower Nepalese women to lead a healthy lifestyle, mentally and physically. NNA activities against uterine prolapsed issues in Nepal remain as the highlight of their health campaign. The project exemplified how the significant social change be brought about with a little bit of awareness and a tiny financial contribution.

Events: International Women day

Theme: Inspiring Change

Date: Saturday 15th March 2014

Time: 530 arrival for 6:30 start, Networking

Venue: The Sapphire Function centre, Auburn, Sydney, NSW, 2144

For further information, please contact Ms Sumitra Bista, Coordinator 'Nari Nikunja' Australia on 0402 223 494

Khambu Rai Society Australia to mark Kirant New Year in Sydney



Khambu Rai Society Sydney Australia is to organize a program on the occasion of Kirant New Year- Yele Dong 5074 on 8 March in Sydney. The program will be held at Marrickville Town Hall. According to organizer, the event will kick off at sharp 6pm on Saturday.

Different cultural shows including dance, songs and melodrama will be

featured in the program.

This is the first time that Kirant Khumu Rai community is going to celebrate their new year in Sydney.

The organizer has urged all Sydney residents to attend the function. The organizer offers free entry to Nepali guardians who are on Sydney visit. Ticket is priced at A\$ 15 for other visitors.



WOMEN FORUM
for the women by the women

NARI NIKUNJA AUSTRALIA PRESENTS

INTERACTION PROGRAM AND GALA DINNER

on the occasion of International Women's Day

INSPIRING CHANGE

Event: International Women's Day

Theme: Inspiring Change

Date: Saturday 15th March 2014

Time: 6:00pm arrival for 6:30 start, Networking

Venue: The Sapphire Function centre, Auburn, Sydney, NSW, 2144

Contribution: \$50 -adult, \$25 (-5-12), children under 5- free

Highlights of the evening:

- Celebrating International Women's Day 2014
- Setting inspirational platform to our youth groups and organisations studies by sharing success stories through the topic on empowerment through education
- Relating contribution on the different forms of violence against women and social movement campaign
- Presenting the impact of the violence against women project in Nepal to our service and supporters
- Unveiling facts and figures of domestic violence and access to services
- Cultural performances

Media Partners:



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Nominations announced for Indian Film Festival of Melbourne awards

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne will be back this year, with a new international awards program and a packed program of films to showcase the diversity of Indian cinema to Australia.

Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business Louise Asher, who is leading a Super Trade Mission of more than 100 organisations to India announced the nominations for the five international awards in Mumbai recently.

Joining Festival Ambassador and renowned Indian actress, Vidya Balan and

festival director Mitu Bhowmick-Lange at the Taj Lands End in Bandra, Ms Asher said a new program of five international awards would add a new dimension to the festival.

The five international awards – Best Performance Male Award, Best Performance Female Award, Best Director Award, Best Film Award and Best Indie Film Award – will be judged by a prominent jury comprising of Phillip Noyce, Raju Hirani, Suhasini Maniratnam, Jill Bilcock, Simi Garewal and Rajeev Masand.

From 1 to 11 May, the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne will celebrate Indian cinema, host prominent Indian filmmakers and screen professionals, and provide an interactive program of master classes.

NOMINATIONS

BEST PERFORMANCE: MALE

- Irrfan Khan – The Lunch Box
- Farhan Akhtar – Bhaag Milkha Bhaag
- Rajkumar Yadav – Shahid

BEST PERFORMANCE: FEMALE

- Deepika Padukone – Ram-Leela
- Sonakshi Sinha – Lootera
- Nimrit Kaur – The Lunch Box

BEST DIRECTOR

- Rakeysh Mehra – Bhaag Milkha Bhaag
- Ritesh Batra – The Lunch Box
- Anup Singh – Qissa
- Anand Gandhi – Ship of Theseus

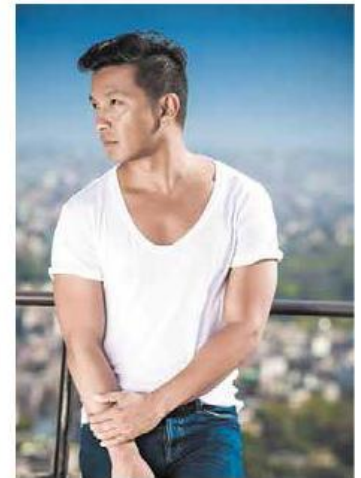
BEST FILM

- Bhaag Milkha Bhaag
- The Lunch Box
- Lootera
- Ram Leela

BEST INDIE FILM

- Filmistaan
- Fandry
- Ship of Theseus

Prabal Gurung designs Kareena Kapoor's wardrobe



Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has undergone a photo-shoot cladding wardrobes designed by Nepali origin American fashion designer Prabal Gurung.

Kareena wore wardrobe designed by Gurung in the photo-shoot for Vogue India Magazine for spring 2014 season. Karina appeared more attractive in rose printed silk, back blouse, contract Yoke and sleeve.

The magazine has presented Kareena's cover story with Prabal's design for March's edition.

Most of the world celebrities have worn spring wardrobes designed by Gurung. American first lady Michelle Obama, British princess Kate Middleton including others have already worn Gurung's design.



Australian talent shines at the Oscars

The spotlight was on Australian talent at the 86th annual Academy Awards in Hollywood where once again Australians were recognised on the world-stage for their outstanding contribution to the film industry.

Cate Blanchett won the Oscar for Best Actress in a Leading Role for Blue Jasmine. Australians who worked behind the scenes in costumes, production design and visual effects was also rewarded.

Catherine Martin won an Oscar for Best Costume Design as well as an Oscar

for Best Production Design for The Great Gatsby. Ms Martin shared the production design award with set decorator, Beverly Dunn. Tonight's win sees Ms Martin make history with the most Academy Awards won by an Australian.

Australian visual effects company, Rising Sun Pictures, for their work on the film Gravity which won several craft awards including Best Visual Effects.

The Oscars are one of the major highlights of the film and television awards season and this has been an exceptional year for Australian talent.



