

# Nepalese Voice

linking Australia to Nepal ————— Australia

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



## VISA HALT FOR NEPALESE STUDENTS

Two thousand student visa applications on hold

Interview with NAV's new president Mr Sudhir Shakya	Nepali film "Pailaharu" in Indian Film Festival of Melbourne	NRN Australia Helpdesk launched
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## Editorial

### Isn't broken, don't fix it

The Abbott government plans to make amendments to the Racial Discrimination Act. According to a new proposal, the section 18C of the act which made unlawful to "insult, offend and humiliate" a person or group based on their race will be scrapped.

In addition, the new proposal will make it unlawful for a person or group to publicly do something which is "reasonably likely" to "vilify" another or "intimidate" where "vilify means to incite hatred" and intimidate means to "cause fear of physical harm". But there will be exemptions, "This section does not apply to words, sounds, images or writing spoken, broadcast, published or otherwise communicated in the course of participating in the public discussion of any political, social, cultural, religious, artistic, academic or scientific matter."

The government is calling for community consultations till the end of this month.

The Opposition and Greens say the changes will give the green light to bigotry in Australia. While some are defending the amendments by saying people had "a right to be bigots" and this was necessary in protecting freedom of speech; however a question have arisen for ethnic community groups as to why was it a priority for the Government to change the act that has served Australia well for twenty years? How far should



**Ramjee Poudel | Editor**  
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prohibitions on speech amounting to racial vilification go? And by what standards should they be judged?

The protection of 'free speech' should not be an excuse for making such a drastic change to the Act. There is no such thing as the right to 'free speech' without the corresponding obligation to behave in a civilised manner towards other people irrespective of their racial or ethnic background. Especially when the Act already ensures the balance between freedom of speech and protection from racial abuse, there is no need to tweak it unless for a hidden motive.

As we have experienced, members of minority groups are especially vulnerable to such racial attacks because of the lack of social support. Recipients of such an attack are not empowered to respond adequately, and therefore need the full protection of the law.

Let's hope the government would reconsider its proposal to license the perpetrator towards the public humiliation of people because of their race and be more focused on the effective implementation of the existing legislation than changing it.

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# Visa halt for Nepalese Students

## Two thousand student visa applications on hold

**A**ustralia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection has held back on two thousand visa applications of Nepali students.

(COE) letter to students. Subsequently, the report has surfaced that the Nepalese Consultancies have been warned by the Universities to ensure the genuine financial documents for their students to avoid rejections. The commission is yet to decide on those visa applications.

fake altogether. Some agents, banks and their staffs are seen deviating from their professional ethics for some quick money.

Now the embassy is investigating all 2,000 cases and suspects some of these banks of issuing loans without properly evaluating property details.

### Ground Reality

When students apply for visa, they are required to submit the bank documents to substantiate their financial status. Depending on the likely expenses they incur once they arrive in Australia, students are required to show that they have adequate funds to meet that.

The yearly tuition fees for the Bachelor's and Master's level stands, on average, at AU\$20,000, while the Australian government has fixed the figure of AU\$18,610 per annum as the living cost for a single student—in addition to the insurance premium. A bank balance of around Rs 3.5 million is also required as proof that one can bear the remaining costs.

However, education consultants suggest perspective students that the students can manage their living expenses through part-time jobs that can be taken up for 20 hours a week and full time work during vacations, given that the minimum per hour wage in the country is around AU\$16.

So the consultants and some banks in Nepal take the financial guarantee documents as merely a formality assuming the students will earn enough in Australia to bear the expenses.

As a visa requirements, students are suggested to prepare educational loans from designated banks such as Nabil Bank or SBI Bank. But according to a source, Nepali education consultancies convince prospective students to take loans from Kumari Bank, Prime Bank, NIC Bank, NIB Bank and Sanima Bank and that is where the applications violate visa requirements. Seeking anonymity an educational consultant from Nepal said "In some cases the documents are

### SVP- Contributing Factor

ADIBP's step to have stricter visa policy also correlates with the recent trend of International students failing to comply with the rules on Streamline Visa arrangements.

Recently, many international students have breached the condition 8516 attached to their student visa because they have switched from a SVP course to a non-SVP course to save on fees.

Condition 8516 requires international students, while holding their student visas, continue to meet the original criteria, under which their student visa was granted. Originally the condition 8516 was designed to stop international students from changing education sectors without reapplying for a new student visa. Streamlined Visa Processing ("SVP") arrangement was introduced in March 2012 in order to reduce the visa requirement evidencing burden for those international students who are enrolled in an eligible higher education provider, typically universities.

Recently many international students including Nepalese have come to Australia under SVP arrangement and then changed to a non-SVP course or to a lower ranking diploma course largely due to their inability to pay fees.

The number of Nepali students opting for an Australian education had soared in the year 2007-2009, but dropped significantly thereafter when the Australian government issued stricter visa regulations for students. The adoption of the streamlined visa policy (SVP) two years ago, however, has raised figures once more.

Nepali students typically pay one hundred thousand rupees prior to visa applications. Educational consultancies charge Rs 10,000 for initiating applications and Rs 75,000 for visa and other processes. So that taken into account, Nepalese students may lose up to twenty million rupees (Over two million rupees) if the cancellation remains for good. More importantly their dreams to pursue higher study in Australia will be shattered irreversibly.

ADIBP has taken such step after an investigation proved that Nepali students have registered fraudulent testimonials in a process to get visa for pursuing higher study in Australia.

Late March, Delhi-based Australian High Commission cancelled Nepali students' visa issuing process claiming that the bank documents they submitted were ineligible. It is the first time the visa process of Nepali students got cancelled in such a huge number.

Meanwhile, Embassy has also notified the relevant universities in Australia to discontinue the process of enrolment for those students till the investigation is completed and also to be cautious before offering Confirmation of Enrolment





## Australia still the most preferred academic destination for Nepalese students



### Millions at stake

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Despite all this, Australia still remains the most attractive destination for Nepalese students. Insofar as Nepalese students are concerned the country had stood third after the United Kingdom and the United States in the list of most sought-after academic destinations just a few years ago. Now, however, it has climbed to the top spot. The fact that Australia boasts world-class academic institutions, part-time and post-study work facilities and a relatively safe environment for students are what have made it the most preferred place for higher study at present. Records from Nepal's Department of Scholarship at

the Ministry of Education show that of the around 15,000 No Objection Certification Letters have been issued to Nepalese students from 64 countries in the last eight months of the current fiscal year; 8,959 have been for Australia alone.



**Tonnou Ghotanne**  
TWGG

What has happened is really unfortunate for all the Nepali students and the people involved in this industry. Learning from this incident, all the educational consultancies onshore and offshore should act in a good faith towards the Australian immigration and the students and their families.

Particularly, the education professional from Nepal should not give students wrong information for their short term gain but instead work towards the long term benefits for all the stakeholders.



**Arjun Pandey**  
AME Consultant

This is about the future of thousand of those students and their dreams. We need to be more serious about how we do our jobs. If anyone is doing things wrong intentionally, they should stop it and avoid the disastrous implications on the whole education industry.

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# Nepalese Flag Presentation Ceremony held in Mildura

**M**ildura Rural City Council in initiation of Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC) organized a flag ceremony on 18th of March to mark the growing number of Migrants and refugees from Nepal and Congo in this region by installing no.63 and 64 Flags of respective countries in Mildura Rural City's collection of national flags.

Chief guests were former Mildura mayor and president of SMECC now Mr. Peter Byrne, Mildura rural city incumbent mayor Cr Glenn Milne, Councilor Judi Harris Councilor Ali Cupper Mark Jenkins - Manager Community Futures David Zacher - Visitor Information Centre, Team Leader Anne Ross - Social Inclusion Officer, Dean Wickham-Executive Office -SMECC

Authorities were overwhelmed with massive Nepalese crowd that attended the program clad in ethnic dresses including many children.

Nepalese National anthem sung by the crowd followed by Congolese and Flag presentation.

SMECC president and Mayor gave a brief speech welcoming both communities in the city.

Nepalese community delegates Sunita Shrestha and Sujeev Shrestha had played significant role for this successful program. News was covered by Win News TV channels, Sunraysia daily the largest circulated newspaper of this region.

-----Report by: Sujeev-----



## Nepalese network formed in Ballarat during Harmony Day

**D**uring the Harmony Festival conducted in Ballarat, Victoria on Sunday 23rd March, a new Nepali network was established and given strong support by the wider Nepalese community from across Victoria.

The Festival was a great opportunity for a variety of community groups to share their culture with over 7000 people who visited on the day, as music, food, entertainment and information from many different nationalities was enjoyed by all.

Late in the afternoon a meeting was conducted with Ballarat based Nepali families and all agreed to be actively involved in the formation and involvement in the Ballarat Network.

The meeting was encouraged by the attendance of friends from Melbourne, Geelong and Warnambool with the Ne-

pali flag and banner to promote Nepal as the country of the Buddha and Mt. Everest.

The gathering heard encouraging words from Consul General HE Chandra Yonzon, Lumbini-Kapilvastu Day Movement Global Coordinator and Ram Kumar Shrestha, Nepalese Association Victoria Ex President Bom Yonzon. In attendance was journalist Gopal Prasad Thapalia and many other valued guests.

Ballarat resident Roshani Shrestha said, 'Even though some of our Ballarat community have been here for many years, we know that we are growing in number and we look forward to the events and functions that might be arranged, ensuring we continue to support each other and welcome newcomers as

they arrive.' 'We are excited about what might evolve.'

The network is looking forward to

growing in Ballarat and providing a valuable link for all Nepali people and their friends.





# Viva Victoria Festival celebrated to conclude cultural diversity week

**V**ictorian Multicultural Commission's Viva Victoria festival was celebrated yesterday as tens of thousands of people gathered at Federation Square in Melbourne. The ultimate celebration once again reinforced Victoria's cultural diversity as iconic Federation Square was transformed into an amphitheatre of colour and sound, as thousands of people flocked to enjoy the entertainment at the festival, which showcased more than 70 cultures through food, dance, music, sport and much more.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Matthew Guy was present at the venue to celebrate the festival with thousands of Victorians. This free, family friendly event marked the closing celebration of Cultural Diversity Week 2014, and the end of a week-long celebration of multiculturalism across the state.

Each year tens of thousands of Victorians participate in this vibrant celebration of our dynamic multicultural society. "This event mirrors Victoria's growing diversity, and our reputation as the multicultural capital of Australia," Mr Guy said. "We are fortunate to be home to one of the most culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse societies, with nearly 47 per cent of Victorians born overseas, or with at least one parent born overseas."



Highlights of this year's Viva Victoria Festival included traditional and contemporary music and dance complete with stunning costumes, cultural workshops and storytelling, roving performers and free activities for young people as well as the entertainment, Federation Square was transformed into a smorgasbord of delicious global cuisine. Over the years Viva Victoria and Cultural Diversity Week have increased in size and spectacle, with this year's festival attracting around 45,000 visitors.

"I am delighted that each year this festival gets bigger and better, and I am thrilled to have shared an exciting day of music, cuisine, culture and joy with thousands of Victorians," Mr Guy said.

"It really is a brilliant way to finish off Cultural Diversity Week as we all rejoice in our different cultures, faiths and languages that make up our vibrant, successful multicultural society."

Viva Victoria Festival was hosted annually by the Victorian Multicultural Commission.



## Premier's Gala Dinner launched 2014 Cultural Diversity Week

-Kusum Rana

- » Premier launches Cultural Diversity Week at annual Gala Dinner
- » Week-long celebration of Victoria's dynamic multicultural society
- » Victorian Coalition Government building a better Victoria for all Victorians

Premier Denis Naphthine officially launched the 2014 Cultural Diversity Week at the annual Premier's Gala Dinner at the Crown Entertainment Complex, Melbourne on 16th of March.

