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Editorial

Eyes on SAARC summit



Ramjee Poudel | Editor
Email: editor@nepalesevoice.com.au

Eighteenth SAARC Summit is scheduled to begin in Kathmandu on November 26th with the heads of governments of eight south Asian countries. Kathmandu is having a complete makeover to accommodate the leaders from the region.

The Summit holds its merit on proper exchange of shared perceptions between SAARC countries and common goals which is vital in the growth of good neighbourly relations and success of regional cooperation. The importance of Summits also lies in reinforcing personal relationship among the top leaders of the region and, on the sidelines, the leaders are able to discuss bilateral issues in one-to-one meetings for their speedy resolution.

There are no scarce of meetings between SAARC countries. Some 200 meetings, mostly at official and expert levels, take place every year within SAARC countries, but they do not produce results. The historical legacies, differences and disputes between countries have plagued progress. Time has come now for the political leaders to advocate and commit to further integration on physical connectivity through multi-modal transport, setting up of regional energy grid and regional water resources management institutions, regional counter-terrorism strategy, combating environmental degradation, and people's movement within

the region with easy visa facilities. To make the institution effective, there is a need for active participation of representatives from private sector, civil society, NGOs and think-tanks across the region. The public sector alone cannot implement the promises made at summits.

Suffice to say that economic relations do not develop substantially without good political relations. The founding principles of SAARC are self-help and regional solidarity, and multilateralism will be the key of success of SAARC.

This summit holds a special significance for Nepal as it is taking place at a time when Nepal is undergoing a transitional period. It is also expected to be historic as both the prime ministers from 'not so friendly' neighbours from the region India and Pakistan will participate no apparent disputes have occurred prior to the summit.

From Nepal's perspectives, agendas on control of terrorism and exchange of information against it, control over trafficking in women and children and trade and energy top the priority. Nepalese are hoping that their leaders will raise those issues up to the appropriate level during summit.

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All about Nepal

Nepal Festival Melbourne - 2014

Around fifteen thousand Nepalese flocked to the Melbourne City on 2nd of November to revere their motherland and to share the pride of nationalism. The occasion was 'Nepal Festival-2014' organised by NRNA Australia (State Coordination Council, Victoria) in collaboration with Nepalese Association of Victoria and Consulate office of Nepal to Victoria. For the whole day, the iconic, Federation Square was immersed with "Nepalese and Nepalpan". Nepali flags, food stalls, business stalls, Nepali artefacts and cultural activities, were all on display showcasing the true cultural heritage of Nepal.

His Excellency Ambassador of Nepal to Australia Rudra Kumar Nepal inaugurated the event with flag hoisting ceremony at the venue. Following the ceremony, the Nepal festival parade commenced from State Library to Federation Square. Hundreds of Nepalese marched the busy street of Melbourne CBD showcasing an array of ethnic Nepali cultures, costumes, arts and music. The Parade also exhibited typical Nepali traditional dances such as Chandi, Chyabrug, Lakhey and Pancha Baja setting the tone for the formal program that was to follow.

Talented local artists Barun Pandey, Sudesh Bala, Alina Magar and Bishnu Thulung added more colour to the segment of stage performance. Popular singers Divya Subba, Milan Lama then took over the stage to entertain the audience.

The formal program was attended by leaders of political parties from both Government and Oppositions and Victoria Multicultural Commissioner office. Mr Bruce Atkinson, President, Victoria Parliament Legislative Council and Mr. Telmo Languiller MP, Shadow Parliamentary secretary to the Leader of the Opposition and Multicultural Affairs said, Nepalese community's contribution to Australia is highly regarded. Likewise Mr Chin Tan, Victorian Multicultural Commissioner said he feels very close to Nepali community and one day would love to visit Nepal. He said he always remembered Nepal not only for its unique flag but also for its unique culture and heritage.

NRNA Global President Mr Shesh Ghale addressed the event and said it was a proud moment for Nepalese community. He also remarked on NRNA's global activities such as Nepal Festival and pointed out the need for more cooperation and support by the Government of Nepal. Mr Ghale invited community members to take active participation in NRNA by joining the organisation.

Mr Chandra Yonzon, Hon Consul General of Nepal to Victoria highlighted that programs such as this will foster cultural integration. Similar remarks were made by Mr Sudhir Shakya, NAV President; NRNA Australia President Mr Mahendra Oli and Nepal Festival Coordinator Mr Rishi Kandel. On behalf of the organising committee, Mr Rishi Kandel thanked the Government of Victoria, NRN Victoria team, volunteers, performers, sponsors and all the other stake holders for their support and hard work to bring this program to fruition.





For the whole day, the iconic, Federation Square was immersed with "Nepalese and Nepalipen". Nepali flags, food stalls, business stalls, Nepali artefacts and cultural activities, were all on display showcasing the true cultural heritage of Nepal.