Best Actress: Cate Blanchett



Best Costume Design for The Great Gatsby: Catherine Martin



Nepali film posters at Oscar event

Nepali film "Bhimdatta" has secured its place in world-revered film award Oscar announcement function.

The film got chance to place its promotion posters at the red carpet ceremony. The film production team said the posters of the film have been put at the function and its leaflets distributed to more than five hundred film stars around the world.

Film director Himghyam Tansi said the film got permission to hang its promotional posters in seven places of the hall.

Film director Tansi and actor Shree Ram Pudasaini arrived in Los Angeles to attend the event.

'Chha Ekan Chha' collects 2m in Australia

Nepali feature film "Chha Ekan Chha" has been screened successfully in various states of Australia. In Melbourne, film distribution company Ankhi Jhyal movies showed the movie at Cinema Nova of Melbourne on 4 March. The company also plans to screen Nepali movie every first Sunday and Tuesday of the month.

Meanwhile, after a marvellous response back home, "Chha Ekan Chha" has done exceptionally well in Australia. The movie is said to have collected two million rupees in Australia alone.

The film depicts a story of a young lady who is on a trip to search for a good husband before her grandfather passes away. The film revolves around her hilarious circumstances when she comes across six boys. The film is agog with humour and satire as it is made by Nepali comedians. Two Nepali famous comedians Dipak Raj Geri and Dipa Shree Niraula are the producer of the film.

Nepali music video narrates the struggle of students in Australia



Director Jeewan Rashaili has shot a music video that tells the story of Nepali students struggle in Australia. The song title "Sparsha Lagyo" from the album "Sparsha" narrates the story of a student that goes through ups and downs of starting a new life in a new country. The video was filmed in different locations in Melbourne.

Director Rashaili has also done the editing and camera work for the clip. He is an experienced music video director

from Nepal, having around four hundred videos under his belt.

Local models Anil Sewa and Sandhya Rai have debuted from the same video. Despite it being their first attempt, director Rashaili seemed satisfied with their work. The song was written by Sagar Udas, music composed by Amrit Gurung and sung by Navaraj Thapa.

Album "Sparsha" is distributed by Asia Music.

Nana slams Sanjay Dutt

Notwithstanding the support of Bollywood bigwigs to Sanjay Dutt, Nana Patekar today slammed the extension of parole to the jailed actor, saying he would never work with the convicted star.

The 63-year-old actor said the least he can do is boycott the films that Dutt stars in.

"I have not worked with him in 22 years of my career, I will not work with him in future too," the actor told a news channel here.

"Government will do whatever they want. They are saying that it is legal, you can't say anything about it. But I will do whatever is in my hands," he added.

Dutt, 54, was convicted by the Supreme Court for illegal possession of arms in connection with the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case and was sentenced to six years of imprisonment.

He had earlier served 18 months of jail and had surrendered himself before a Mumbai court on May 18, 2013 to serve the remaining period of his imprisonment.

"You will watch his films and make him a hero and later you say he shouldn't get parole. Things don't work like that. What can I do? Who will listen to me? People think he is only an actor. I am also a common man but who will consider that," Patekar said.

Patekar had spoken out against Dutt even at the time of his sentencing, saying he should not be given a favourable treatment for being an actor.

Dutt has drawn flak for getting parole of almost 100 days during his current jail term.



Rajesh KC's solo album "Arya" released in Sydney



Nepali singer Rajesh KC's solo album "Arya" has been released amid a program in Sydney. The album was released at the program held at Third Eye and Bar in Rockdale, Sydney on 28 February, Friday.

Singer KC, who named the album after his little son Arya, released the album by a group of kids. KC performed live

all songs of the album at the function. Singer Sujata Upadhyaya lend a hand to him while singing.

Raj Pratap, Bishowmber Sapkota, Dipesh Singh, Sanjay Khadgi and Anil Shahi have composed music of the album. Bikas Shrestha and Manish Bhattarai penned the songs.



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Bill Gates once again the richest

Nepali billionaire Binod Chaudhary in the rich list for second year

Forbes magazine announced its ranking of the world's billionaires last week. Gates, who led the list for 15 of the past 20 years, won the spot back from Mexican telecom mogul Carlos Slim Helu, who had topped the list for the past four years. Gates' net worth is estimated at \$76 billion; Slim Helu follows at \$72 billion.

Forbes says a record 1,645 billionaires made the list this year, with an average net worth of \$4.7 billion. That's up from 1,426 billionaires last year with a net worth of \$4.2 billion. Total net worth of this year's list was \$6.4 trillion, up from \$5.4 trillion last year.

The magazine said that 1,080 of the billionaires were self-made, 207 inherited their wealth and 352 inherited a portion but are still growing it.

The largest net worth gainer on the list was Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, who more than doubled his fortune to \$28.5 billion as the value of his company's stock soared. He ranks 21st on the list.

The social media giant helped bring a few notable newcomers to the list, including Facebook's Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg and WhatsApp founders Jan Koum and Brian Acton, who recently sold their business to Facebook for \$19 billion. Forbes said 268 billionaires were



World's Richest Bill Gates



Nepal's Richest Binod Chaudhary

new to the list, beating out a prior high of 226 newcomers in 2008. And a record number of women made the list this year, with 172 women joining, up 25 percent from last year.

Altogether 100 people dropped out of the rankings, while 16 passed away.

The U.S. was the country with the greatest number of billionaires at 492, followed by China with 152 and Russia with 111. Billionaires from four new countries joined, adding Algeria, Lithuania, Tanzania and Uganda to the geographic mix.