"With 26 per cent of Victorians born overseas, we are fortunate to be home to one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse societies in the world," Dr Naphthine said.

"Cultural Diversity Week is a vibrant celebration of the benefits multiculturalism brings to every part of our great state.

"Our reputation as a thriving arts and sporting capital is enriched by



the many diverse communities who have helped make Victoria the vibrant, dynamic and harmonious society it is today."

Cultural Diversity Week showcased a program of festivals and events across Melbourne, with highlights including the Holi festival and Harmony Day on March 21.

The popular Viva Victoria Festival at Federation Square will close the week, with roving performers, an exhibition of short films, art displays and cultural demonstrations.

Earlier this month, the Victorian Coalition Government launched its new landmark multicultural policy - Victoria's Advantage: Unity, Diversity, Opportunity. Minister for Multicultural Affairs

and Citizenship Nicholas Kotsiras, who joined the Premier, said this was the first time clear indicators would be used to measure the state's progress in multicultural affairs.

"Victorians embrace our broad multicultural sector as a source of pride, and this presents tremendous opportunities going forward," Mr Kotsiras said.

Dr Naphthine said Victoria's diversity also offered a competitive advantage that would continue to enhance trade and investment relationships in a globalised marketplace.

The prominent members from Nepali community such as Honorary Consul General of Nepal to Victoria Mr. Chandra Yonzon, Dr. Jagadish Timsina, Mr. Jog Limbu and some ex Gurkha families as well as the leaders of

the south Asian community Deepak Vinayak JP, Miss India Melbourne 2013 - Rashi Kapoor, Ministerial Adviser Mr Nitin Gupta, Dr Manjula O'Connor (ACHRH), Bhakta Das (ISKON), Mrs Roshni Sharma (AAICE) and various others were also present.





## Horoscope April 2014



### ARIES

Something is causing a showdown between you and a partner or rival concerning your home life and your career. Various elements of this dynamic have been occurring on and off for months but the good news is that this is the worst of it and it will begin to ease off and get better after this month.



### TAURUS

You should be able to accomplish a professional goal or to at least get rid of a client, co-worker, tedious project, or old tools and equipment that have caused you more headaches than they are worth. You also get to launch a new project or goal that you feel especially personally connected to.



### GEMINI

Your social life, playtime activities, and finances are a mess; each one conflicting with the others. It is not as if you cannot have any fun or you cannot achieve your financial goals; you just cannot do both at the same time.



### CANCER

The battle between you and a partner or rival has been mostly centred on your father, boss, public reputation, leadership roles, or professional goals. Now, your mother, roommates, houseguests, home life, or retirement plans are also completely enmeshed in the battle.



### LEO

You are likely rise to the top as a leader and as someone worthy of respect and admiration because of how well you

have handled yourself. There are also financial benefits that could be coming your way. You are either taking on an official leadership role or you are getting a new boss which might just make all the difference in the world.



### VIRGO

Your finances are looking haywire this month. You will be battling with that most of the month. Despite all of that, this is actually a good time to begin planning a vacation, embarking on some kind of an intellectual, cultural, academic, or religious journey, or beginning the process of relocating to a new city.



### LIBRA

You have a huge drama involving you and a partner or rival arguing about your inability to balance your home and career. The good news is that you are doing really well at work, you are succeeding at your professional and financial goals, and you are funneling more money into your home life when you.



### SCORPIO

Your professional dramas come to a peak this month. But the good news is that things will fizzle out pretty quickly next month. Also, you and a romantic, financial, or business partner agree to a new relationship, fresh start, or the two of you launch a new project together. The next couple of months will help you to get this new partnership or renewed partnership off to a great start.



### SAGITTARIUS

You are not having much fun with your career at the moment. The good

news is that this is the peak of the ugliness affecting your financial situation. Next month, it will begin fizzling out. Also, despite having all of this negativity in your financial life, you get to launch some kind of a project, fresh start, or new beginning in your professional life that could prove quite successful.



### CAPRICORN

This is the worst month of the entire year. Your professional aspirations and your need for domestic bliss are at war and you and a partner or rival are arguing over what to do about it. Your parents, roommates, boss, and/or high profile clients could also have a few things to say.



### AQUARIUS

You could feel as if you are receiving some seriously mixed messages at work. On the one hand, you are doing really well when it comes to your personal financial and professional goals. But on the other hand, there is still a huge amount of drama and turmoil happening in the workplace. Maybe your coworkers are struggling but you are still managing to succeed anyway.



### PISCES

No a great month when it comes to money. People are making it very difficult for you to achieve your financial goals while also having fun and spending time with various groups of people. Stay away from the online based business deals.

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# NAV elects new Executive Committee, Sudhir Shakya new President

**N**epalese Association of Victoria (NAV) has elected new Executive Committee for 2014-16 in Melbourne on Saturday, 15th March 2014. Mr. Sudhir Shakya has been elected as an unopposed President, likewise Mr. Surendra Sedhai and Ms. Deepa Rai were also elected unchallenged for their candidacy as Vice Presidents. The election, therefore was conducted to choose six out nine positions of the NAV Executive Committee. Mr. Ranjan Shrivastav was voted as a Treasurer, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Dawadi, Mr. Tara Prasad Gaire, Mr. Keshav Kandel, Mr. Ram Prasad Kandel and Mr. Gautam Lami chhane were elected as executive members.

After the successful completion of the election, the election commission comprised of Jog Limbu, Jagdish Timsina, Sunil Bhandari, Diwakar Basnet and Sudha Guragain has issued the statement congratulating all the winners. The commission has also thanked the members of NAV, volunteers and others who have cooperated leading upto the election.

The new committee was sworn into the office by the Chief Election Commissioner Mr Jog Limbu.

At the swearing-in ceremony Consul General of Nepal Mr Chandra Yonzon congratulated the new President Sudhir Shakya and the incoming Executive Committee. He commended the contributions made by NAV in Victoria and emphasised on the importance of making the community stronger and fostering

relationship with local government and non-government bodies in Australia. "We should aim to make representation in state bodies like Victorian Multicultural Commission", he said.

Mr Bom Yonzon, the outgoing President of NAV, also congratulated the new executive team. He highlighted the achievement of NAV made under his leadership and hoped the new committee would take it further than where he left off.

The new president Sudhir Shakya has become the 6th President of NAV since its inception in 1997. Mr Shakya holds an extensive experience in running the organisation, as he had been involved with NAV for almost a decade. After the election, he thanked everyone for giving him the responsibility to lead NAV and congratulated Mr Bom Yonzon and his team for the significant contribution made by the community during his term. Mr Shakya made a commitment to serve NAV for the best interest of the Nepalese living in Victoria.

"We will bring new energy and enthusiasm in the organisation and take NAV to a new height from the platform already created by the former team. Nepalese community in Victoria is ever growing Community, and NAV will collaborate with all to promote unity, harmony and inclusiveness in our society", the newly elected President pledged.

## Highlights of NAV under the Presidency of outgoing President Mr Bom Yonzon

- » NAV was recognised with the prestigious VMC Multicultural Excellence Award in 2013 by the Victorian Government for its contribution to the Victorian multicultural community.
- » Intensified sports activities to involve community youths
- » Formed a very close relationship with Victorian Multicultural Commission, local government and Ethnic Community Council Victoria
- » Played crucial role in keeping the first Nepali radio running in Melbourne "Melbourne Chautari", as it was struggling to sustain due to lack of adequate resources
- » Started "Baal Chautari" in Darebin Intercultural Centre, a monthly program to teach kids Nepali language and culture
- » Worked closely with Moreland City Council to launch Nepali Collection in libraries across the city council.
- » Bolstered the plan to build the Nepalese community centre in Victoria

Most importantly Mr Bom Yonzon managed to keep NAV away from the 'Nepal-Like' politics and main-

tained the reputation of the organisation as an umbrella organisation of all Nepalese living in Victoria.

## Interview with the newly elected President Sudhir Shakya

**"NAV WON'T BE SOLANGTURISED"**



### -NAV President Sudhir Shakya

- Congratulations for becoming the NAV President, you have been with NAV for almost a decade directly, indirectly. What suddenly made you want to become a president?

Thank you for your best wishes Nepalese Voice team. I would like to express my gratitude to the members of Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) and the Nepalese community for confiding on me to lead NAV. After an election for the new committee was announced I spoke to several senior leaders to find out who are in contention for the new leadership. In this course it appeared to me that there's a leadership vacuum at that time. Given my continued involvement with NAV for so many years behind the scene, I floated my willingness to lead the organization. I receive an overwhelming support and encouragement to go for the presidency and here we are today.

- Having another candidate from the organisation that you are associated with, to submit his candidacy in the same role as you and pulling out at the last minute did not seem normal to the community? Was it your strategy to win the election or it just turned out that way?

After I announced my candidacy for Presidency I came to know about Ganesh dai, Mahesh dai and Raju dai's intention to lead the organization as well. They have all my respected seniors who have contributed so much to our commu-



New NAV Exec Team 2014



nity and they are equally capable as well. I have worked with Mahesh dai as a Treasurer in Bom Yonzon dai presidency and with Raju Shakya dai as Secretary under Ranjan Vaidya's presidency. We've all worked as a team. Having said that we are all individuals and we all have our own vision, objectives and ambition for the community. I put out mine in my election manifesto. I had conversation with all of them and explain my intention and ambitions but no way I would stop any of them or force them not to run for the Presidency. I need to respect their ambition to contribute more to the community. At the end both Raju dai and Mahesh dai acknowledged my commitment

and determination and gave me this opportunity to be the President. I am very thankful and grateful for their support and confidence in me.

*-Some voters and candidates seemed dissatisfied about the political lobbying that was going on during the election, your thoughts?*

I did get to read about this in your paper. Look, we have to acknowledge that whenever there's an election anywhere there's bound to be some sort of campaigning. Because candidates need to promote themselves and they need to garner support to get elected. How they run their campaign is a matter for them-

as long as it is done fairly and with respect to other candidates and not breaching any election guidelines or expectations. And when there are more candidates than the number of positions available someone is bound to miss out. In NAV election, it is very encouraging to see so many candidates who came forward to be in the committee and to contribute their time and effort. Whereas there used to be a time when we had to drag people to get them into the committee. We should all commend their enthusiasm and willingness to do something worthwhile for the Nepalese community. Those who didn't make it to the committee need not be disappointed because their

support and contribution will always be welcomed to NAV and in their programs. NAV is a community organization and it needs people from the community to run it and support it.

*- What are your immediate priorities as a new community leader?*

My immediate priority is the introduction of NAV, the new executive team and myself to our broader community. The last time I checked, in Victoria alone, we have 13 Nepalese ethnic organizations, 11 sport clubs, 7 media groups and many other businesses. We also have

## SUDHIR SHAKYA: Candidate for the President of NAV 2014

# STANDING UP FOR UNITY, HARMONY & PRAGATI.

**Namaste!** My name is Sudhir Shakya. I am standing as a candidate for the President of the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV).

I believe that NAV is and should be a peak body representing the interest of all Nepalese living in Victoria. I joined NAV over a decade ago to make a difference, and since served the community in various capacities within the organization. My experience with the community over all these years has provided me with a much deeper understanding of our growing community and the expectations of different sectors in our society. It has indeed strengthened my resolve to serve the community as a whole.