Formal programme session was flawlessly conducted by Mr. Nirajan Gauli and Ms. Monisha Yonzon. Similarly Bigyan and Rishika hosted the cultural program with famous artist Mr Milan Lama, Sabin Rai with his Electrix band, who flew in from Nepal specially for this program.

The highlight of the cultural program remained the dance by small children's in the age group 5-10 years and classical dance of Nepal traditions as well as recognition of VMC awardees.

This year the festival was organised in two different segments. The main festival day was appended with a business workshop on "Tourism and Investment Promotion for Nepal Workshop" and Gala Dinner a day prior. The business workshop was organised at the Rydges hotel followed by formal dinner cum cultural program.

Six distinguished speakers presented their papers on both Tourism and Investment sessions.

NRNA ICC president Mr Shesh Ghale, Mr Kush Kumar Joshi, Director NPBCL; Mr Nir Shah, Director Nepal Television; Shesh Ghale, President, NRNA ICC; Dr Phil Casey, CSIRO Manufacturing Flagship; Mr Kiran Thapa, CEO, Capkon Company and Mr Kev. Howlett, prominent Australian Photographers presented their papers and discussed about the roadmap and strategy for potential Tourism and Investment projects in Nepal to be followed by discussion from the floor.

The workshop outcome will be published as a proceeding and recommendations will be submitted to the Government of Nepal for follow up. The workshop objective was to explore, advocate and lobby for potential investment projects between Nepal and Australia through Nepal festival.

The dinner program was attended by approximately 170 people and addressed by Hon. Mr Bruce Atkinson; President of Victoria parliament Legislative Council who praised about the contribution of Nepalese communities in Australia and workshop such as this will help promote investment in Nepal.

The dinner program facilitated by Ms. Karishma Karki was also addressed by Nepali Consul General of Nepal to Victoria, Mr Chandra Yonzon, NRNA ICC President Mr Shesh Ghale, Nepal festival coordinator Mr Rishi Kandel, NRN Australia Advisor Jog Limbu.

The Nepal festival workshop was organised for the first time and due to its huge success, it could become an integral part of the Nepal festival in coming years.



Horoscope November 2014



ARIES

Confusing time for you. One is a debate with yourself or some "expert" about your religious, political, cultural, and/or academic views. This debate in your mind has been a reoccurring issue lately and you are not enjoying it. The other topic is more enjoyable.



TAURUS

Your romantic and financial relationships are receiving a lot of attention lately. You are in the mood to launch financial goals and to invest time in romance. The only catch is that you need to keep your money and your love life completely separate from your social life and/or the Internet.



GEMINI

Average month for health. You could find this is a good time for bonus checks or commissions. You also get to launch some kind of fresh start or new beginning involving a romantic, social, or business partner, but then they immediately upset your father, boss, or some other authority figure.



CANCER

Maybe it is just everyone trying to schedule time off for the upcoming holidays but you have plenty of stress brewing at work. The good news is that after another batch of financial issues concerning your playtime and holiday budget, things are finally resolved.



LEO

You have two very different dynamics happening in your home at that same time. On the one hand, you are ticked off about something or someone in your private life. It could be a home-improvement project, holiday planning, chores, rental contract, or mortgage. You keep getting really ticked off about it.



VIRGO

There are plenty of opportunities this month to find awesome sales, bargains, and great deals on holiday shopping and gift ideas. It is also a great time for all kinds of local gatherings. Your partner may get annoyed about something or someone at home.



LIBRA

Office gossip, daily commutes, local transportation, tough contract negotiations, ineffective sales presentations, faulty product pricing, misunderstandings, miscommunications, defective computers or telecommunication systems, etc. are causing all kinds of delays and productivity problems at work.



SCORPIO

You have some of the all-time best opportunities for bargain hunting and finding excellent sales on the various items you might want to purchase for the holiday season. And yet your budget is not where you would like it to be. You normally like to be pretty generous, but this year's tight budget is really annoying you.



SAGITTARIUS

You are able to brainstorm creative ideas for earning more money through activities involving bureaucracies, charities, and mental health industries. You could also find this is a good time to make sure that you are not doing anything self-destructive that would stop you from achieving your financial goals.



CAPRICORN

This is a bad time for allowing your friends, teammates, colleagues, and/or Internet entities to get involved in your financial or romantic activities. Things will turn out badly. You are also dealing with a lot of dysfunction within your local community. And yet, you are in a lovely social mood.



AQUARIUS

Your partner is unhappy about how much time you are spending focused on your career. Or your competitor is ticked off because you are doing so well. Either way, your career is bursting with positive energy. This is a great time to take on leadership roles and to work towards achieving your professional goals.



PISCES

Ordinary month for social life. But you have had such a great couple of months professionally. It is time to reevaluate things and see if you are indeed ready for something else. Maybe you have earned the right to a job promotion but your boss is giving it to someone else. Whatever it is, be careful not to burn any bridges.