Nepal's first and only billionaire Binod Chaudhary has maintained his position in #1465th billionaire with his net worth of \$1.1 Billion. His wealth has been estimat-

ed to have grown by ten percent this year. After debuting on the Forbes billionaire ranks last year, Binod Chaudhary who built most of his fortune overseas, remains Nepal's only billionaire. His conglomerate, the Cinnovation/CG Group's assets include a controlling stake in Nepal's

Nabil Bank, a fast growing foods business best known for instant noodle brand Wai Wai and a string of hotels in Asia and more recently, in Africa where in a joint venture with Uganda's Mukwano group he's building hotels in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Last year, CG diversified into telecom when it bought out ST Telecom, a rural telecom operator. Chaudhary, who never went to college, joined the family's textile trading business four decades ago and went on to expand his inheritance overseas. His three sons work with him; the eldest Nirvaan oversees interests in Nepal while Rahul and Varun are stationed abroad.

Nepali restaurant Himalayan Char Grill marks 18th year in Australia



A Sydney-based Nepali restaurant has organized a program to mark the successful completion of its 18th year in Australia. The professional achievement of Nepalese living in Australia was commemorated by organizing a formal program amidst the representatives of Nepali communities, Nepal enthusiasts and

other foreigners. Sydney-based Nepali restaurant Himalayan Char Grill has completed its successful 18th years in Sydney. Honorary Consular General of Nepal to New South Wales Deepak Khadka inaugurated the program and said such Nepali entrepreneurs not only doing their businesses but also contributing to introduce Nepal and Nepalis in

international arena in people to people level. Yogesh Pudasaini, the proprietor of the restaurant, said the eatery is catering Nepali delicacies and other Nepal-identifying handicrafts to Nepalis as well as foreign customers.

Nepalis started arriving Australia three decades ago but they have started owning business enterprises of their own in Australia only a decade later. In Australia, most Nepali entrepreneurs are involved in restaurant, grocery shops, immigration and educational consultancy, money exchange, car purchasing and selling, Coffee shop travel and tourism and other businesses. According to Dr Madhusudhan Pudasaini, since Nepali entrepreneurs are working in Australia with a great love to the homeland, they contribute to extend Nepali identity in Australia, too. Himalayan Char Grill restaurant is located at Glebe Point Road and 103-111 Willoughby Road Crow's nest in Sydney.

Lali Gurans Nepali Grocery opened in Coburg

Nepali owned grocery 'Lali Gurans' grocery shop has opened in Sydney Road, Coburg. Keeping in mind the Nepalese living around the area, the new grocery will mostly sell Nepali items such as Century Masala, Wai Wai noodles, tama (Bamboo Shoots) and other typical Nepali items as well as Indian spices. The grocery will also have a little cafe section where Nepali MoMo will be available.

According to the shop owner Bishal Budhathoki the shop will also provide the money transfer service for Nepalese.

Two more Nepali run hair and beauty salon come into operation

Danphe hair and beauty and Jarah hair have been running their operation targeting Nepalese community for a while. Two more businesses Simrik Hair and Cutting Kings have started their operation with similar services. Both hair studios provide hair cut, threading, wash and blow wave, colour, permanent straightening, facial and other hair and beauty services.

Cutting kings is located on 631 Sydney Road, Brunswick and Simrik Hair is in Victoria Street 197a Sussex St, Pascoe Vale VIC 3044

Corporate Humour

Two employees are having a conversation on work experience.

One asks the other: "How long have you been working here?"

"Ever since the boss threatened to fire me!" came the reply.



TOURISM IS NOT JUST MY BUSINESS, BUT ALSO A PASSION

"I always look for opportunities where I am able to help others, there are no greater satisfactions than extending someone a helping hand"

Bhim Neupane | Director, Buddha Travel & Tours

In our human nature is a desire to achieve, to be successful. We all want success. But sometimes, blinded by the professional success, some of us tend to forget what it is to be a good human being, what it is to help those in need and bring a smile in someone's face.

There are very few of us that don't let our achievement override our logical thinking. Bhim Neupane is a good example of that. Even though he has come a long way in terms of his business and career, he maintains his simplicity and always makes an effort to make a difference in the society.

The saying "morning shows the day" applies to Bhim Neupane to the core. His humbleness and down to earth nature was inherited in him as early as his childhood. Born in Baglung District of Nepal, Bhim was exceptionally mature from early age.

Bhim left his parental home at the

a passion away from his study. A good mathematics student, Bhim was slowly contemplating to do something in hospitality industry. His love for tourism and hospitality eventually led him to get involved in hotel and Travel Business.

Just when he had found his passion, his life took a big turn. The tourism business that he started in 1995 in the tourism hub of Nepal came to a halt as he received his student visa to Australia in 1999. What he had thought at the time was to further his study in travel and tourism and go back to Nepal to apply those skills and knowledge towards the benefit of the country.

He did his tourism and hospitality from Swinburne University and furthered his education with Bachelor of Business with major in accounting. He graduated in 2004.

His initial days in Australia were no different to majority of international students. He remembers those days as

get some of his family members a visa to Australia on the basis of his business. "I always look for opportunities where I am able to help others, there are no greater satisfactions than extending someone a helping hand" he says.

During his initial days in the restaurants he used to enjoy when some local Australians used to talk about Nepal. Somewhere around those days Bhim's mind started storming along the idea of a Travel agency that would help those people to actually visit Nepal and explore country's unparallel beauty. That idea eventuated in the establishment of Buddha Travel & Tours in 2008 as the first Nepali owned travel agency in Melbourne.

In five years since its inception, Buddha Travels has not only become a household name in Nepali community but also a gateway for local Australians to discover Nepal as world's one of the best holiday destination. As the company is growing, Bhim Neupane feels ever more responsible as a travel entrepreneur. Not only in respect to his expanding business but also the fact that there is so much that can be done to capitalise on Nepal's tourism potential makes him a man in the mission.

"I have been working with Nepal tourism board and other related organisations to make Nepal Package tours more viable, affordable and accessible for Australian visitors" says Bhim.

When asked about his professional success, Bhim Neupane wants to share that humility with the Nepalese Community in Australia. He adds "we are where we are, because of your support."

His company Buddha Travels has a tag line "your travel agency", which literally means the travel agency that Nepali community feels as though they all are part of, and rightfully so, Buddha Travels has always been a part of Nepali community happenings for years. Whether its events, function, charity or sports tournament, Buddha Travels has always offered a helping hand to the community. And the man behind it is nothing but happy about that. Bhim Neupane's generosity reflects on his company's involvement in Nepali community activities.