As a President I will represent the Nepalese community with dignity and with an utmost respect for its high office. I will serve the community with the same passion and commitment, if not more than the past ten years. Working together with the executive team, we will collaborate to ensure that we fulfil our responsibility to achieve the purpose of NAV and act in the best interest of our community:

- ✓ establish NAV as a peak body representing Nepalese community in Victoria
- ✓ provide a platform for all members to gather and work together to achieve common objectives
- ✓ promote and preserve Nepalese culture, language and heritage
- ✓ facilitate & support establishment of facilities like Nepalese culture centre, language school & library
- ✓ organise events to celebrate & showcase festivities of national significance
- ✓ position NAV as a contact point for residents, new migrants, students and visitors at times of need
- ✓ promote inclusiveness and foster relationship with other communities in Victoria
- ✓ represent Nepalese community to voice their interest at the government and non-government level

I believe in the power of people. I believe in the synergy that comes from unifying different facets of the community and working with people from all walks of life, which in their totality make up our community.

I believe I can bring order, transparency and professionalism into our organisation. I strongly believe that I have extensive experience, calibre and commitment to lead our organisation to take it to a new height. **I believe I can make it happen.**

### Leadership for the Challenging Times

- ✓ We need to acknowledge that our community is growing and evolving. We now have several Nepalese ethnic groups, sporting clubs and interest groups within our community. We need to respect their existence and contribution to our community.
- ✓ We need to be united in our stance for harmony. We need to face up to difficulties with fortitude and determination, and respond to differences with an inclusive attitude.
- ✓ I believe that we can resolve any conflicts within our society and the diversities brought about by different values or political stance.
- ✓ I believe that we need to listen, to be inclusive, be respectful and be patient in seeking a consensus.

### SEEKING YOUR SUPPORT:

**My team is you, the community at large. I stand for the people of our community. I stand for Unity, Harmony & Pragati. This election Choose ONE. Choose RIGHT.**



### Community Awards & Recognition

Recipient of the **Victoria's Multicultural Award for Excellence 2012** - the first Nepalese to receive such highest multicultural service award from Victorian government.

**NRNA Excellence Award 2013**, awarded by NRNA Australia.

### Highlights of My Community Engagement:

- Served NAV in various capacities:  
2000/01 - 2002/03: Committee Member  
2002/03 - 2006/07: General Secretary  
2006/07 - 2010/11: Treasurer  
2010/11 - 2013/14: Advisor
- In 2003, championed the new image of NAV in the community by launching a new NAV logo (brand image) and promoted NAV as a symbol of unity
- As General Secretary, developed, designed and launched NAV website for the very first time making it a common platform to disseminate information to the Nepalese community
- Founder member of Melbourne Chautari, the first Nepalese radio program to be aired in Victoria, on 3CR community radio station and remained as a radio host until 2008
- As a General Secretary and Treasurer, prepared grant applications for government funding and reporting; prepared and submitted NAV Annual Reports for AGM and for submission to consumer affair Victoria
- Made significant contribution in organising important events such as Dashain-Tihar celebration, New Year celebration, Bal Diwas (Children's day)
- Played a vital role in organising Nepal Festival in 2008 (managing stage) and Nepal Festival in 2010 (managing audio-visual) at Fed Square

A manifesto that won him the presidency



Blutanes community who share our common language and culture, and they are no different to our brothers and sisters. On behalf of NAV, I'd like to spread the message of inclusiveness, unity and harmony in our growing community. I'll be expressing my intention to work collaboratively with them. I'd also like to make an announcement that we'll be organizing a Nepali New Year 2071- Meet and Greet Program on 29 April 2014 to celebrate our Nepalese New Year and to meet the members of our community and vice-versa.

- What plans have you put in place to incorporate the interest of all the other sub-groups of the community such as sports clubs and ethnicity based groups?

I would like to promote NAV as an umbrella organisation that represent the interest of all Nepalese in Victoria. I don't envisage NAV to be a "guardian" organisation chaperoning other community organisations. All organizations have their individual interests, identity and programs. NAV will consider to support all such programs within reasons.

- You are also one the directors of 'Solangture', which despite being a private company, has earned a reputation of

being a community based organisation. How are you going to streamline your leadership as a head of Solangture and President of NAV?

It is true that I am a director of Solangture, among other roles and I am proud of what it stands for. I think it is very important to make a distinction that Solangture is a commercial enterprise with diversified portfolio including event management, professional photography and media interests. Its primary target market happens to be the Nepalese people, just like for any other Nepalese businesses around. Its business model mostly centers around community benefits. Its interest is not to dominate the world nor to engage in unscrupulous conduct for its own gain, but to work in partnership with other organization for a greater good. I don't see any need of "streamlining" my leadership role as a director or a President. It will be business as usual. NAV's immediate past president Bom Yonzon dai is a Community Liaison of your paper Nepalese Voice whilst serving as a President. I doubt he had to change or streamline any of his commitments to run NAV during his tenure. I sense there's a nervousness among few people in the community that NAV will now be "Solangtured", and

I don't see how or if it's possible at all for that matter. Many Nepalese organisations are currently led successfully by leaders / businesses owner of some sort and I don't remember that being an issue. NAV has always collaborated with organisations such as Solangture, S-Events, NRNA, Help Nepal and other organizations. In fact, I feel that NAV is in a better position now than ever before to harness the expertise of these professionals such as Solangture, S-Events, Thak-thak Melbourne, Mila Creations and others to better present its future



Former President of NAV  
Mr. Bom Yonzon during the election

programs professionally. I see equal participation and engagement from all

walks of society including businesses, sports clubs and interest groups alike.

- Your thoughts on the newly elected committee?

We have a young energetic members in our team. I believe they do come with a strong will to contribute to the community. This again represents the changing dynamics of our growing community. I look forward to working with them and I'd urge our community to judge this executive team based on what they bring into NAV and their contribution rather than who they are associated with.

- Any message to the community?

I look forward to active participation and support from everyone in the upcoming NAV program and activities. We need to strengthen our Nepalese community with unity, inclusiveness and tolerance. There will be differing views in our society. As a responsible individual and as a community, we need to make a judgment on what's right and what's wrong. We can resolve any conflicts within our society. We just need to listen, be inclusive, be respectful and be patient in seeking a consensus.

# NRN Australia Helpdesk launched

**N**on Residential Nepalese Association Australia has launched a help desk to provide relay service to Nepalese living in Australia. NRN Patron Indra Ban and Honorary Consul General of Nepal to New South Wales Mr Deepak Khadka jointly inaugurated the service by making introductory phone calls to the desk.

Nepalese living across Australia can contact 1300 617 922 or email at helpdesk@nrn.org.au for any kind of queries they may have.

According to NRN Australia President Mahendra Oli, an internal mechanism has been set up to address people's queries and requests received through a help desk. Three members have been allocated to foresee the ongoing operation.

NRN Australia's secretary Bharat Pokharel said the help desk aims to



work as a primary inquiry centre for all Nepalese in relation to problems they are facing.

Participants at the launching program provided feedback as to how the new service can be used to its full potential. They also spoke on how get Nepalese Embassy, Consulate Office, and community organisations to work together to ensure prompt and appropriate consultation through help desk.

The working committee led by NRN Australia's Spokesperson Mr Dinesh Pokharel is currently preparing the directives and guidelines to run the service. The committee comprises of Sudhir Shakya, Krishna Giri, Bishnu Hamal, Bharat Devkota, Ashok Oli and Megh Raj Poudel.

## Amit Shrestha from Sydney becomes John Maxwell's prodigy

A Nepali youth from Sydney, Amit Shrestha has got an entry to the team of world renowned leadership coach John Maxwell.

Shrestha is the first Nepali to be included in the Maxwell team. Maxwell made an announcement of Shrestha's inclusion in his team amid a program held in Florida, the United States, in the last week of February.

Shrestha addressed the event where more than nine hundred leaders from corporate and business sectors were present.

John Maxwell and his company has been conducting seminars imparting training worldwide on personal development and leadership skills. Shrestha, who has been carrying out various training and seminars in Sydney for the last four years, said he has decided to make life skill coaching as the main career of his life.

Amit plans to conduct similar coaching in Australia as well as Nepal especially focusing youths. Shrestha is of the opinion that only skilled and honest leadership can lead the nation to development. He also underlines the need of imparting training to the students for enhancing their leadership skill from school level.

Shrestha, who was born 34 years ago in Hariaun of Sarlahi district, has been living in Sydney since 2007.

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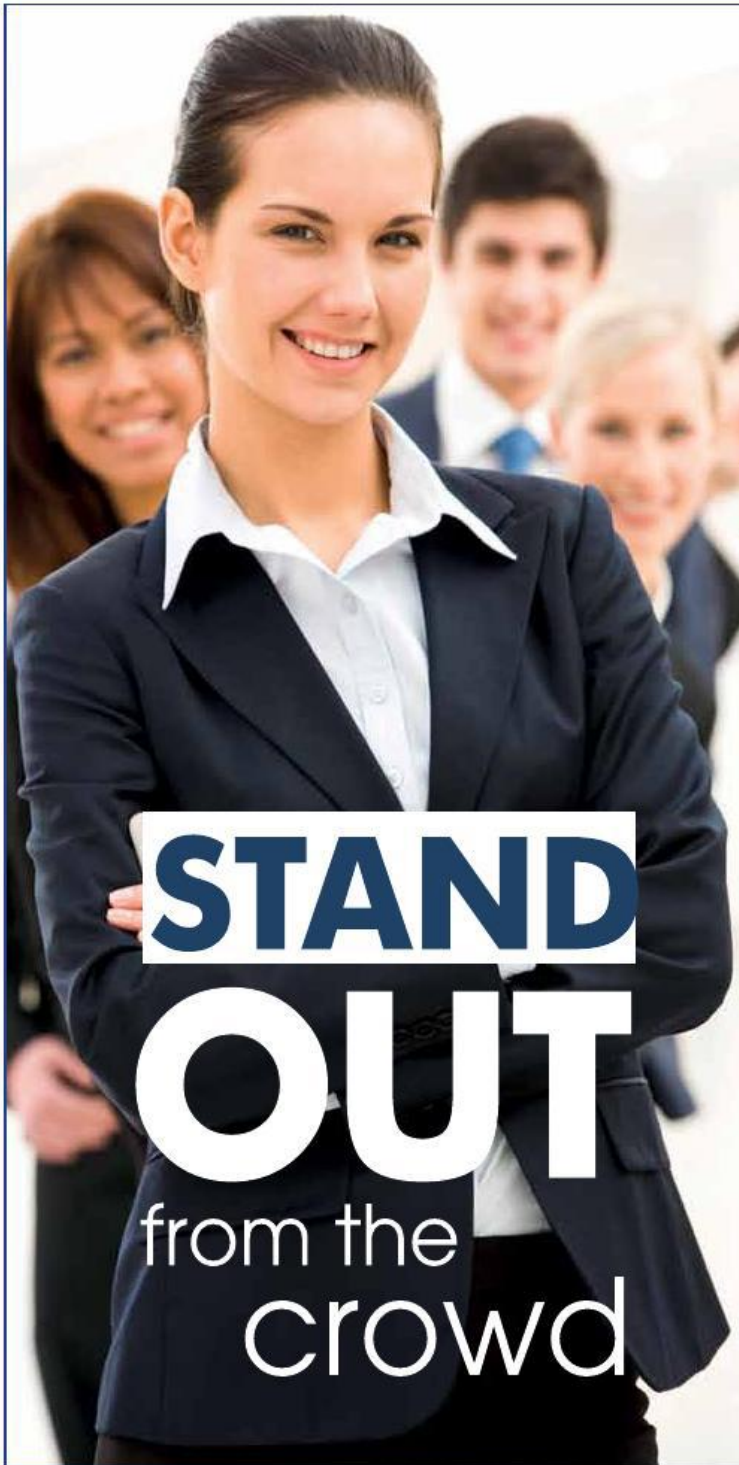
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# What is skill, knowledge and innovation (SKI) and how can it be transferred from NRNs to Nepal?