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Social crusader Anuradha Koirala wins Mother Teresa global awards



Nepal's social crusader Anuradha Koirala, who has rescued more than 12,000 women from human trafficking is among 10 prominent winners named here for the Harmony Foundation's prestigious Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for Social Justice-2014.

Koirala, 65, through her Maiti Nepal in Kathmandu, has helped rescue and rehabilitate over 12,000 women from the flesh trade in India and on the India-Nepal borders in the past over two decades to earn worldwide acclaim.

In 2012, the Harmony Foundation had conferred the Mother Teresa Award upon Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousefzai, who has bagged this year's Nobel Peace Prize along with Indian child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi.

Nepali lawyer makes it on the best list in US



A Nepali origin man has been listed on the first Immigration Attorney in the United States. Khagendra Gharti-Chhetry has been selected as 'Super Lawyer' from immigration attorney among 70 categories.

Chhetry is a member of American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). He is one of the more than 7,000 immigration attorneys in United States.

Chhetry completed B.L. from Tribhuvan University, Law Campus, Nepal and LL.M. from Columbia University in 1986.

He has started practicing law in U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York from 1987.

His practice areas include Immigration and International Law.

Nepali man to climb Australian mountain walking backwards



Nepali mountaineer and ultra marathon runner Sanjay Pandit is set to climb Australia's tallest mountain Mt Kosciuszko walking backwards.

Pandit who is on the quest of conquering the tallest mountains in all seven continents will take on the challenge to climb the tallest mountain in Australia, Mount Kosciuszko, that stands at a height of 2,228 metres above sea level.

Previously, he has set a record for standing half naked on top of the tallest mountain in Russia, mount Elbrus for 6 minutes and 3 seconds. He is also the fastest man from South Asia to climb the tallest mountain in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro, completing his ascent in 6 hours 13 minutes.

The Nepalese Ministry of Youth and Sports has recently honored him with the National Youth Award.



Nepali teacher bags 'best teacher award' in Japan

A Nepali teacher has bagged the 'Best Teacher Award' from the Kanto region in Japan. Bhuwan Roka of Dandaguan has been associated with the Tokyo-based Samu Language School since January 2013.

He has been teaching English at Kanto-based branch of the school since January 2013. The school honoured him with the title of 'Best Teacher Award' for 2013-14. The school has 50,000 students and has 500 branches across the Japan.

Roka went in Japan in 2011 on student visa and has joined the Samu Language School in 2013. He left his 150 colleagues from Australia, America, Canada, New Zealand and Britain behind and bagged the award.



Medical breakthrough by Nepali surgeon **Kumud Dhital** at Sydney hospital

Nepali origin doctor at Sydney's St Vincent Hospital, Dr Kumud Dhital has successfully reused hearts that had stopped beating, something that has never been achieved in medical history before. He has successfully transplanted "dead" hearts into three patients, in a breakthrough that could dramatically boost the survival prospects of people with serious heart disease.

The latest patients to benefit from Dr Dhital's inventions are two patients, 57-year-old Sydney woman Michelle Gribilas and Sydney man Jan Damen, 40. Last month, they fronted the media recently demonstrating their recovery from the ground-breaking procedure.

Until now, doctors have relied on using the still-beating hearts of donors who have been declared brain dead, often placing the recovered organs on ice and rushing them to their recipients. Researchers from St Vincent's and the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute have managed to resuscitate hearts that had stopped beating more than half an hour earlier. St Vincent's said that until now, transplant units had relied solely on donor hearts from brain-dead patients whose hearts were still beating.

It said the use of hearts donated "after circulatory death" represented a "paradigm shift" in organ donation, heralding a major increase in the pool of available hearts. Peter MacDonald, head of St Vincent's Heart Transplant Unit, said it was a "timely breakthrough" three

decades after the unit's establishment. "In all our years, our biggest hindrance has been the limited availability of donor organs," Professor MacDonald said.

Dr Dhital said dead hearts had been used in the first wave of human heart transplants in the 1960s, with the donor and recipient in adjacent operating theatres. "This co-location of donor and recipient is extremely rare in the current era, leading us to rely solely on brain-dead donors – until now." The technique used a special preservation solution that works in conjunction with a "heart in a box" machine, known as the ex vivo organ care system.

Associate Professor Dhital told media after the successful transplantation that he "kicked the air" when the first surgery was successful. It was possible thanks to new technology, he said.

"The incredible development of the preservation solution with this technology of being able to preserve the heart, resuscitate it and to assess the function of the heart has made this possible," he said.

The first patient to have the surgery done was Ms Gribilas, who was suffering from congenital heart failure and had surgery about two months ago but the hospital did not publicize the news till the latest procedure was successful.

Dr Kumud Dhital is a specialist cardiothoracic and transplant surgeon at St Vincent's Hospital. He is an associate professor at the University of New South Wales.

"The incredible development of the preservation solution with this technology of being able to preserve the heart, resuscitate it and to assess the function of the heart has made this possible,"
Dr Kumud Dhital said.