With couple of businesses under his belt, Bhim now hardly gets time to do anything else. But his family with his wife and two sons are always his priorities. Going to the community events is also something that he enjoys doing.

Bhim Neupane is a story of a man that comes from a humble background. But with dedication, hard work and most importantly a belief in himself has made him the man that he is today. He says to aspiring youth that 'doing what everyone else is doing won't get you through'. Be innovative be original and work hard towards that idea, success will come to your door step.



Bhim Neupane is a story of a man that comes from a humble background. But with dedication, hard work and most importantly a belief in himself has made him the man that he is today.

age of fourteen and stayed with his maternal uncle to finish his high school from "Prem Basti Secondary School". Despite his average family background he persevered through his study. He finished his Intermediate level from Birendra Campus, Bharatpur then headed to the capital Kathmandu in search of better future. As it is almost a customary for Nepalese youth to have to come to the capital for opportunities, Bhim also arrived in the big city and started his professional journey with a little business. He however did not stop his hunger for knowledge. While he was continuing his study in Tri Chandra College, he was slowly discovering

being tough. Hefty university fees and his responsibilities towards his families were doubling up the need for him to work and collect as much money as he could. To make the ends meet, he did every imaginable job. Cleaning, waitressing, kitchen hand and what not, but he does not regret it. He sees them all as a learning experience. He even worked as a chef for a while, which in fact grew on him as a hobby. "I love cooking at home" reveals Bhim.

Even during his difficult days Bhim was never self centred. After years of hard work Bhim had managed to start up a restaurant called Kantipur Restaurant in Caulfield and the first thing he did was to



MEDICAL ELECTIVE:

Understanding the Health Care and Hospital System in Kathmandu, Nepal



Sambridhi Adhikari
Medical Student, Melbourne, Australia

In December 2013, I decided to undertake a three-week medical elective at two very different hospitals in Kathmandu, Nepal. The first hospital I volunteered at was the Civil Service Hospital of Nepal in New Baneshwor. This is a government-financed hospital built by the Chinese government as a gift to the government of Nepal. It is well regarded for its speciality in the haematology field. Importantly, government officials including existing government service workers, pensioners and retirees receive 50% concession for hospital charges. The second hospital I volunteered at was the Tribhubhan University, Teaching Hospital in Mahrajganj. Teaching Hospital is regarded as the best and biggest hospital in Nepal for many reasons: First, being the largest capacity hospital in the country, all kinds of disease patterns present and when people have a diagnostic dilemma, they come to this hospital because it focuses on rare diagnoses. Second, it places a big focus on academia and research and third, it also has provisions for the very poor (living below \$1 a day).

As I set out on my medical elective, the main goal was to gain an appreciation and understanding of the health care and hospital system in Nepal and contrast it to Australia. This article discusses some of the major differences I observed and experienced within the health care and hospital system and other related areas.

Lack of a strong primary health care system

I found the absence of a strong primary health care (PHC) provision in Nepal. Primary preventative care and

self-management are not considered as important and therefore, does not have a strong influence in Nepal. The concept of general practice does not contribute to a large proportion of outpatient care. Instead, the system is structured on outpatient departments (OPD) within hospitals where patients can have short consults with doctors according to the medical speciality i.e.: respiratory OPD, OBGYN OPD etc. and if further medical care is required, they self admit to the hospital. The process for OPD consults is one of a ticketing system whereby patients purchase a RS-25 ticket before consultation with the doctor. The nature of the consults are incredibly short, lasting between 5-10mins and done in the presence of 2-3 other doctors who are consulting different patients at the same time. Therefore, there is lack of consideration for privacy and confidentiality in these circumstances. The consulting process is hectic and overcrowded as around 1500 patients are consulted every day (Teaching Hospital). Given the time frame and ratio of patients to consult, the provision of patient focus, holistic care and efficiency most likely overlooked.

Medical care provision

The second major difference noted was the provision of medical care according to affordability. As there is no health system in Nepal that provides universal coverage for medical care, the patient's health is based mainly on out of pocket expenses; therefore, the type of care received by patients in hospitals is based on fee they can afford. For example, the teaching hospital has up to 7,000 beds available. For those who can afford to pay RS- 600 a night, they are placed in a different ward and those who cannot are placed in a central area with 10 beds, open to public access. Amongst these poorer group of patients, some cannot even afford hospital care

and are therefore placed in a separate area beneath a sign that reads "too poor to receive medical care" (translated) so that the staff understand their financial situation before providing them with economically appropriate medical care. Furthermore, diagnostic tests ordered by doctors are also based on patient's income. If a patient can afford high-level medical care, expensive tests with definitive diagnosis outcomes are recommended, however, for those that cannot, only small-scale tests are ordered and ultimately pose a diagnostic problem for the medical team.

The very poor cannot even afford even the most basic tests, and so appro-



tion has a very different perspective and attitude about health and wellbeing in general compared to Australians and this is the prime reason for this discrepancy, which needs to be addressed. Nepali people often endure ill health until they reach severe circumstances and require hospital assistance. Their general attitude is that illness may be temporary and will get resolved in time without medical assistance. Alongside this attitudinal difference, a lot of patients cannot afford medical care or find it a nuisance to visit the doctor or the hospital, particularly if it interferes with their ability to make a living or responsibility to care for family. An example of this is a 38-week pregnant woman who refused to be admitted to the obstetrics ward despite being told by the doctor that she would give birth that day after a physical examination. Her main concern was that she had not been in pain and she needed to be home to look after her husband and family. The doctor proceeded to call her husband to explain the situation because many women don't tell their husbands about the consult and if pregnancy complications ensue, the husband makes complaints to the hospital. The focus of the patient education should not only be for patient awareness but also for medico-legal purposes to overcome social and societal issues.