Over the past few years, there has been some interest by NRN communities across the globe to help their mother country, Nepal, by transferring their acquired skills and knowledge. Further, since most NRNs have received some formal or informal training and have overseas work experience, in some cases at the cutting edge of their profession, it is commonly believed that the NRNs can also come up with innovative ideas, skills and knowledge to solve the problems facing the mother country.

To initiate the transfer of skill, knowledge and innovation (SKI) of NRNs to Nepal, an NRNA-ICC level SKI Task Force was set up. This Task Force conducted some ground works for the establishment of Open University Nepal and the Nepal Science Foundation. Recognizing the importance of this issue, the NRNA-ICC recently decided to establish a permanent SKI committee to develop strategies and manage the transfer. The committee is developing its terms of reference and also seeking suitably qualified persons to work in the committee. While these initiatives in themselves undoubtedly are praiseworthy, there seems to be a lack of understanding and congruence in terms of what SKI means to each of us and what the mechanism of transfer should be for SKI from NRN communities to Nepal. For example, the letter 'I' in SKI is for Investment for some of us and Innova-

tion for others. The vehicle of transfer is institutions like the Science Foundation and the Open University for some and also includes business practices owned, operated or assisted by NRNs.

## SKILL:

There are various definitions of skill. Some notable ones are: ability to do something well arising from talent, training, or practice; special competence in performance, expertness, and dexterity; a craft, trade, or job requiring manual dexterity or special training; proficiency, facility, or dexterity that is acquired or developed through training or experience; an art, trade, or technique, particularly one requiring use of the hands or body; and a developed talent or ability, etc. According to Wikipedia, a skill is the learned ability to carry out a task with pre-determined results often within a given amount of time, energy, or both. Skills can often be divided into domain-general and domain-specific skills. For example, in the domain of work, some general skills would include time management, teamwork and leadership, self-motivation and others, whereas domain-specific skills would be useful only for a certain job. Skill usually requires certain environmental stimuli and situations to assess the level of skill being shown and used. Skills could be

To initiate the transfer of skill, knowledge and innovation (SKI) of NRNs to Nepal, an NRNA-ICC level SKI Task Force was set up. This Task Force conducted some ground works for the establishment of Open University Nepal and the Nepal Science Foundation. Recognizing the importance of this issue, the NRNA-ICC recently decided to establish a permanent SKI committee to develop strategies and manage the transfer.



Dr Jagadish Timsina



Dr Hom Panta

## KNOWLEDGE:

There are various definitions of knowledge. Some notable ones are: the facts, information, and skills acquired through experience or formal education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject; awareness or familiarity gained by experience of a fact or

knowledge on agriculture, medicine, engineering, chemistry, physics, information technology, etc.) or non-scientific (e.g., knowledge on sociology, business, trade, education, religion, politics, or on any sectors).

## INNOVATION:

This also has several definitions. Innovation is the act of starting something for the first time; introducing something new; the act of initiating a new idea or theory or writing; the creation of something in the mind; a creation (a new device or process) resulting from a study and an experimentation (invention). Thus an innovation is something original, new, novel, and important—in whatever field—that breaks into (or obtains a foothold in) a market or society. An innovation could be in the form of products, processes, services, technologies or ideas. According to Wikipedia, innovation differs from invention in that innovation refers to the use of a better and, as a result, novel idea or method (invention), whereas invention refers more directly to the creation of the idea or method itself. Innovation differs from improvement in that innovation refers to the notion of doing something different rather than doing the same thing better. Thus, in general, innovative ideas, methods or technologies could be both scientific and non-scientific.

From the various reports and newspapers articles, we have noted that



awareness or understanding of someone or something, such as facts, information, descriptions, or skills, which is acquired through experience or education by perceiving, discovering, or learning. Knowledge can be implicit (as with practical skill or expertise) or explicit (as with the theoretical understanding of a subject); it can be more or less formal or systematic. Knowledge could be scientific (e.g.,

scientific (e.g., agriculture, medicine, engineering, chemistry, mathematics, computer, etc.) and non-scientific, such as related to business, trade (skilled workers), constructions, farming, communication, writing, reading, speaking, and numeracy, etc. Skilled people can do the job better or do same job in a shorter timeframe than unskilled people.

From the various reports and newspapers articles, we have noted that



the emphasis of NRNA-ICC level SKI Task Force is on science. However, from the above definitions and meanings of skill, knowledge and innovation and their examples, it should be quite clear to everyone that these terms don't just apply to science but could encompass an array of non-scientific activities that have potential to bring dramatic changes in income, quality of human life and well being, and society.

#### Transfer of SKI:

We have noted that some NRNs use terms "SKI transfer" while others use "SKI exchange". The term 'transfer' implies one-way traffic/process, while the term 'exchange' is two-way traffic/process. While in the long-run, it is expected that there will be an exchange of NRN personnel or their SKI from overseas to Nepal, or from Nepalese counterparts or their SKI from Nepal to overseas; in most cases, and at least in the initial years, it is a transfer process—transfer of SKI from overseas to Nepal. We believe that the term 'investment' as mentioned above and the term 'exchange' are not appropriate in the context of skills and knowledge, at least in the initial years, but we are tabling these issues for debate and discussion.

SKI transfer requires a mechanism by which the SKI can be transferred on a long-term, sustainable basis. Some of the issues to be addressed while transfer-

ring the SKI are: who are the concerned NRNs or NRN networks to be involved in the process? Who are their counterparts, or networks in Nepal? Which particular skills and knowledge are in demand and where are the demands in Nepal? Where are the NRNs in the globe that can supply the skills and knowledge that are in demand? What are the potential benefits of proposed skills and

knowledge to the particular community that has a demand? What is the motivation for the NRNs for transfer of their SKI? Once these issues are understood properly, then the transfer of SKI can become effective, efficient and sustainable.

We will provide a detailed discussion of SKI and a roadmap for transfer of SKI in another paper that will be presented in the SKI Workshop that will be organ-

ized by NRNA-Australia in Sydney in July this year.

(Dr. Timsina is a member of NRNA-Australia SKI Project and also an adviser to NRNA-Australia; Dr. Pant is the coordinator for Civil Society Project, NRNA-Australia and also a policy strategist of NRNA-Australia).



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## RAM KRISHNA revives 'King of Voice' Narayan Gopal onstage for Melbournians

**R**enowned Nepali singer Ram Krishna Dhakal sang for Nepalese living in Melbourne in a special evening organised by S-Events and Multimedia on 22nd of March. Dhakal sang about a dozen songs of his own and also reminisced some of classic Narayan Gopal numbers. The nostalgia amongst the audience was evident when he sang "Euta Manchheko", "Yeti Chokkho", "Timi Jun Raharle" and "Malai Nasodha" originally sung by late maestro and his idol Narayan Gopal.

Dhakal's rendition to some of his own hits "Orali Lageko", "Hira Katne", "Haamro Sundar Sansaar" and "Man Paraune Hajar" not only showed why is he the brightest star of Nepali musical horizon but also brought all the participants back to loving Nepali music again for its rich melody and deep lyrics.

Dhakal's unplugged segment with the harmonium truly showcased his distinctive singing style adding to the great atmosphere of "Gazal Saanjh".

Earlier, talking to the media Ram Krishna Dhakal thanked Australian Nepalese community for their support during his tour. He said there has been a tremendous response everywhere he has gone for performances and that he is overwhelmed by the love shown towards Nepali music and artistes.

Ramkrishna also acknowledged the organiser S-Events and Multimedia for their effort to preserve Nepali culture and tradition in Australia through organising events, and also informed that he is working out a way with S-Events to come to Australia for future shows.

Finally, like any other Nepali artistes, Ram Krishna made a point to all Nepali music followers to discourage piracy. "If you are buying pirated material please think that you are devaluing our creation".



Photo Courtesy: Bishal Chamling



## Ranbir Kapoor to play Sanjay Dutt In his biopic

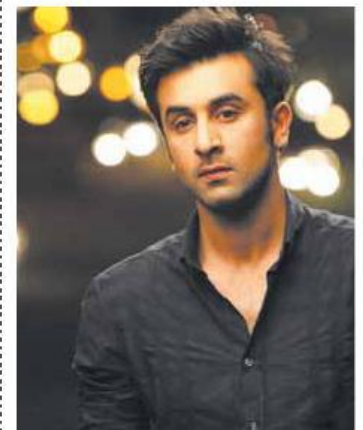
Sanjay Dutt's life is likely to go on the screen and director Rajkumar Hirani and actor Ranbir Kapoor would come together to make it happen.

The decision was reportedly taken around a week before Sanjay returned to Pune's Yerawada Jail after his parole period ran out.

"Maanyata, Sanjay's wife, was keen on a film being made on her husband's life for Sanjay Dutt Productions. But the couple wanted only Rajkumar Hirani to direct the film as Sanjay's has created magic with the director in Munnabhai series.

Hirani, it seems, was busy with "Peekay" and not willing to commit to any other project until he was done with it. Also, the material and the facts regarding Sanjay's life were too vast and controversial. But both Maanyata and Sanjay were adamant about making a film.

A convict in the March 1993 Mumbai blasts, Sanjay is currently serving the remainder of his five-year imprisonment at Yerawada since May 2013.



## Sydney based Archana Dellala signed in for Bangali movie

**N**ot long after she got the break in Nepali movie, Sydney based Archana Dellala has been signed in for the Bangali movie.

The Bangali movie titled, 'Sada Kalo Akasher Canvase' will feature Archana in a lead role. In a press meet held in Kathmandu recently, the director Tanvin Rafik told that he has seen the talent in Archana.

The movie will be named 'Mayako Parichaya' in Nepali, which will be shot mostly in Nepal and Bangladesh.

Archana Dellala found fame with her item dance in movie "Dhuwani". She caught filmmakers eyes with sultry demeanour and brilliant dance skills. The song Chalak Chalak was a hit in Nepali chartbusters.





## Mr & Miss Nepal Australia in July



United Nepalese Arts and Entertainment (UANE) is all set to organize Mr 'N' Miss Nepal Australia 2014 in 19th July.

Aspirants can fill up a nomination form and send it to organizers by 30th of March.

According to the organizer, the event aims to help Nepali youths living in Australia to be active and creative urging all Nepali youths living in Australia to take part in the event.

CONTACT  
Dharma : 0413 494 707  
Tek : 0405 442 735  
e-mail : info@unae.com.au

## "Nai Nabhannu La-2" set to release in Nepal and Australia at once



Nepali movie "Nai Nabhannu La-2" is all set to be released simultaneously in Nepal and Australia.

The movie will be released on 11th of April (28 Chaitra) all over Nepal whereas in Australia it will be released on 11, 12 and 13th of April, film director Bikas Acharya informed.

Dinesh Kumar Pokherel, NRNA Australia spokesperson, is going to distribute the film in Australia. Pokherel is also the producer of the film. According to him, six shows of the film will be screened

at Sydney's Civic Theatre in three days. Likewise, another show will also be screened in a gold class at Sydney's Event Cinema. The film will be screened in more than 10 cities of Australia, Acharya said.

Veteran Nepali actor Saroj Khanal is releasing the film in the US cities of DC, Texas and Colorado in the second week of Nepali New Year 2071.

The film depicts a love story of childhood sweethearts.

## Nepali Songstress nominated for top ten cover of John Legend's "All of me"



Nepali songstress Astha Tamang-Maskey has been nominated for the competition of the top ten covers of John Legend's "All of me". John Legend, 9 Grammy Awards winner, launched a competition last week in a bid to find the best artist to include in his album. The winner will also can participate in live concerts with John Legend.

Astha Tamang Maskey's unique style of singing and composing songs makes her different from all the other musicians from her generation.