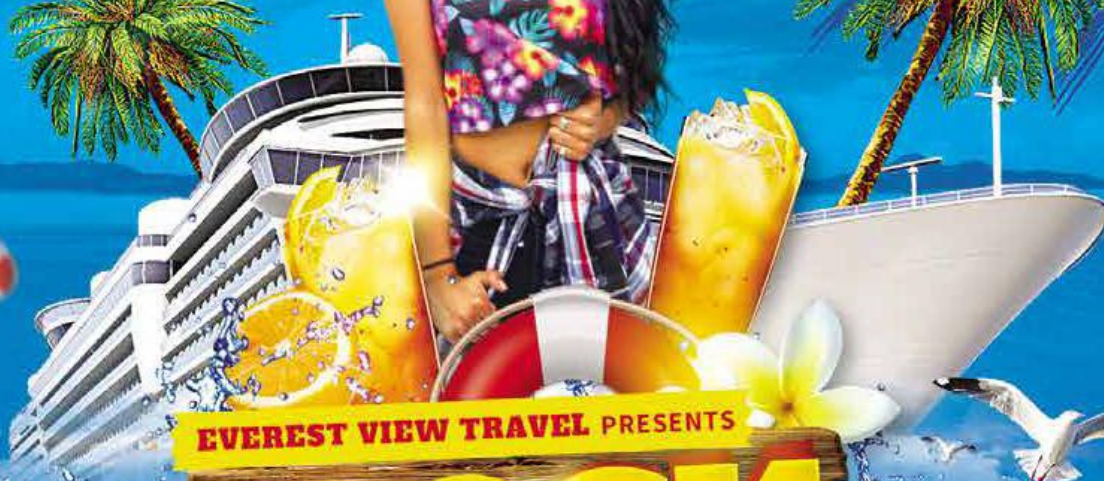
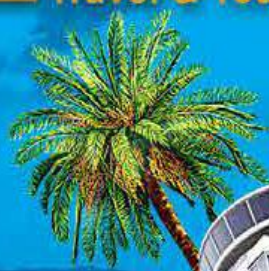
Earlier, Dhital served as the director of the Cardiopulmonary Transplant Union in Palermo, Italy, and director of Lung Transplantation in Cambridge before moving to Australia.

Dhital, originally from Kharibot of Gorkha district, has been living in Australia for the past five years.





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Subcontinent Friends of Labor launched in Victoria

Encouraging participation of Nepalese Community



The objectives of SFOL-Victoria include identification of issues of subcontinent communities, finding ways to resolve them and working with Labor Governments to provide appropriate solutions. SFOL will also assist Labor Party in campaigns and various other activities.



Labor faithful of Nepalese community joined its friends from the subcontinent at the launch of Subcontinent Friends of Labor in Victoria on 17th of October. Many leaders and community members participated the event that was organised to inaugurate the formation of a group which can raise community issues at appropriate levels and seek proper solutions.

The launch was attended by Federal Leader of Opposition Bill Shorten, Leader of the Victorian Opposition Daniel Andrews, Michelle Rowland, Federal MP, Senator Lisa Singh of Tasmania and 23 other Federal and State Members of Parliament. Event received overwhelming response from community with more than 450 guests in attendance representing Indian, Sri Lankan, Nepalese, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Bhutanese and many other communities.

Nepalese Association of Victoria Sudhir Shakya, former Prez Bom Yonzon, VP Surendra Sedhai, former VP Mahesh Bhandari, NDDF President Mandav Kar-ki, Haamro Pathsaala's founder Kusum Pokharel, and many community media reps were amongst the Nepali delegate during the program.

The formation of SFOL-Victoria is an extension of an initiation by Harish Velji, Founder of Subcontinent Friends of Labor (SFOL)-NSW that has taken a shape through consultations over last many months with various Federal and State Parliament Members. The founding members include Prakash Raniga as its chair, Deepak Vinayak, Gurninder Singh and Jasvinder Sidhu. Current SFOL-NSW team also provided necessary guidance and support.

Migration from the Indian subcontinent has seen manifold increase in Australia with Victoria becoming the centre of such movement in recent years. Migration from these countries became possible only after Gough Whitlam, Labor Prime Minister dismantled the White Australia Policy. Whitlam Labor Government also introduced social reforms such as Medicare and free university education. It was only Labor that introduced progressive policies such as aged pension, superannuation and penalty rates for workers. Labor Party also introduced Racial Discrimination Act that allowed members of subcontinent communities to fight any harassment from the hands of anti-social elements.

It was the Labor Party Government led by Prime Minister Paul Keating that gave land rights to Aboriginal Australians.