In contrast, people in Australia deem it a right to have access to health care and place it as a priority to get general check-ups and medical care when they are ill. Although this is still an issue in the rural areas of Australia, this problem is minimal relative to the general Nepali population. Therefore, Nepali people require better patient education about what constitutes ill health, when it is important to visit a doctor and why it's important to have frequent general check-ups to better manage their health and avoid acute illness in the future.

Priorities

Nepal's health care and hospital system would benefit from a stronger primary health care system, which focuses on health education, awareness and preventative care alongside self-management of patients. This will help people manage their health within the community and reduce the pressure placed in secondary care within a hospital setting when patients are admitted severely ill and at the end spectrum of their disease state. It will also reduce hospital costs for patients and save the health cost for the country's economy. Furthermore, family

priate parameters are put in place by the hospital to separate these patients into a scheme that receives free care by the hospital. Interestingly, the parameters to decipher these situations are very subjective and judgemental i.e.: if a patient can afford a mobile phone, they can afford medical care, or judging by the clothes they wear.

Patient education and management

The third major difference noted was the small focus on patient education and self-management. The Nepali popula-

Despite the need to improve parts of Nepal's health care and hospital system, there are so many positives I observed during my elective. I was mainly impressed by the efficiency of a third world hospital system. The hospital system is able to cater for so many patients without an abundance of resources or financial support.

and friends of patients also need to be better educated alongside the patient about how to self manage their health at home and how to prevent illness to encourage them to seek health assistance in a timely manner.

Other areas of improvement that may be beneficial to improve the patients journey in the health care system includes strengthening doctor patient relationships, emphasis on holistic medical care and focus on mental health. Doctors are highly revered people in the community and patients respect them to the point that they will do anything a doctor advises even if it is beyond their wishes. This is because patients have an inherent belief that the doctor always knows best and often leave the most important decisions about their own health in the hands of someone else. Therefore, better communication between the doctor and patient regarding patient values, finances, personal, cultural and religious

beliefs are important to include in the decision making process for their health. Additionally, the focus of medicine in Nepal is one of a diagnostic or 'quick fix' rather than a holistic model of care. This model focuses on the patient's medical problem and aims to fix it rather than looking at the disease in the context of the person's life. This is where the doctor patient relationship is important to understand the barriers for providing the best medical care and quality of life for that particular patient. Finally, there is a little emphasis on mental health problems in Nepal. Most hospitals don't have a separate mental health ward, but a joint ward with around 10 beds. Interestingly, the most common causes of mental illness in Nepal include cases of Schizophrenia and depression; mainly post traumatic stress disorder. Although there are low prevalence of mental health conditions in Australia and there is a proper system to look after, on the

contrary in Nepal, a large majority of the population go undiagnosed because there is no screening system, little provision within the health care system and even less support for them within the community once diagnosed.



world hospital system. The hospital system is able to cater for so many patients without an abundance of resources or financial support. The hospital operational system was very efficient and there was a good working relationship between the medical officers, doctors, nurses and other staff. I was inspired by the ability of doctors to cater to a wide variety of patients in Nepal from different social, cultural, religious and economical backgrounds. The calibre of the staff was also very impressive in their level of expertise, knowledge and teaching. Furthermore, the staff were incredibly friendly and taught me like I was a student of their own.

Having had the opportunity to undertake my medical elective in Kathmandu, Nepal, I have benefited in understanding the differences between hospital system structure and function between developing and developed countries. These experiences and perspectives I gained will help me enormously in my clinical studies in Australia.



Summary

Overall, despite the need to improve parts of Nepal's health care and hospital system, there are so many positives I observed during my elective. I was mainly impressed by the efficiency of a third



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Magar Samaj celebrated Kanung festival

From Magar

Magar Samaj Victoria has organised Kanung Festival-2014 for a second consecutive year. As the festival falls on 15th Falgun, as per Nepali calendar, the nearest weekend, 2nd of March was picked to celebrate the festival in Victoria.

The program that had begun at two in the afternoon till late evening saw an array of entertaining programs. Cultural and contemporary dances, live musical performances and theatrical pieces were the scene of the event.

National anthem followed by the welcome speech by the president Mr. Mohan Rana Magar opened the evening. Addressing the event Mr Rana said the ethnicity of Magar enriches the cultural diversity of Nepal. He metaphorically said "Magars are flowers in a garden called Nepal". Mr Rana further added that the program such as this should be taken as a point of reflection not refracton. "We should all take pride in our origin, he said.



During the program, Hon Consul General of Nepal to Victoria Mr. Chandra Yonzon's best wishes message was read out as he was unable to attend the program. Similarly many distinguished guests including representatives from Nepalese Association of Victoria, Non Residential Nepalese Association, GNC, Tamu Samaj, Tamang Society, Rai Samaj, and Yeti Football Club attended the program.

After the program, the organiser Magar Samaj Victoria has thanked everyone involved to make the event successful. They have also expected that

the program like this would be crucial in bringing a positive impact in the society.

The society was formed in 2011 in the presidency of Mohan Rana. The Magars are an indigenous ethnic group of Nepal representing 7.125% of Nepal's total population.



Tamang Lhochhar celebrated in Australia with fanfare and joviality

The biggest festival of Tamang community 'Lhochhar' was celebrated at Coburg Lake in Melbourne on 16th of February with great fanfare and joviality by Tamang people and other Nepali community members. Tamang Society of Victoria organised the program to assert Tamang identity and culture in Australia.

A variety of cultural programmes and fun games with people clad in eth-

participants, Tamang Society of Victoria Mr Sajan Tamang said "we are doing our best to keep our tradition and culture alive in this foreign land. I really want to thank everyone who attended the program despite unfavourable weather."

The program was attended by various community leaders including Honorary Consular General of Nepal to Victoria, Mr Chandra Yonzon, President of Nepalese Association of Victoria Bom

after birds or animals such as mouse, ox, tiger, cat/rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, bird, dog and pig. Among these twelve Lho, one Lho changes every year. In this series, 2850 horse year has begun this time.



nic attire, exchanging good wishes and warm greetings among friends, family, relatives while savouring delicacies were the scene at the event.