Astha Tamang Maskey was born in Nepal but raised in Toronto, Canada. Graduating from the Independent Music Production program at Toronto's Seneca College (2008), she developed the necessary skills to begin her career as an Independent artist.

The announcement will be made on 8<sup>th</sup> of April.

## Nepalese company sponsors the major Bollywood release for the first time in Australia

Australian Education & Career Consultants (AEC) has become the first Nepali owned company to have sponsored the premier of major Bollywood release in Australia. AEC has sponsored the movie

"Gulab Gang" which features 'A Class' Bollywood celebrities like Madhuri Dixit and Juhi Chawla. "As Nepalese, our love for Bollywood movie and music is evident and we are proud to be associated with such massive Bollywood event as a sponsor" said AEC source.

The movie is screening on the celebration of International Women's Day in the presence of VIPs from Australian Indian Film Fraternity.

With Madhuri Dixit having a huge Nepalese fan following, large number of Nepalese attended the show.

'Gulab Gang' was premiered at Cinema Nova, Lygon Street on 14th of March.

CONTACT  
Nitin 0433 379 086  
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FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER  
AN EXCLUSIVE GALA SCREENING OF  
THE LATEST BOLLYWOOD RELEASE

**Gulab gang**

FILM INTRODUCED BY  
**ANUPAM SHARMA**  
JUDGE OF SBS SHOW 'BOLLYWOOD STAR' &  
HEAD OF AUSTRALIA INDIA FILM FUND

in celebration of  
**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

with VIPs from the Australian Indian Film Fraternity and Community  
in the support of Aaha Global

Date: Friday 14th March, 2014 Start time: 8:00pm sharp  
Venue: Cinema Nova, 380 Lygon Street, Carlton

Event Includes: Complimentary finger food, a drink & special gifts for ladies.  
Tickets priced at \$30 Reg/\$25 Conc  
RSVP info@chajunction.com latest by Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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# INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE

## New voices from the subcontinent Nepali film "Pailaharu" to be screened

### Festival Locations:

Hoyts Melbourne Central, Hoyts Chadstone, Federation Square, Princess Theatre, Australia India Institute

### IFFM Opening Night:

Hoyts Melbourne Central, Thurs 1 May

### IFFM Awards Night:

Friday 2 May, Princess Theatre

### Telstra Bollywood Dance Competition:

Sunday 4 May, 3pm  
Federation Square

### Bookings & Program

Information: [www.iffm.com.au](http://www.iffm.com.au)

lywood siren Malaika Arora Khan; popular actress, director, producer and writer, Suhasini Maniratnam; celebrated writer and director of the record-breaking *Dhoom 3*, Vijay Krishna Acharya; and from Bollywood, Pakistani producer Hassan Wagas Rana (Waar) and acclaimed Pakistani actor, writer and director Shaan Shahid.

This year's festival proudly launches the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards (IFFM Awards), judged by a panel of Australian and Indian film legends including Phillip Noyce, Jill Bilcock, Raju Hirani, Simi Garewal, Rajeev Masand and Suhasini Maniratnam. In the first Indian cinema awards of its kind in Australia, winners in the categories of Best Film, Best Performance, Best Director, Best Independent Film and the People's Choice Award will be announced at a red carpet gala event on 2 May at the Princess Theatre with a dazzling entertainment program presented by local Melbourne talents.

IFFM kicks off on 1 May with the Australian premiere of the newly-restored *Sholay 3D*, followed by a Q&A with the film's star Amitabh Bachchan. Since its release in 1975, the spaghetti



western-style action adventure film has established itself as a beloved classic of Indian cinema and is critically regarded as one of the best Indian films of all time. "We are really delighted to open the festival with a screening of this most cherished film," said festival director Mitu Bhowmick Lange.

Turning its focus to contemporary India, IFFM presents four dynamic program streams of new films from India and the subcontinent. "The program reflects the films coming out of India today - questioning the social injustices, our relationship with our neighbours, gender inequality, while we also celebrate the wonderful Bollywood musicals that we all so love", said Bhowmick-Lange.

'Hurrah Bollywood!' features the best mainstream Hindi cinema from the last 12 months. 'Beyond Bollywood' presents art house and cinema in regional Indian languages. 'New Voices' celebrates exciting emerging talents and Films from the Subcontinent' features eight films from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and

Nepal. Nepali film "Pailaharu" is one of the feature of this festival.

IFFM offers a window into the future of filmmaking with screenings of winners and finalists in the Western Union short film competition open to filmmakers from India and Australia. The annual competition supports and encourages the careers of young filmmakers from India and Australia and fosters industry ties between the two countries. The 2014 winners will be announced at the IFFM Awards night and the winning films screened.

The colour and rhythm of Bollywood is expressed most joyously in its dancing. At Federation Square on 4 May audiences can emulate their screen heroes and join in the Telstra Bollywood Dance Competition to be judged by the incredible Malaika Arora Khan, a judge on TV show India's Got Talent.

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne was established in 2012 as an initiative of the Victorian Coalition Government.

**'New Voices' celebrates exciting emerging talents and Films from the Subcontinent' features eight films from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal.**



**T**he Indian Film Festival-2014 of Melbourne (IFFM) was launched in Melbourne on 28th of March by Bollywood superstar Vidya Balan, the Minister for Innovation, Minister for Tourism and Major events and Minister for Employment and Trade, Louise Asher, and IFFM Festival director, Mitu Bhowmick. Vidya Balan is the Festival Ambassador and has flown into Melbourne especially for the launch.

The southern hemisphere's greatest annual celebration of Indian cinema, takes places from 1-11 May. This year's festival explores the richness of contemporary Indian cinema across four program streams, with films spanning Bollywood to art house and the subcontinent, as well as establishing an international competition, the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards. The 11-day festival presents a world-class program overflowing with gala events, master classes with India's leading film figures, and over 45 films screenings across four Melbourne venues.

The festival announced a number of India's biggest stars as special guests for 2014. The stellar list includes godfather of Indian cinema Amitabh Bachchan, who will be honoured as the IFFM International Screen Icon for 2014. To celebrate this visit by one of the world's most iconic stars La Trobe University is creating the 'Shri Amitabh Bachchan' scholarship and Mr Bachchan will personally present the inaugural scholarship to a student during his visit. Other guests include national award-winning arthouse star Konkona Sen Sharma; iconic filmmakers Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra and Rajkumar Hirani; Bol-



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# Australian library introduces Nepali acquisitions

**P**ublic Library of New South Wales, Australia has introduced Nepalese acquisitions amid the program held in South Rockdale Town Hall of Sydney on 22nd of March. This was an initiative of NSW State library, Rockdale City Council and St George Migrants Resource Centre. Nepalese Ambassador to Australia Honourable Rudra Kumar Nepal, Rockdale City Council Mayor Shane O'Brien, Director of Public Library and Community Learning Services Frances Sims and St George Migration Resource Centre's President Ruth Fyfe jointly inaugurated the Nepali collections.

Speaking at the program, Mayor Brien reinforced the commitments of the Rockdale City Council to rub shoulders with Nepalese community in the areas community developments. Honourable Ambassador Rudra Kumar Nepal opined that the introduction of Nepali segment in the library has added to the heritage of Nepali community in Australia. Director of Public Library and Community Learning Services Frances Sims said that the introduction of Nepali collections was a necessary step to enable large number of Nepali migrants across the state to source information. She also said the library will use all its resource to ensure the effective distribution of books across the metro and regional cities of NSW. Ruth Fyfe from St George Migration Resource Centre informed about the programs that is currently being carried out towards the welfare of migrant communities including Nepali.

On behalf of Nepalese community living around the St. George area and St George Migration Resource Centre Nepali Reference Group, Mr Churamani Belbase thanked everyone that has helped throughout the process of establishing Nepali collection in the state library.



Photo Courtesy: Nepali Touch

Nepalese Ambassador Honourable Rudra Kumar Nepal, Rockdale City Council Mayor Shane O'Brien, State Library Director Frances Sim and St George Migration Resource Centre President Ruth Fyfe inaugurating Nepali Collection



According to State Library of NSW, five hundred Nepali books have been collected so far. The number will be doubled in near future that will consist of books on Nepali literature, history, cultural, geography and children books.

Nepalese living in other suburbs can contact their local libraries which will liaise with the state library to make books of their choice available to them.

At the program, children performed

Nepalese cultural dance and parents participated in the cultural parade. Prominent personalities from Nepali community, Mr Narayan Pradhan and Indra Ban(OAM) and the other local guests were honoured at the program.

Honorary Consul General of Nepal to NSW Mr. Deepak Khadka and the representatives from other community organisations attended the event.

# Moreland City Council to launch Nepali collection

**M**oreland City Council has invited Nepalese living around Victoria to participate in the launch of Nepali collection. The Nepali celebration will be held at Coburg Library on 15th of April. After the official inauguration, books, newspapers and DVDs can be borrowed from the council libraries.

The collection will be launched by the Mayor; Councillor Lambros Tapinos and guest speakers will include Honorary Consul General of Nepal to Victoria Mr. Chandra Yonzon and VMC Chairman Mr. Chin Tan.

The program will also include the cultural performances and light refreshments. Interested people can register online via [morelandcitylibraries.eventbrite.com.au](http://morelandcitylibraries.eventbrite.com.au) or phone 93534000



## Nepali celebration

11 am, Tuesday 15 April  
Coburg Library



Celebrate the launch of our new Nepali collection including a Nepalese dance performance. Browse and borrow from the Nepali collection including books, newspapers and DVDs. The collection will be launched by the Mayor, Councillor Lambros Tapinos and guest speakers will include Mr Chandra Yonzon, Nepalese Honorary Consul General to Victoria, and Mr Chin Tan, Chairperson for the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Light refreshments will be served.

Register online: [morelandcitylibraries.eventbrite.com.au](http://morelandcitylibraries.eventbrite.com.au) or phone 9353 4000



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# Sangeetik Jaatra-2 gets phenomenal response

Nepalese living in Melbourne have celebrated the best Holi ever with the help of grand musical event organised by S-Events and Multimedia on 16th of March. Thousands of Nepalese living across Victoria got together at Old Glenroy Primary School to celebrate one of Hindu's greatest festival Holi with fine musical performances, fun activities and food stalls.

A program that started at mid-day went till the late evening as participants were enjoying the whole musical processions thoroughly. Local artistes including Nibedita Baral and Utsav Lamichhane opened the show with their hit numbers and popular bands like The Shadows Nepal, X-Marika, Underconstruction played their music much to the crowd's liking. The biggest star attraction was Ram Krishna Dhakal, who had come all the way from Nepal for the show.

While enjoying the musical concerts, participants also celebrated Holi, throwing colours and wishing one another "Happy Holi".

"This is our attempt to preserve Nepali cultures and tradition in Australia. There was no major event for Nepali to celebrate Holi together so Sangeetik Jaatra-2 has given that to our community. I want to thank each and everyone involved in making this day a successful one," said the director of S-Events Mr Sunod Shrestha.

Program was also attended by Honorary Consul General of Nepal to Victoria Mr. Chandra Yonzon and Business entrepreneurs Mr Tonu Ghotane, Dr Mahesh Bhandari, and Former NAV President Mr Bom Yonzon were also present at the celebration.



## Melbourne Deurali's Holi at Edwards Lake

Melbourne Deurali Group celebrated their Holi at Edwards lake Reservoir. About fifty participants joined in to celebrate the colour of festival. The free refreshments were provided by the organiser.

Melbourne Deurali is a close knit group of Nepalese that got together to share their business and community interests.



# NRNMA celebrates Holi

Non Residential Nepalese Madheshi Association, Victoria has organised a Holi Celebration at Edwards's Lake, Reservoir on 16th of March. The event was an initiative of Nepalese of Madheshi origin, currently living in Victoria to mark Hindu's one of the biggest festival of Holi.