Seven members of subcontinent communities were honoured on this occasion. These included Kulwant Joshi, President of Rockbank Sri Durga Temple for temple's contribution to Hindi language school, sports clubs, seniors group, blood donation camps, 1 tonne food donation, domestic violence assistance and completing \$5 million worth of projects mainly community based donations. Professor Supriya Singh was honoured for her contributions to academics, work for homeless children and refugee women. Professor Supriya Singh was mentored by her mother Inder Kaur who founded four women's education institutes including prestigious Khasla College for Women, Amritsar, in India enabling thousands of girls to gain education over last 50 years. Captain Dr. Sandeep Bhagat was honoured for his services to Australian army and being the only member of subcontinent to have been awarded with Australian active service medal, NATO medal and Australian Defence Medal.

Satnam Singh Pabla has made a significant contribution to community

over the years. He has worked closely with Singh Sabha Sports Club and Craigieburn Sikh Temple. Mohammed Masood is an Eminent Islamic social reformer. Masood has established many programs, community centres and other Institutions for uplifting various sections of society. Dr. Sonia Singh Sonia is a volunteer and participates in many projects. Dr. Santokh Singh was honoured for his services to devotional music and establishment of community library.

Labor has excellent record of sending members of Greek, Italian, Turkish, Lebanese, Latin American and many other communities to Parliament. In Victoria Jude Perera a person of Sri Lankan background is elected Member of Parliament who is seen as a champion of multiculturalism. Lisa Singh previously has been a minister in Tasmanian government before she won and became a senator is of Indian origin.

The objectives of SFOL-Victoria include identification of issues of subcontinent communities, finding ways to resolve them and working with Labor Governments to provide appropriate solutions. SFOL will also assist Labor Party in campaigns and various other activities.



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Australia's immigration intake most positive in the western world, says survey

A survey done on 24,000 people since 2007 has revealed that there is a strong public support for Australia's immigration intake, and the benefits of multiculturalism. The Scanlon Foundation's report, produced in partnership with Monash University and the Australian Multicultural Foundation has reaffirmed that the public sentiment in Australia's immigration intake is seen as the most positive in the western world.

In 2014, 58% of people agree that the immigration intake is about right or too low. Just 35% of people consider that the immigration intake is too high.

"This level of public support is somewhat surprising in the context of rising unemployment and other economic concerns, as well as international comparisons," said report author, Monash University Professor Andrew Markus.

"In 2014, American and European surveys have found disapproval of immigration in the range of 60 to 75 per cent." Public concern over asylum seeker arrivals by boat has dropped. In 2013, the issue was seen as the major problem facing Australia by 12 % of people. In 2014, less than 4% of people hold the



same view. "It would seem that acceptance of the government's measures to stop the arrival of asylum seekers by boat has influenced this outcome," said Professor Markus.

Support for eligibility for permanent settlement for asylum seekers arriving by boat has risen, but remains a minority viewpoint. Just one in four people (24%) support asylum seekers arriving by boat to be eligible for permanent settlement.

In terms of attitudes toward multiculturalism, 85% of people agree that it has been good for Australia, almost

identical with the proportion in the 2013 survey.

Attitudes toward multiculturalism differ among the Australian population, for example between third generation Australians and those from non-English speaking backgrounds.

While a large majority of third generation Australians agree that people from different backgrounds get on well and that they like getting to know people from other cultures, the majority do not agree with entrenched cultural and ethnic difference. The 2014 Mapping Social

Cohesion report also highlights areas of concern.

Experience of discrimination remains close to the highest level recorded since the surveys began – at 18% in 2014. Of those who reported experience of discrimination, 30% indicated that it was a frequent occurrence, at least once a month.

"This translates to five per cent of our population experiencing discrimination on a monthly basis," said Professor Markus.

Negative views toward Muslim faith groups are almost five times higher than negative views toward the other religions surveyed, Christian and Buddhist faiths.

There are also concerns about the working of Australian democracy. Trust in government remains well below the level recorded in 2007-2009. While close to 90% of people agree that democracy, whatever its problems, is the best system of government, just 15% agree that the system works well as it is.

As for the nation's scorecard on social cohesion, Professor Markus says that in 2014, overall and by international standards, Australia remains highly cohesive.

Napthine Government reinforces its support for Victoria's multicultural media

Premier Denis Napthine and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Matthew Guy have commended the multicultural media's role in ensuring all Victorians can access information and feel connected to the community.

Attending the October multicultural conference on 13th of October, Dr Napthine said the purpose of the conferences was to provide multicultural media representatives with access to senior members of the Victorian Government, and to provide information on the Victorian Coalition Government's key initiatives, including those specifically relating to multicultural affairs and citizenship.

"Victoria's numerous multicultural media outlets play a significant role in our rich multicultural and multi-faith State. Many Victorians rely on multicultural media for their news and information about Government programs and services," Dr Napthine said.

"The Victorian Coalition Government values the important role Victoria's multicultural media outlets play in providing information to Victorians who do not speak English or who simply

prefer to listen to the news in their own language."

"I am fortunate to have met with an array of language specific media outlets and have been impressed by the valuable service they provide to their respective communities."

Mr Guy said more than \$24.4 million has been allocated to the Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship portfolio in this year's State Budget.