Though 25th of Magh (Feb.8th) is the main day for celebrating Lhochhar, Nepalese in Victoria celebrated it on 16th of February to mark the Tamang horse year 2850 in their own ways. Extending his gratitude towards the

Yonzon, Entrepreneur and community activist Dr. Mahesh Bhandari, Saroj Sharma, Yeti FC President Mr. Raj Sharma, Lumbini Kapilavastu Global Co-ordinator Mr Ram Kumar Shrestha as well as media and general public.

The meaning of Lho is year and 'Chaar' is new. Thus, Lhochhar means New Year. There are altogether 12 Lho in Tamang calendar. Every Lho is named

Nepal's Arjun Bahadur Thapa new SAARC secy, becomes only a second Nepali to officiate

Nepal's former foreign secretary Arjun Bahadur Thapa has assumed charge as secretary general of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at a function organised at the SAARC Secretariat on 3rd of March.

Thapa succeeds outgoing secretary general from Maldives, Ahmed Salem, who completed his tenure February-end.

Thapa is the 12th secretary general of the eight-member SAARC regional grouping.

After taking charge as secretary general, Thapa told IANS that he would try his best to execute projects agreed to by the member states.

"The member states, in the past, had agreed to implement various regional and sub-regional projects and my priority would be to implement these projects at the earliest with the consent of the member states," he said.

Thapa was appointed to the post by the erstwhile Khil Raj Regmi government in September last year. SAARC picks its secretary generals according to the alphabetic order of the member states and this time it was Nepal's turn to officiate.

Nepal will also hold the 18th SAARC Summit later this year.

This is the second time that Nepal has an opportunity to lead the secretariat after former foreign secretary Yadav

"The member states, in the past, had agreed to implement various regional and sub-regional projects and my priority would be to implement these projects at the earliest with the consent of the member states,"



SAARC's Secretary General
Arjun Bahadur Thapa

Kant Silwal held the post from January 1994 to December 1995. Thapa's name was approved in the 35th SAARC Council of Foreign Ministers meet held in the Maldives Feb 20.

The SAARC secretary general serves a three-year term.

Recently retired from foreign service,

Thapa joined the administrative service in 1983 at the ministry of law and later joined the foreign service in 1999 through a competitive examination.

Earlier, Thapa had served in various capacities in Nepali missions abroad, including serving as Nepal's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, as deputy chief of mission in Nepal's Permanent Mission in New York and several other divisions of the foreign ministry.

Thapa holds a master's degree in international law from Moscow.



Nepal and India to discuss ways to ease transshipment

Nepal and India will discuss ways to facilitate transshipment of Nepal-bound cargo from third countries after the southern neighbour agreed to allow customs clearance to be done at the customs points on the border.

Currently, all the imports from third countries are required to clear Indian

customs in Kolkata. India had agreed to simplify the transshipment process to help Nepali importers cut costs during a commerce secretary-level Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting held in December in Kathmandu.

A delegation from the Commerce Ministry is scheduled to visit the southern neighbour in the second week of March to discuss the modality of clearance of goods at the customs points on the India-N border.

"We have started preparing a format of the modality in coordination with the Department of Customs before heading for negotiations," said an official of the Commerce Ministry.

Nepali importers have been complaining that they are being forced to wait in a long queue at Kolkata port to clear their cargo through customs. Delays in clearance mean that they have to pay hefty amounts as demurrage.

If customs clearance is allowed to be done at points on the Nepal-India border, it is expected to shorten time-consuming procedures and reduce the costs for Nepali traders. It could also help boost competitiveness of Nepali goods.

The two countries have amended the transit treaty enabling re-export of goods from Nepal to third countries through India. This provision will facilitate Nepal's genuine third country exports of goods imported for the purpose of displaying them at fairs and exhibitions.

Ajay Devgn, Runa Laila named SAARC ambassadors for HIV

"This year, Runa Laila (Bangladesh), Ajay Devgn (India) and Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy (Pakistan) have been selected goodwill ambassadors for advocacy and awareness on HIV/AIDS in SAARC member states," said Kashi Kant Jha, director of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC).



Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn, Bangladeshi singer Runa Laila and Oscar-winning Pakistani filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy have been named as SAARC Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV/AIDS.

A meeting of the selection committee was held recently at the SAARC Secretariat and of the 10 nominations received from the member states, the three celebrities were nominated.

The selections were based on criteria of regional stature and eminence; appeal to the target audience; relevance in delivery of message; likely commitment of the candidate and innovative ways that could be utilised in promoting advocacy and awareness in combating HIV/AIDS.

The SAARC goodwill ambassador

for HIV/AIDS programme commenced in January 2009 with actress Shabana Azmi its first mascot.

"SAARC Goodwill Ambassador programmes have been very effective for generating advocacy and awareness relating to HIV/AIDS in the region. Shabana Azmi during her tenure did tremendous jobs on advocacy and awareness in Nepal and Bhutan."

"This year, Runa Laila (Bangladesh), Ajay Devgn (India) and Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy (Pakistan) have been selected goodwill ambassadors for advocacy and awareness on HIV/AIDS in SAARC member states," said Kashi Kant Jha, director of SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC).

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Convey your love the best

♥ Roses

Red flowers symbolise forever love, orange stands for passion, pink ones stand for grace and happiness and lavender ones mean love at first sight..

♥ Carnations

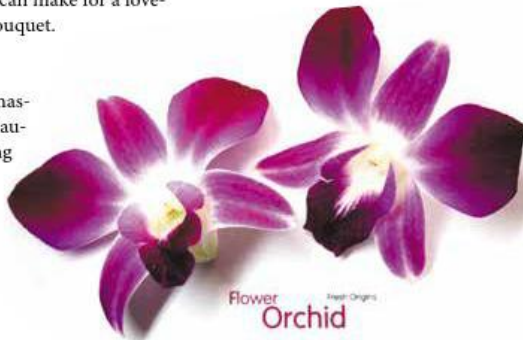
Want to convey that you have a deep love and affection for someone? Get them these ruffled flowers. Carnations are found in many colours. White ones stand for a sense of admiration, red ones signify deeper feelings and purple are for undying love.