The event was largely attended by the people from all ethnicity and regions of Nepal. Co-ordinator of the program Mr Ranjan Shrivastav said, "Our aim is to bring people together, through these cultural events. We appreciate everyone that is present here to lend their support."

The program was also attended by Honorary Consul General of Nepal to Victoria Mr Chandra Yonzon, NRNA Victoria President Mr. Rishi Knadel, Lumbini Kapilavastu Global Co-ordinator Mr. Ram kumar Shrestha and former NAV President Mr Bom Yonzon.





# Value Based Education: Satsang and Kids Summer Camp Program with Dr Chintamani Yogi

Dr Chintamani Yogi was in Australia for a month on invitation from South Australia Schools to share his teachings of values based education. During his visit to Melbourne, the Nepalese communities seized an opportunity to organise a "Satsang" and Kids camp – "The Art of Life" programme on March 8th and 9th in Melbourne and Sydney. Both program were hugely successful and it provided an unique experience and learnings to Melbourne Nepalese community interacting with Dr Chintamani.

## Satsang Program 8th of March

The 4 hours Satsang program from 6.30 to 10.30 pm was held at Dr Raju Adhikari residence and was attended by large number of families from all walks of life. The preaching dealt on many aspects of human life and about the process of purifying our mind and spirit in today's world to leave in peace and harmony and preparing ourselves to spiritual path for ultimate peace. Yogi shared his message of character building exercise following five sensory human values truth, peace, love, selfless service and non violence as very important to build all dimension of a person. Dr Yogi also highlighted the misperception about the meaning of Satsang as being only dharmik and worship gathering. The real meaning of Satsang is the, "Right Company" with "Right People" for the "Right Cause". Dr Yogi also highlighted the need for understanding and cultivating "right relationships" in husband and wife with indescribable sense of humour.

Following the pravachan, an interactive question answer session was held where participants had asked several questions which ranged from their experience and problems in life to role and teachings of Hinduism in new Nepal. The program was a huge success and people thanked Gururji for the teachings and requested Gururji to visit next year again. Deepak and Bahini Pant, Ramayana Coordinator said it was a life time opportunity to listen to his teachings. The session concluded with lovely bhajans and dance activity. All participants said that they were spell bound with enlightening teachings and they all feel enriched today.

There was a general feeling that those who missed the program had missed an opportunity to know Yogi ji in person and his teachings about the difference between education and knowledge."



## Kids Summer Camp Program, "The Art of Life" March 9th, 2014

The second day of the program was 4 hours summer camp program for kids which was held at Consulate office in Elizabeth Street.

Participants were grouped into Buddha and Shiva categories and the program was creatively crafted to train the innocent mind with a take home message to remember.

The first part of the program kicked off with definition and importance of Namaste in our culture.

The atmosphere of the room was filled with welcoming gestures of love, joys, peace and friendliness and kids loved and enjoyed every second of the program. His simple message of Never Ending Peace and Love (NEPAL) quickly connected with the second generation Nepali kids and transformed their behaviour instantly.

Further kids were also introduced Yoga practice and were told about the benefits. Kids also relaxed and experienced the power of meditation, followed by singing bhajan and national Nepali songs. Dr Yogi also delivered his talks, poems and songs encompassing culture, values, personalities and spirituality. One of his song "Daal bhat tarkari saag ra aachar, khayee pachi aachar ramro ramro bichar" becomes a great song liked by all.

With the Gururji's song and poems, the room filled with love and compassion and was charged with an atmosphere of appreciation for our motherland, culture, values, beauty and more importantly being a NEPALI. The new seed of "Never Ending Peace and Love" – NEPAL, was planted for the first time in Australia and will continue to grow and prosper with the overwhelming



support from both Australian and Nepalese communities Australia wide. It is the beginning of a new chapter in their life which will benefit them enormously to build a better society and individual through his teachings.

Nepali Consulate and chief guest Hon Chandra Yonzon welcomed and thanked Gururji for the camp program and his message to Nepali community. He said that the program was great and that kids really learnt a great deal of teaching through his simple art of life program. He enjoyed every aspect of this great program and said that such program should be organised in regular basis.

Dr Adhikari, the program convenor and NRN ICC member highlighted Gururji's overall mission in Australia and about Satsang and summer camps program for the Kids. He said that in 2 years time Gururji program has become hugely successful and Australian Nepali community is become an integral part.

Mr Rishi Kandel, NRN Vice coordinator and VP thanked Gururji and said that NRN is always committed to support such a program and he was honoured to be involved in being part of this great initiative. He thanked Hon Consulate Chandra Yonzon for providing the travel support, venue and logistic, Dr Raju Adhikari for providing hospitality and venue for Satsang

program, Deepak and Bahini Pant for coordinating the Ramayana Program and Suddep Karki, Sydney Coordinator for overall coordination in organising the program.

## Dr CM Yogi in Sydney

Spiritual Guru Dr Chintamani Yogi conducted separate seminars for children and adults in Sydney. A Kids Summer Camp was held on 16 March at Waitara Public School in Sydney. More than 50 kids attended the camp where Dr Yogi taught the children art of living focusing on the importance of truth, peace, love, selfless service and non-violence. The kid's camp that kicked off at 11:30 am continued till 5pm. Likewise, a seminar on art of life was also held on the same day from 6 pm to 10 pm. The program was held at Thornley Community Centre, Sydney. Dr Yogi shared valuable knowledge on how to live a successful life with spiritual attainment.

At the program, NRNA ICC patron Indra Buner, spokespersons Mana KC, member Ganesh KC including other expressed gratitude to Dr Yogi underscoring the importance of such program.





Most talked about topic in the community:

# Decisions within



Dr. Anupam Pokharel

I could not help but to inscribe this write-up apropos the rigmarole that have been going on relating to Nepalese and Nepali origin Bhutanese and the relationship between the two in the pretext of Nepal festival-2014. As far as I understand the debate revolves around whether or not, or even how to involve other communities including Bhutanese in the festival that is meant to be showcasing 'Exclusively Nepal'.

The debate was agog with social media and email circulations, making it the most talked about topic in the community at the moment and what has transpired are divided opinions.

With this article, I aim neither to argue for or against the debate nor to infringe cohesion between Nepalese and Nepali origin Bhutanese. But the sole intention of this article is to express my individual view within the same context.

It should not be the 'apple of discord' that the objectives of Nepal Festival are to introduce Nepal in Australian communities through its culture, tradition, language and religion as well as to promote Nepal's tourism and support

**After the restoration of the democracy in Nepal, they now want their identity adequately represented.**

businesses. Assisting the new migrants to establish here is obviously an important aspect of celebrating Nepal in Australia.

When we say 'Nepal Festival' and if we are promoting Nepal as a nation, we are obviously referring to its geographical circumference of 'Mechi' to 'Mahakali'. There should not be arguments on that.

Evidently, there are millions of Nepalese spread across the globe. Hundreds of thousands of Nepalis live in India, thousands live in Burma and large number of Nepalis also live in Bangladesh and Thailand for a long time. Statistics says a huge number of Nepalese still live in Bhutan. All of those Nepali origin people are proud of their heritage and they try to preserve Nepali culture, language and tradition to their best. They regard Nepal as a land of their origin and take pride in Nepal's prosperity. We have to acknowledge their struggle to save their Nepali identity and culture, however, with due respect to all of them and their life experiences, Nepal



Festival is about celebrating Nepal. It's marked to promote Nepal and Nepalese, and to demonstrate our diversity within the country. Point here is that the whole objective of Nepal festival does not resonate with anyone else but the Nepalese from the country Nepal and that involves diversity, much beyond just those who speak Nepali and wear 'daura suruwal'.

Nepal's ethnic diversity within its own boarder is exceptionally rich. As a result, Nepal already faces the challenge to unite the entire ethnic group in one rope. Since 'Panchayati reign' used 'only Nepali Language and Hindu Religion' kind of approach, many Himali and Madhesi people felt ignored. After the restoration of the democracy in Nepal, they now want their identity adequately represented. So the platform like Nepal festival should be used primarily to promote a myriad of distinct communities that we have within Nepal before we get ahead of ourselves by talking about incorporating the interests of Nepalese living outside Nepal.

We, as Nepalese, are quite accepting of other cultures and people from different backgrounds. The great examples of that is the fact that the same people of our community celebrate Chhat, Holi and Kirant festival together. We celebrate Christmas with equal enthusiasm as we do Diwali. Such maiden trend should be promoted by all to maintain an inclusive and tolerant society. But when it comes to celebrating Nepal festival it has to be just about Nepal and nothing else.

Though, I also highly endorse the fact that we should respect their bitter past but their involvement in the festival should be nothing more than the guests. I am reinforcing what I mentioned above that we are grateful to them for their struggle to preserve Nepali culture and language; we are always prepared

**With this article, I aim neither to argue for or against the debate nor to infringe cohesion between Nepalese and Nepali origin Bhutanese. But the sole intention of this article is to express my individual view within the same context.**

to continue cultural exchange with them. But as far as celebrating Nepal in a foreign land is concerned, they should be invited as guests as oppose to hosts. Keep them as good neighbors without letting them interfere our domestic issues.

So, in a nutshell, my pledge to the Nepali community in Victoria is that since it's our festival, it's the decision we need to make within the family as to who we want to call. Let's not deviate from our main objectives of organizing such significant festival.



## What does the community think?

What do you think about the recent debate on other community's involvement in Nepal Festival?



"I don't see why we making so much fuss about it. Let's just have fun together. We are all one community let's not bring the geographical boundaries divide us."

Tara Subedi



"I think all the other communities should be given space in Nepal Festival including Bhutanese. After all, they are of Nepali origin too."

Sab Thapa, Reservoir

"That's fine, its upto the Nepali



community to whom they want to invite and partnership with. But our concern is on being called a threat to Nepali Culture and Identity."

Safal Man, Glenroy

## HAVE YOUR SAY...

Please write us to [editor@nepalesevoice.com.au](mailto:editor@nepalesevoice.com.au) with your opinion.



# DBSV's Int'l Women's Day Celebration

-Kusum Pokhrel

**O**n the initiation of Didi Bahini Samaj Victoria (DBSV), Nepalese women in Melbourne celebrated the 104th International Women's Day on 8th of March, with the theme "Empowering women through enhancing health and wellbeing".

The program was held at Coburg Senior Citizen Centre and was participated by almost one hundred people. The program saw a range of inspirational and informative talks on physical and emotional health as well as a few exercise and physical activity sessions.

The executive member of the organization, Jamuna Parajuli, opened the program with an introduction of DBS Victoria. She said, "DBS Victoria was conceived by few enthusiastic women a couple of years ago and is persistently working towards improving the quality of life of Nepalese women in Victoria and in the near future we will extend our service to women in Nepal as well". She further said that most women are too busy taking care of everyone else in their lives to take a moment to care for themselves and said that this program was designed to inform women about the importance taking care of their physical and emotional health.

The talk program started with a speech by the chief guest Mr. Chandra Yonzon, the Hon. Consul General of Nepal to Victoria, who said Victoria was in need of a women organization of this sort and wished DBS Victoria a glorious future. The next speaker Mr. Bom Yonzon, the then President of Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV), assured DBS Victoria that NAV would keep supporting them in their future endeavors. The participants at the program also got to hear an inspirational talk by Ms. Ranju Thapa Wagle, The Secretary of Non-Resident Nepali International Coordination Council. She said that change should start from own self to change the community.