"Multiculturalism is a huge success in this state, it defines us and makes our society stronger. Migrants are coming from a broader range of countries than in the past – meaning Victorians will be speaking a larger number of languages, and practising a wider range of cultures and religions, than ever before," Mr Guy said.

"The Napthine Government continues to respond effectively to Victoria's diversity, ensuring all Victorians are enabled to engage and participate in our community."

"This commitment is reflected in Victoria's landmark multicultural policy: Victoria's Advantage: Unity, Diversity, and Opportunity, which was launched in March of this year.



"Victoria's numerous multicultural media outlets play a significant role in our rich multicultural and multi-faith State. Many Victorians rely on multicultural media for their news and information about Government programs and services," Dr Napthine said.

"The policy acknowledges the social and economic opportunities our growing diversity brings, while recognising the importance for all Victorians to maintain and celebrate their faith and cultural traditions."

Mr Guy said the multicultural media conferences are one of the many ways

the Victorian Government works in partnership with the multicultural sector to strengthen and build on Victoria's diverse society.

Since early 2011, the Victorian Government has hosted multicultural media conferences on a regular basis.

NSW Premier's 2014 Deepawali Celebration welcomed Nepali cultural performance at NSW Parliament House

NSW Premier Mike Baird hosted an event for the Hindu community in celebration of Deepawali, the Hindu festival of light, at NSW Parliament on Wednesday, 5 November 2014 in the presence of Hon. Victor Dominello MP Minister for Citizenship and Communities, Dr G.K. (Hari) Harinath OAM, Chairman, Multi cultural NSW and Consul General of India in Sydney Mr Sunjay Sudhir and community leaders including Mr Mana KC NRNA Spokesperson and Mr Bishnu Hamal Senior Leader NRNA.

For the first time in the history of the celebration, this year, United Nepalese Arts & Entertainment (UNAE) were given an opportunity to present the traditional Nepali folk dance, which is one of the most famous and oldest dance forms that is performed during Tihar in Nepalese communities. Tihar is a five-day long Hindu festival celebrated in Nepal which comes soon after Dashain. Similar to Deepawali but with a regional variation, all Hindu ethnic groups celebrate this festival in their own way. The United Nepalese Arts & Entertainment Group is one of the oldest Nepalese arts group in Australia and have given performances in numerous large events. UNAE is also the official host of the annual Mr & Mrs Nepal Australia events in Sydney that attracts 500+ attendees each year.

Anjana Regmi, PhD student at UTS and a member of the Nepalese Diaspora was nominated for the 2014 Deepawali Advisory Group, a platform to provide advice on a Deepawali celebration at the NSW Parliament House. Members were appointed as individuals, not as representatives of any organisations, and were chosen taking account of the knowledge and level of involvement in the Hindu community. The celebration was coordinated by the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW with the assistance of the Deepawali Advisory Group, who provided advice on various elements of the event. The NSW Government has celebrated Deepawali in the NSW Parliament and the tradition of celebrating this important festival continues to be more firmly established in our community. Deepawali celebration at the NSW Parliament House is one of the most talked events at this time of the year. However, the inclusive community engagement that we appreciated this year is a result of evolving processes over the period of time.

Mr Baird and Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello were joined by two Priests to light a tra-



ditional diya, a ceremonial lamp, at the start of the event. At the event Mr Baird said, "Deepawali is celebrated by Hindus across the world and the lighting of the diya signifies the lifting of spiritual darkness and the renewal of life".

"Tonight we celebrate our diversity and it's a positive sign of our maturity that a festival, which would have been unknown to most of us even a couple decades ago, is now recognised by the NSW Parliament."

"It is another wonderful gift to the people of NSW, which immigrants have brought here and shared with us," he said.

Mr Dominello said Deepawali celebrations in NSW had flourished over the past decade with the number of residents from India and the sub-continent growing to over 200,000.

The NSW Government signalled its respect for Deepawali by lighting up the sails of Sydney Opera House at the start of the festival last month, as well as NSW Parliament House, which remains lit until this evening.

"Understanding the importance of mutual respect for each other's faith and heritage in building a multicultural society, Raj Datta initiated the formation of the Deepawali Festival Committee (DFC) of NSW with the approval of the then Premier of NSW, The Hon Bob Carr in 2002. With the approval of Premier Carr, the DFC team, comprising some of the most respected community and temple organizations and community leaders, commenced celebration of Deepawali in the Parliament House of NSW from 2003. First ever exterior illumination of a Parliament House in the western world for celebrating Deepawali was introduced in 2007 in NSW. Since then it has been transformed into one of the highest profile celebrations



in the state. It is a testimony to the love and respect for this celebration in the community that in 2011 the Government of NSW adopted it as a State Function. Deepawali Festival Committee believes a successful multicultural democracy needs a fourth pillar, for continued social harmony and ensured prosperity. Deepawali Festival Committee believes there needs to be an increasingly more compelling way of communicating the concept of Australian citizenship-centric multiculturalism, to all Australians. It is our elected parliamentary leaders, leaders of various faiths and all the community leaders including the leaders present here today, that Australia is looking up to, to promote this message of multiculturalism so that Australia as a nation of one people, can achieve its potential on world stage', an excerpt from Raj Datta's personal webpage on the history of Deepawali Celebration in NSW Parliament.