♥ Orchids

The delicate orchids stand for strength and seduction. They are long-lasting and can make for a lovely centre-table bouquet.

♥ Lillies

They represent chastity, grace and beauty. And presenting a bouquet of these, will show your loved one you have an expensive, classy taste.



♥ Tulips

Tulips also share top spot among the flowers that convey love best. They are a jubilant expression of romance and can be used as a declaration of love. The flowers also stand for the emotion of caring.

How many to give?

- ♥ One single stem says, 'You are the one and only'. Give one if you are sure about the person.
- ♥ Thirteen is said to mean, 'You're my secret paramour'.
- ♥ Sending 36 says, 'You are the queen of my heart'.

Love & Life



Featured Couple :

Ram Ranabhat and Sudha Guragain Ranabhat

Married on: December 4th

The couple from the beautiful city of Pokhara currently lives in Sunshine. They both have great interest in social work and charity. Since their arrival in Australia in 2009 they both have been involved in various community organisations including NAV and NRNA. Ram has also been nominated the first vice president of Overseas Nepali forum Australia. We wish this couple a long lasting togetherness.

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Contact: nepalesehimalaya@yahoo.com.au

- A 31 years old Nepali boy based in Kathmandu looking for a girl settled in Australia.
Email: mahendra_21@gmail.com or call Nepalese Voice

- A 25 years old Nepali boy from Melbourne is looking for a Nepali girl in her early 20s for a serious relationship. Call/Text: 0423737238

Machhapuchhre defends its MIT Cup title

The Machhapuchhre club of Sydney has defended its MIT Cup title by winning the tournament for two consecutive years.

They beat another finalist Sagarmatha FC from Sydney 1-0 in a thrilling final held on Sunday at Clifton Park, Brunswick, Melbourne.

Machhapuchhre had made it to the final beating United FC where as Sagarmatha defeated organizer Yeti Blue in the same round.

With the win Machhapuchhre took away twelve hundred Dollars cash prize along with medals and certificates.

Earlier on the final day, the friendly match held between the Multicultural all stars and Over 35 XI was as entertaining where the former won by 4-0.

The well-revered community football competition also saw other activities such as Kids coaching clinic by Coerver Coaching, kid's face painting, food stall, women's hundred meter race, and cultural performances.

During the award presentation ceremony, speakers emphasized on the positive impact that the sporting tournament such as this brings to the community. They thanked Yeti FC for working rigorously to have made this possible.

The awards were also distributed to the player of the tournament, highest scorer, best player over 35, fair play and multicultural player of the tournament. (Full list of winners will be uploaded soon)

This year's MIT Cup was sponsored by Melbourne Institute of Technology, Kandel Consultancy, Budhha Travel, The Kathmandu Cottage, Oz Choice Finance, CMS Butchers and High Core Filters.



A total of 16 teams participated in this year's MIT Cup.

PARTICIPATED TEAMS:

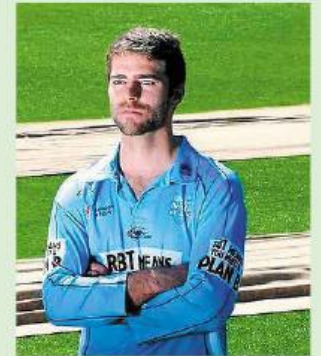
1. Adelaide Khukuri Football Club- Adelaide

2. Three Star Club- Alburi
3. Nepalese Darwin United Football Club - Darwin
4. Machapuchree Football Club - Sydney
5. Sagarmatha Football Club- Sydney
6. Tamang Recreational Centre- Sydney
7. Granville Rhinos - Sydney
8. The Raising Gorkhas- Sydney
9. United Football Club- Melbourne
10. Nepal United Club- Melbourne
11. Lumbini Football Club - Melbourne
12. Ghar Pariwar Team- Melbourne
13. Thunder Dragan - Melbourne
14. Three football teams from the organizer, Yeti FC.

From forever young

- NNFC - Canberra
- New South Wales Seniors- Sydney
- Everest United- Melbourne
- Yeti Football club - Melbourne

Australian Cricketer Ryan Carter raises fund to build school in Nepal



A group of Australian cricketers have raised Rs 30 million to construct a school building in Kathmandu, Nepal. The fund has been raised in an initiative of wicket keeper of Sydney Thunder Club, Ryan Carter. The fund will go to construct a building in Heartland children Academy, a Kathmandu-based non-profit school, to run high school classes. The Australian cricketers initiated a campaign 'Batting for Change' in association with LBW Trust. During one and a half month campaign, they have managed to collect AU\$ 30755.

Sydney Thunder is the well revered domestic cricket club in Australia. Australian cricket captain Michael Clark, David Warner, Michael Hussey, Tilakratne Dilshan including others have once played from this club.

Carter started the campaign with a small YouTube video online. Cricketers Greg Chapel, Adam Gilchrist, Kumar Sangakara and Rahul Dravid including other have also supported the campaign. Thanking all for the support through online, Carter said three more classrooms will be constructed by the fund which helps students to pursue their higher secondary education. Mahendra Lamsaal, a member of minister-level advisory committee in Australia applauded the initiative of Australian professional cricketers. He further said it will help Nepal a great deal if Nepali players also follow suit.

Nepali Big Bash in April

Following the footstep of Indian Premier League and Big Bash League in Australia, Nepal will have its own professional cricket league with corporate sector joining hands in Ncell Nepal Premier League (NPL) scheduled to begin in April. The first of its kind in Nepal, NPL include not just the Twenty20 tournament but also the 50-over and two-day events. All three formats will be played under the round-robin league by six teams, all supported by corporate houses.

According to the Managing Director of Zohra Sports Management Amir Akhtar, the tournament will kick off with the two-day format in Dhangadi followed by the 50-over event in Biratnagar and Rajbiraj before concluding with the Twenty20 tournament in Kathmandu in May.