Three featured guests - Dr Manjula O'Connor, Secretary of South Asian Community Link, Dr. Coleen Rolls and Cam Ngyun, Chief Exec. Officer, Australian Vietnamese Association talked on different aspects of physical and emotional health. Dr. O'Connor shared a few practical tips on how to increase resilience to combat stress and maintain work-life balance. Whereas, Ms. Ngyun shared her motivational story of how she transformed



herself from an unfit and ill person to a physically fit person and gained her new self. Drawing from her previous experience with Nepali community, Dr. Rolls stated that Nepali and Australian community could benefit from knowledge sharing.

The physical activity session started with pelvic floor exercise conducted by Jamuna Parajuli, which was followed by physical training exercise by Prabha Shrestha, a qualified fitness trainer. It also involved Nepali dances as a fitness exercise. The program concluded with DBS Victoria's Acting President Suman Shah's Vote of thanks.

DBS Victoria is highly encouraged with the response and plans to conduct the fitness and health segment in different areas of Melbourne in the near future.



## Women's status in Nepal still disappointing

Although the world observed the 104th International Women's Day last month and rights activists are advocating the protection of the women's rights globally, the status of women in Nepal is still below standard.

Nepal is a signatory to different UN Conventions and international instruments on women rights

## 178 women and girl children were murdered for different reasons

but the Nepalese women are still victimised in different sorts of violence.

Of the cases of violence against women reported in the country in 2013, most were related to the domestic violence.

According to a report unveiled by the Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) on the occasion of the 104th International Women's Day this year, 1,569 women became victims to domestic violence in the last year.

A total of 3,048 women and children were subjected to violence against them in this period, the report states. Similarly, 178 women and girl children were murdered for different reasons. Of them, 108 were killed by the members of their families while five by in-laws for not bringing dowry, six killed after rape and one killed on the charge of witchery.

The central region of the country is in the forefront in view of the occurrence of women violence. A total of 651 women suffered violence against them in the region in 2013.



## Call to help send an education clown to Nepal



Charity organisation Nepali Village Initiatives Association Inc has called for voluntary donations to support their project to educate rural village of Nepal. Nepali Village Initiatives Project, registered with Rotary Australia World Community Service, has been delivering comprehensive teacher training programs in Shikha VDC of Nepal.

Over the past three years, the project has sponsored the training of forty teachers from schools in Shikha VDC (Village Development Council), encompassing Shikha, Paudwar and surrounding villages. This year, with the new NGO (LEARN) established, the project is increasing its efforts, taking in hundred and sixty teachers from three more VDCs as well as providing refresher training for those from Shikha VDC. To correspond with the increased financial

demand of the project The organisation is now seeking donations. The organisation also calls everyone to promote the project in anyway possible.

Peter Hall, The President of NVIAI is travelling to Nepal in April with three other volunteers for teacher training and a holiday program for children. The group of volunteers include Susan Carew, Rotary Peace Scholar and World Peace Clown, who has been invited by LEARN to contribute to a training program and to an associated holiday program for children. Specially Susan being a World Peace Clown with no regular income, voluntary donations have been sought to support her trip to Nepal on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE VISIT  
[www.worldpeacefull.com](http://www.worldpeacefull.com)  
or call Peter on 03 5424 1453

## Guthi Australia elects new executive committee



Sydney based Nepali community organization Guthi Australia has elected a fourteen member executive committee under the chairmanship of Sarun Tamrakar. Likewise, Sijan Tamrakar has been elected vice chairman, Dipta Shrestha as general secretary, Anup Maharjan as treasurer and Kapil Manandhar as secretary.

Similarly Shiva Shrestha has been elected financial coordinator, Suman Karanjit as project coordinator, Aarati Shakya as cultural coordinator, Samal Sakami and Anamika Pradhan as program coordinator, Ram Shrestha as public relation coordinator, Sunita Shrestha

as coordinator of market management, Nirajan Tamrakar as graphic coordinator, Samir Tuladhar as web coordinator, Sujman Baniya as publication coordinator and Puja Khadka as membership coordinator.

Likewise, Dr. Narayan Pradhan, Padam Shakya, Dr. Nilam Pradhananga, Mahendra Shrestha and Suresh Manandhar will take up the advisory role for Guthi Australia.

The organization has been conducting various research and programs to preserve ethnic Newari heritage in Australia and beyond.

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# 104th International Women's Day

## What did it mean to me?



Anjana Regmi

**H**ow often have you made an effort to spend your precious weekend attending a community event? Many of us living in Sydney spend every weekend on it; sometimes we juggle with too many or even manage on the run. Wait, please ask yourself, at the end of the day, how often do you benefit from attending these events? Do you ever learn anything new? What was your contribution? Revisiting the criteria of sponsorships and event management strategies in our community is a serious concern now, which could become a totally different topic of discussion.

Luckily this march I was reintroduced and engaged in few innovative and creative events. Starting from March 1st several IWD events were organised in Sydney by various communities, such as celebration of IWD by the Humanitarian Crisis Hub, IWD breakfast by the Labour NSW, UN Women Breakfast, and Women @ UTS IWD celebration, and United Nepalese Arts & Entertainment IWD tea party, and Non-Residential Nepalese Association, Women's Forum (Nari Nikunja Australia). Speaking and networking in few of these events expanded my horizon, something precious that I cannot learn from the textbooks. I must say, these forums/platforms only continue to wow me, and I absolutely admire the powerful voices, experiences, knowledge, skills and attitudes of our women who are out there!

The launch of a new forum

'Women for Change' helped me to understand life of Diasporas, refugees and migrant population with a completely different lens. The event brought women from more than 10 different countries, for the majority of us came from a war torn countries. Our issues and concerns were very similar, such as a lack of employment opportunities, access to funding to launch entrepreneurial ventures, access and affordability of child care facilities, lack of social support, and endless initiatives to support our country of origin.

Secondly, the IWD breakfast organised by the Labour NSW, pleasantly attracted both young and seniors members of the community. Guest speakers included Hon Sophie Cotsis MLC, NSW Shadow Minister for the Status of Women, Jenny McAllister, ALP President, Kaila Murnain, NSW Labor Assistant General Secretary and Elizabeth Scully, Chair of the NSW Labor Women's Forum and subcontinent dignitaries included Harish Velji and Aisha AK. All speakers drew on the values that we can all add from an individual level for the greater good. Common theme of the forum was the importance of solidarity between women from all caste, race and ethnicity.

Similarly, UN Women requested support from different stakeholders to help provide women and girls with an education and paid work to end the cycle of poverty and create a brighter future for all at the UN Women Breakfast event in Sydney. Speakers of the event were Ian Narev, Elizabeth Broderick, Elzira Sgynbaeva, Adi Tafuna'i and Catherine Fox. Here, Prime Minister Tony Abbott spoke on a child care policy reform.

Women @ UTS also organised IWD lunch event at UTS. Listening to Dr Mehreen Faruqi, Green MP was simply amazing. Her career is a real achievement. I agree to Mehreen's statement, "gone are the days when we women used to roll our eyes; now, we think and act to make a change...change is visible, but still long way to go".

"Leaders establish vision for the future and set the strategy for getting there; they cause change. They



**"Leaders establish vision for the future and set the strategy for getting there; they cause change. They motivate and inspire others to take the right direction and they, along with everyone else, sacrifice to get there"**

- John Cotter.



motivate and inspire others to take the right direction and they, along with everyone else, sacrifice to get there" - John Cotter. United Nepalese Arts & Entertainment organised a totally different and a very meaningful event celebrating IWD this year. The aim of the organising team was to sponsor 3 girls from Himali Baal Sewa Sanstha, at Bhaishapati, Nepal. Speaking at an event was a pleasure not only because of the opportunity it provided me to share my knowledge, skills and positive attitude to bring changes in the community, but to see the participation of large per cent of male celebrate IWD. I could give a bow to pay my respect, very highly appreciable.

The unique event in the month of March was a dinner with Michelle Rowland, MP organised by Aisha AK in Harris Park. Many prominent subcontinent members were invited to share Michelle's experience on her India Trip. The event has set a single platform for all likeminded

women to identify a common issue and work with team Michelle. Majority of those attending the forum agreed with Michelle that the ageing population and access to aged care, child care facilities in India is startlingly high, which possibly need an international support. On the occasion, Michelle recommended exploring an investment opportunities in these ventures in India, for those who wanted to add values to the home country. The community solidarity within the subcontinent was fabulous as women from Nepal, India, Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka and others attended the forum. The forum presented an insight into the values of strengthening diplomatic relationships between two countries, and empowerment opportunities in both country of origin and a country of destination. While most western suburbs communities appreciates the cultural integration to a large extent and the engagements efforts made by MPs and local coun-





cils are also highly appreciated, the western Sydney has a larger numbers of the migrant population, therefore, community/ social cohesion is a tough exercise for them too. Therefore, Michelle's efforts are truly very inspiring and appreciable.

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up" - John Holmes. This year 200+ guests attended beginning of the year event organised by Non-Residential Nepalese Association, Women's Forum (Nari Nikunja Australia) in Auburn. Till date no such IWD event of this scale was ever organised by NRNA-NNA. It was organised in recognition of past and present stakeholders for their support in Uterus Prolapse Project in Nepal, which is a huge success story of NNA from past few years. Satisfyingly, along with the team, I also had the opportunity to coordinate Uterus Prolapse project in Nepal in association of ABC/ Nepal under the leadership of Mrs Durga Ghimire (Founder CEO), facilitated by Dr Suman Karmacharya and team of Tamakoshi Sewa Samiti. This year the camp was organised in Ramechhap in a memory of Late Jagadish Ghimire.

Reflecting back on my experience of 2014 IWD, I must also say that behind many successful women there is a man. Yes, we have won our battle in many ways compared to 100 years ago, and certainly there is still a long way to go, but let's start small by:

1. Deconstructing the meaning of em"POWER"ment in our everyday life to construct a new meaning using our knowledge, skills, and attitude. Let us all aim to use the power of our education, skills and positive attitude to inspire others in your immediate circle. You don't have to go far, change can start from home.
2. "THANK A BLOKE". Given the theme of 2014 IWD is INSPIRING CHANGE, from this year; I pledge to thank a bloke (inspired by Lucy Kippist). Firstly, because I sincerely believe many men of this age deserve the acknowledgement and appreciation, and secondly it helps to educate other men to empower women.

**From this year on, please "Be kind, be safe"!**

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# The Hitchhiker's Guide to INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Thomas Corbett

**T**o what debt do we owe this grand information age? Many of us carry multiple devices and numerous online personalities. The town square is crowded with noise as the line between personal correspondence and the public record has never been murkier, legislation has failed to keep up and acknowledge popular consensus. To what extent has the commoditization of our online identity sacrificed our sacred right to privacy.

Cultural traditions are always a product of progressive social change, the influence of international society is no longer resembling national norms. Shifting ideas to the definition of a global community continue to challenge authoritative agenda. The doctrine of difference of opinion should be readily embraced.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are missing from their families through conflict (Vzuela). The public interest wanes & wanders as more oxygen will be consumed by a fresh controversy. Once again our confidence has been shaken when we take to the skies. Nobody seems to know where the tail/tale begins and where it ends, with too many directors a stage manager has difficulty leading their cast.

The absurdity of this beauracratric fiasco has been at the expense of professionals charged with the duty to monitor our skies. If a plane simply vanishes for 7 days, the missing victims would be better suited at praying for the media cycle to continue with there story rather than searching for the plane. If German Chancellor Angela Merkel's phone is fair game for eavesdropping surely technology exists to discover a missing aircraft.

Pragmatism and rationality surely must prevail, where the impossible can be ruled out everything else must certainly be a possibility. We all have a one in six billion chance to be a tool of change to the immediate universe around us. The contemporary human narrative has brought us no closer to meaningful peaceful resolutions, toothless institutions serve only as single malt whiskey clubs served with the production of strongly worded communiqué. Threats to condemn, cast doubt, shift the blame and fight via proxy are all tools familiar with said gentleman.