Other performances included a cultural dance by Samarpana School of Fine Arts, students from 9 participating schools of "India Calling-Connected Classroom Concept" and a musical performance by Emanuel Lieberfreund

Anjana Regmi, PhD student at UTS and a member of the Nepalese Diaspora was nominated for the 2014 Deepawali Advisory Group, a platform to provide advice on a Deepawali celebration at the NSW Parliament House. Members were appointed as individuals, not as representatives of any organisations, and were chosen taking account of the knowledge and level of involvement in the Hindu community.



and Abhijit Dan. Opening of the official celebration was done by Master of Ceremonies, Kumud Merani, Deepawali Advisory Group and chanting of Vedic hymns by Hindu priests. Youth address was presented by Devpaal Singh Youth Advisory Board Member, Multicultural NSW and Vote of thanks was given by Astha Singh on behalf of Deepawali Advisory Group.

Thanks to all the members of the Advisory Committee 2014 for unanimously nominating Nepalese cultural performance this year and for all the support in making it happen, special thanks to Sonia Gandhi (Gandhi Creations) for all the hard work in bringing this together.

Labor Party learns from Sikh and Hindu traditions

Five years ago Jasvinder Sidhu observed that all Gurudwaras in Victoria were having a problem of food overstocking and as a committee member in Tarneit Gurudwara he was keen to mobilize food where it is needed the most. Guru Nanak Dev ji founded the institution of Langar for needy irrespective of their caste, class or religion. Jasvinder established programs for homeless children by arranging food and milk on regular basis which is still functional. Many other Gurudwaras, Hindu and Sikh community members and Rockbank Hindu temple came forward to support such initiatives.

Early 2013 extending the concept of Langar to all needy Breakfast Clubs were started in a few schools. Within 18 months the program has expanded to 12 schools serving 500 school children breakfast and lunch meals who otherwise go to school without food. There are many reasons for children to attend

schools without food. These include mental sickness, drug abuse, neglect by parents and also single parents, low income and many others. These clubs run in Wyndham, Noble Park, Preston, Roxburg Park and Collingwood. Jasvinder arranges donations working with volunteers. Indian papers, SBS and various other radio programs have mentioned this work and its power to connect Indian community and Guru Nanak Dev ji's message of "Seeking Universal Welfare" to wider Australian community. This program has been appreciated in Federal Parliament by Tim Watts, MP and in Victorian State Parliament by Telmo Languiller

MP recognizing the great contribution that this work is making to the lives of young kids.

This program and dedicated work by Jasvinder Sidhu was going to take a major turning point. On October 9, Daniel Andrews, Leader of the Opposition went to one of the breakfast clubs and himself observed how it is run and how Sikh and Hindu communities are making such a great contribution.

School Principal and Jasvinder informed Daniel Andrews that 50 children on an average are served breakfast at all schools. Only 17 days later on October 26, Daniel Andrews announced that if he becomes Premier of Victoria

across 500 disadvantaged schools 25,000 school children will be served breakfast meal every day.

This is an evidence of dedicated work and it is the power of the concept of langar and looking after the needy that a major political leader got inspiration and decided to set up a policy to assist needy children. Jasvinder said "the whole credit goes to strength of our culture and power of the institution of Langar and we have now proved its strength to everyone. I am so glad that Labor Party has picked up the idea and will now serve millions of meals every year. We all shall be proud of this achievement".

Jasvinder Sidhu founder of food programs became a university lecturer at the age of 23. A social researcher and has taught in five countries over last one decade and has presented his research in over dozen countries around the world.



Daniel Andrews on track to be Victoria's next premier

Less than five weeks out from the November 29 elections, a Herald Sun/Galaxy opinion poll has found Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews is on track to be Victoria's next premier with Labor on the same 52-48 per cent two-party preferred lead it has had since many months now. Based on this trend, Labor is expected to win 50

seats crushing the Coalition Government in one term only. Daniel Andrews will mark his name in history for defeating the first one term government in 60 years.

On Sunday the 26th the Victorian Labor Party officially launched its election campaign at the Geelong Performing Arts Centre. Daniel Andrews made a series of socially progressive announcements with education the clear centrepiece of his speech. Daniel Andrews announced that his Government will rebuild Victoria's education system, with plans to upgrade schools across the state and help families manage the extra costs of educating a child. In a historic speech Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews announced the \$1.3 billion education and skills package as well as the return of technical schools. He announced that Labor Government will rebuild and upgrade schools across the state, investing \$510 million in government schools, \$120 million in Catholic and Independent schools and \$50

million in kindergartens. While at the same time the Napthine Government has cut funding for new school buildings – shelving master plans and halting construction work – with classrooms across Victoria falling into a state of disrepair. The Labor Government will also help families and schools cover the extra costs of raising and schooling a child, supporting children as they undergo the most formative years of their life.