The six corporate teams include Kantipur Gurkhas of The Kantipur Publications,

Vishal Group Warriors of Vishal Group, Tej of Panchakanya Group, Colors X Factors of Teletalk Pvt Ltd, Jagdamba Giants of Shanker Groups and Sagarmatha Legends of Ghorahi Cement. Basanta Regmi will skipper the Kantipur Gurkhas, Paras Khadka will lead the Vishal Group Warriors, Sharad Vesawkar will captain Tej and Gyanendra Mall will

lead the Colors X Factor. Shakti Gauchan will captain the Jagdamba Giants and Binod Bhandari will lead the Sagarmatha Legends.

Each team will have a 16-member squad including current national, Under-19, regional and two overseas cricketers as well as domestic coaches. Nepal coach Pubudu Dasanayake, who selected all six teams, said the tournament would go a long way in filling the void of the domestic tournament.

"The Ncell NPL is a good thing for the development of cricket in Nepal as it will provide players with the much needed domestic exposure," said Dasanayake. Match fees per match for the captain has been fixed at Rs 5,000 while players in the senior national team will earn Rs 2,500 and the U-19 and regional players will get Rs 1,000 each per match. The 50-over and T20 champion will get Rs 200,000 each while the winners will get Rs 1,50,000.



Nepali footballers on their sporting renaissance in Darwin

Basu Dev Marahatta, Darwin

Hem Pun who played 'A' division league in Nepal during 1997/98 was just 22 when he went to Cyprus and spent five years there to hone his dribbling skills. As the personal circumstances changed, he engaged in some other businesses in Nepal, however, he never let football go beyond him. His enthusiasm in football did not diminish, even when he arrived in Australia. Thus, he is the coach and team manager of Nepalese Darwin United Football Club formed in 2010 in Darwin. This club is a by-product of Pun's eagerness and other football enthusiasts like him.

As difficult as it is to allocate time for football, living in this country, the group of people in NT has made it possible to keep their love for sports going. Therefore, football has become the newest glamour in the Nepalese community in Darwin.

Community organisations are also doing their bit to uphold such ardour. A Nepali organization- Nepalese Association of Northern Territory

organizes sports competition every year where football is the most favoured sport attracting huge audience in the tournament.

NDUFC, on one hand, has players who have experiences of playing national-level football in Nepal and in other hand it is a grooming some new players as the potential of the future.

Purushottam Bista, an adept player of the club said, 'We need a backup. We don't want to be limited in only 15 players.'

Bista is a former player of Sankata club. He has been playing from Garuda Club of Darwin now.

The club has certainly drawn attention from other mainstream football clubs due to its outstanding performances.

Like Bista, other players such as Ganesh Gurung, Nirajan Basnet, Dhurba Karki, Ashok Adhikari and Bishal Adhikari also have played from local club Garuda. Team Captain Ajaya Gurung said, 'We gained a trust due to our performance.'

Ajaya is a player of local Kyajurina Club. A team of 15 players are allied to Nepalese Darwin United Football Club including Dipersan Chhetri, Dinesh Thapa, Zenith Malla, Aakash Shrestha, Saroj Dahal, Niraj Banjade and Sanjaya



As difficult as it is to allocate time for football, living in this country, the group of people in NT has made it possible to keep their love for sports going. Therefore, football has become the newest glamour in the Nepalese community in Darwin.

Gurung. Despite limitation in resources, this team has played domestic as well as inter-state tournaments representing Nepali communities a number of times.

'To perform well and to make the team sustainable is two different phenomena. The club wants to produce a number of good players and make the club sustainable thus leading the club to be financially strong. 'Performance of the team proves that the club can play; B' division league in Darwin but we are short of back up players at present', Pun said. He added 'The club is well-known amongst federal and Northern territory

government after playing 'B' division league and their support would mean a lot going forward'

The club has 40 seasonal players; only 15 are stable who regularly practice. The team now is practicing four days a week for the preparation of MIT cup slated to be held from 8 to 9 March in Melbourne on which the club is participating for the fourth time. All club members hope for decent result, confident of their continuous practice and relentless dedication. The club is under the protection of Nepali Association of Northern Territory.



Music video released to support Nepal in T20 World Cup Cricket

In a bid to support Nepali cricket team in the T20 World Cup Cricket, a music video has been released. The 3:13-minute music video produced by The Himalayan Times Live and posted on YouTube.

The song 'Nepali Nepali' is penned by Santosh Paudyal, and sung by Karma Gyalsaya, Sanoop Poudel and Raj Sigdel. Sambhujeet Baskota composed the song. Sahas Shakyas is its arranger.

The song urged all Nepali people to be proud of achievements of Nepali cricket and also supported the Nepali cricket team in the World Cup.

The video features footage of various cricket matches of Nepal.

The video was released at a time when Nepal has been selected for the Twenty20 World Cup Cricket for the first time.

People in the video wave the national flag wishing for success in the World Cup.

Nepal is in Group A. They will take up Hong Kong on March 16, Bangladesh on March 18 and Afghanistan on March 20.

Nepali origin girl coaches mini socceros

A Nepali woman football player has been chosen to be a football coach in Australia. Hemant Acharya, 20, from Nepali-Bhutanese community has secured her position as a football coach in an organisation called football united which brings multicultural society together through football.

She imparts training to the Australian players that are going to play under-18 FIFA World Cup happening in Brazil this year. She goes to the ground every week and trains Australian players practically about how to win the match.

Earlier, the black town girl, Hemant had got success to be a semi-finalist player in the "Football for Hope" festival held in South Africa in 2010 organized by FIFA. Hemant, who has already secured a number of awards in football, said the game is an integral part of her life. Saying that she is in football due to the inspiration of her family members, she said football can hold the dignity of the country high and the sport is a way to bind people together. Hemant arrived in Australia in 2008. She is also a soccer coach at a training centre in Sydney's Black Town where she provides trainings to secondary level students under 18 years old.



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