Our daily meal of celebrity meltdown consists of an inconvenient truth and comforting lies. We are no

closer to solving the riddle of what a terrorist is than we are at arriving at what democracy actually involves. The 'enemy combatant' conjures up images of a fanatical fool willing to lay down their own life at the mercy of mayhem. Never before in history has information been so easily digestible. Google the modern-day jetpack and soothsayer for our generation has enabled access to education for an unprecedented number of people. It's ability to filter misinformation and advertisements is at times ques-

course have always had a fond relationship. So how does own save disaffected, cagey youth from self destruction, a never ending conflict and the all too familiar arab/Persian/black Russian? Quite the aperitif to cleanse the palate of residual fear.

Mutually assured destruction for all its purported benefits of protection offers us only two options, peace or attack. The former unavailable to hawkish governments and crony capitalists, there indebtness to nepotism and corporate

New Zealand) has given mandate to politicians punch and prosperity has been its measure. The legislative process is more or less accountable whereas the corporate world owes no favour to a constituency, its function a steady resolve for its shareholders to consistently outperform above the risk free rate of return. Ethical behavior is a calculable cost/benefit conundrum.

The sands have been shifting beneath us for sometime as we bear witness to a creative disruption. Traditional technologies have been made redundant overnight and interconnectedness for all its benefits is somehow still keeping us apart. It's time we start talking about what makes us similar instead of what sets us apart.

Start speaking the language of the soul. If one man can do it another man can. Every one of us has strength from within; enthusiasm and inspiration knows no limit but answers to gratitude. Do not mistake humbleness for weakness, for integrity will be me shield.

-Thomas Corbett, Aka Lawrence of Australia or whatever moniker suits best.

**Pragmatism and rationality surely must prevail, where the impossible can be ruled out everything else must certainly be a possibility. We all have a one in six billion chance to be a tool of change to the immediate universe around us.**

tionable. We consider ourselves more intelligent for this service, all we have to do is connect the dots however attention quickly moves from bite size articles to top 10 celebrities who look like cats.

Corporate agenda and political dis-

agenda seems to always prevail. The Westminster system offers a public platform where robust debate was considered a virtue. The arms length commerce system embraced by western nations (Namely UK,US, Canada, Australia &





# Jealousy is dangerous for your relationship

While jealousy is one of the signs you are really into your girl, it can hurt your relationship gravely if it goes overboard.

If you are a possessive boyfriend and are jealous of her friends and other relations more than often then be assured it is not a good sign. Your jealousy might be hurting your relation badly.

Jealousy is in most of the cases the reason of feeling low on self esteem, suspicious of your partner, enraged and fearful of losing out on the relationship. And all this may lead to behaviour which is not good for you relationship. Obsessing too much about her, checking her phones or mails, getting angry without any reasons etc are major defaulters.

If jealousy goes overboard or to the extreme levels, it can be really bad for both you and your partner. It causes serious psychological imbalance, depression, anxiety etc. There have been cases where jealousy has impelled people to take extreme steps.

Jealousy also leads to too much questioning for reasons that are not important at all. This can suffocate your partner and force her to leave. Jealousy is also a big reason for extreme anger, which is not good in any situation or relationship.



# The world looks beautiful



When you fall in love for the first time, the whole world looks just beautiful. Everything looks right, everything looks bright.

## Feeling the blues, always?

Well, yes this could be the first sign to tell you when you are feeling the blues all the while and have goose bumps and butterflies in your stomach for no reason at all or for silly reasons.

## You keep blushing all the time

This again is a sign that tells you 'you are smitten for the first time' when you see yourself in a very good mood and your friends always spot you daydreaming and blushing and getting lost in your thoughts. That's definitely mush and that's definitely the crush you need to explore.

## Your heart longs for that person

Your eyes go around hunting for just a glance and you will be satisfied even if you could see the person for even a second and that gives you maximum satisfaction. This does not end here as the more you get to see the person, the more the heart longs for the person. This is surely first love.

## You experience things for the first time

If you feel the excitement is new, the feelings in your heart are the ones you have never experienced before and there are hundreds of emotions running hither and thither inside. You're feeling ecstatic at the same time there is anxiety brewing inside your heart that makes you feel your heart beat like never before. Buddy, you have been smitten. Go and get yourself a love doctor.

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Contact: [nepalesegentleman@gmail.com](mailto:nepalesegentleman@gmail.com)

● Its Neeru from Kathmandu. I got to know about this magazine from my friend. I am a nurse looking for a husband who is settled in Australia.  
My email add is [kathmandulady@yahoo.com](mailto:kathmandulady@yahoo.com)

● A 25 years old Punjabi boy based in Melbourne looking for a stable relationship.  
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● A 31 years old Nepali boy based in Kathmandu looking for a girl settled in Australia.  
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● 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



## Flag Day ceremony in Sydney to encourage Nepal's T20 World cup team

Flag Day ceremony has been observed in Sydney to encourage Nepali national team which played Twenty20 World Cup for the first time in its history.

Nepali cricket enthusiasts thronged the cricket ground in Sydney's Oban and hoisted Nepali national flags. Clad in cricket jersey resembling Nepali players, they also expressed greetings to the Nepali team for the success in the world cup. Addressing the ceremony, Ajaya Kshetri, chairman of Nepali Cricket Association, Australia, said that Nepali team has achieved a historic success. NRNA secretary Ranju Thapa, NRNA Australia president Mahendra Oli, Australia Nepal Football Association general secretary Arun Tamang including media persons and cricket enthusiasts were present at the event. A super six cricket match was also held during the event.

Likewise, Gorkha Nepalese Community (GNC) also observed a Flag Day ceremony wishing a success to the Nepali team in the ongoing world cup.

Meanwhile, Nepal defeated Hong Kong in the first Group 'A' match of ICC World Twenty20 Cup by 80 runs and then beat Afghanistan but lost to Bangladesh by eight wickets in the next match to exit from the tournament.



## Nepalese living in Australia launch campaign to support Nepali Cricket Team

Nepalese living in Australia have launched a campaign to raise fund for the Nepali national cricket team which performed exceptionally well in Twenty20 World Cup held in Bangladesh recently.

The special campaign has been initiated by Sagarmatha Cricket Club, Melbourne and Narre Kings Club, Brunswick Blues, United Cricket Club Melbourne and Eastern Warriors Cricket Club Melbourne have actively supported the cause. The event management company, Solangture is looking after the nitty gritty of the fund raising campaign.

An official page "Support Nepal Cricket Team" has been set up to facilitate the fund collection process. Interested people can go to the page and make voluntary donation online or call Raju Shakya from Solangture. The campaign aims to collect ten thousand dollars with now standing at one thousand mark.

The page says "They gave us joy, the reason to smile and the reason to be hopeful. Our love and support will be the biggest encouragement to current Nepal Cricket Team and future generation of Nepali cricketers to bring International success. They deserve our love, support and appreciation so that they can continue this journey and achieve more success in the future."

Collected funds will be handed to Nepali cricket team amidst a formal program in Kathmandu. The organizers have also urged all Nepalis living in Australia to support Nepali cricket team from their respective fields.

Nepal drew an international attention by defeating Hong Kong and relatively stronger Afghanistan in the first round of T20 world cup matches played in Bangladesh, however, failed to enter into the super ten losing to Bangladesh with a slim run.

## NAV-TWGG Golf Tournament 2014 held

Nepalese Association of Victoria and TWGG Educational Consultancy collaboratively organised two days golf tournament in Victoria. More than thirty Golfers from Nepali community hit off the tee at the tournament held at Morack Golf Course, Vermont South, Victoria.

After the tournament, the award presentation ceremony was held at the venue for the winners.

The event was attended by President of Non Residential Nepalese Association Mr Shesh Ghale, MIT Director Ms Jamuna Ghale, Honorary Consul General of Nepal to Victoria Mr Chandra Yonzon, President of Nepalese Association of Victoria Sudhir Shakya, Former NAV President Bom Yonzon and Multicultural Excellence Award recipient Mr Jog Limbu, business community and general community members.

NAV-Golf Tournament was started back in 2011 with just eight players, namely, Bom Yonzon, Prakash Moktan, Chandra Yonzon, Jog Limbu, Machhindra Limbu, Sunil Lama, Tonnou Gurung & Raju Adhikari. Now, there are more than twenty players that are actively playing in North West, South East, Ballarat and Latrobe Valley. Out of that more than ten players already joined in Handicap Victoria Membership in Riverside Golf Club, Ascot Vale and Morack Golf Club, South Vermont.

Addressing the event Mr Jog Limbu informed the next tournament for golf will be held during the interstate sports tournament in December. He said "a tournament like this is very important for our social and individual well being and I am extremely happy to see that the youth from our community is actively participating." Tournament was co-sponsored by EK Migration and Sukunda Australia.



### LIST OF THE GOLF WINNERS:

Overall Winner for 2days with 18 holes played:

Group A (Handicap):

- 1st: Ashish Limbu
- 2nd: Jog Limbu
- 3rd: Bom Yonzon

Overall Winner for one day with 18 holes played:

Group B (Novice)

- 1st: Pragya Tamang
- 2nd: Sons Tamang
- 3rd: Sachin Yonzon

Similarly,  
Hardest Player of the day:  
Shesh Ghale.

Longest Drive of the day :  
Sons Tamang.

Nearest to the Pin : Pragya Tamang.



## NAV volleyball tournament in May

Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAV) is set to organize a one- day volleyball tournament on 11th May.

The tournament will be organised in collaboration with the Himalayan Club. The tournament this year has added two more categories of boys senior and ladies senior.

Volleyball matches will take place at 857 Plenty Road Reservoir. Nepalese Association of Victoria has been focusing on many sporting events lately. Golf, Badminton, Volleyball, Cricket and other sporting events are part of NAV's annual activities.





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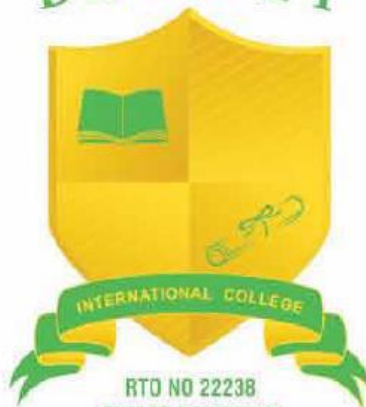
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- Diploma of Remedial Massage
- Certificate IV in Frontline Management
- Diploma of Management

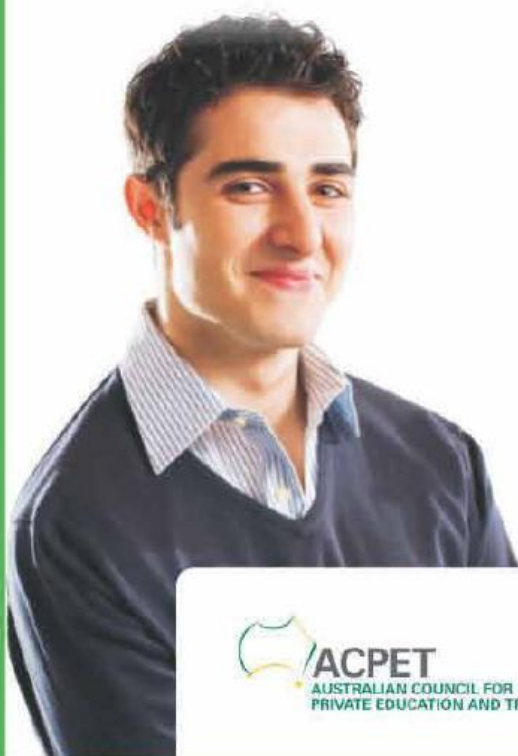
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