Labor will establish a \$150 million Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund, to make sure that every school and every child can participate. Labor will also provide \$15.5 million for a partnership with State Schools Relief to assist schools in providing school uniforms and shoes to struggling families, as well as free eye tests and glasses for students at 250 disadvantaged schools.

Labor will also invest \$13.5 million to fund 500 breakfast clubs at disadvantaged schools, serving meals to 25,000 children every day that would otherwise go to school hungry with neither breakfast nor lunch.

Mr. Andrews said "A Labor Government will be there for every Victorian family to help kids get through the most important years of their lives."

A Labor Government will invest \$125 million to establish ten regional Technical Schools across the state. They will focus on integrating with local industries and will be open for students in Years 7 to 12.

A Labor Government will also implement a \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund to reopen closed campuses, bail-out institutes at risk of financial ruin, and upgrade TAFE campuses across the state. The funds will start flowing as an emergency measure on day one of a Labor Government, because the Napthine Government's TAFE cuts have led the system to the brink of collapse.

Labor will also conduct a VET Funding Review, headed by former Holmesglen chief Bruce McKenzie, to develop a more sustainable funding model for public and private providers.

In his speech highly acclaimed Former Premier, Steve Bracks said, "I was so proud to lead a Labor Government and invest in the future of our kids. Because education, to me, is more than a key issue. It's the key to a better life. One day, I hope the Liberals understand that. But whenever the Liberals attack education, Victorians turn to Labor."





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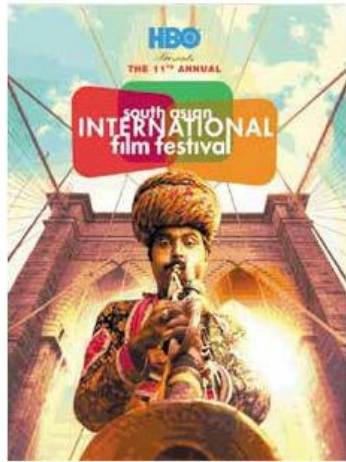
11th South Asian International Film Festival to take off in NYC

The South Asian International Film Festival (SAIFF) - one of the largest and longest running film festivals - is all set to enthral audience with a wide array of radical, thought-provoking films in New York City.

Now in its 11th year, the SAIFF will showcase 13 carefully curated independent, feature, short, documentary films over a period of seven days along with events and discussion in the New York City from November 17.

Each year the festival exhibits films from South Asia (i.e India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal) and within the Indian Diaspora.

Opening the festival will be the world premiere of the mega omnibus "X" at SVA Theater.



(From left to right) "Dukhtar's" director Afia Nathaniel and a still shot from the film, screening on Nov. 22 at SAIFF 2014



NepHop Night to support HIV infected children from Nepal

Brotherhood Nepal organised its third event Nep Hop Night at inflation Night Club Melbourne CBD on 14th of November. The show featured popular rapper/singer Nimaya NSK, singer Astha B along with various popular local artists with actress Prakriti Shrestha as the host of the event.

After the success of screening Nepali Feature Film Ritu in Melbourne last year to support the Nepali Cricket team along with SCC and Solangture, Brotherhood Nepal organised NepHop night to support Safalta HIV Sikashya Sadan. An organisation that works towards the rehabilitation of HIV infected children. Singer/rapper Nimaya Nsk have been supporting the cause back in Nepal and will be his first international venture for the same cause.



Aamir Khan visits Nepal for UNICEF nutrition program

Bollywood actor Aamir Khan visited Pakadi Health Post in Kapilvastu, Nepal on 7th October and attended an event organized by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The actor was in three-day visit to Nepal. He was welcomed by thousands of fans and well wishers who had come from different parts of Kapilvastu, Rupandehi and even India to get a glimpse of their favourite actor.

Aamir is UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador for nutrition to South Asia. The event in Kapilvastu was organized by a local women's group.

"I've started a campaign for the reduction of malnutrition in the whole South Asian region. To improve the nutrition level in children, their first thousand days are very important. The infants should only be breastfed till they're six months old," Khan said during the program. He added that in his 25-year film journey, his audiences have not only motivated him to keep on continuing films but have also inspired him to work in various social issues like education and health."



'Kohinoor' in Melbourne



Melbourne based event management company Smart Entertain Australia is doing a special screening of Nepali movie "Kohinoor" on 23rd of November. Nepalese cine goes from Australia are geared up to pay tribute to late actor Shree Krishna Shrestha by watching his last movie that he has acted with his wife Sweta Khadka. Two shows are planned on its first day, starting from 2.30 first show and 6.30 PM, the second. The movie will be screened at RMIT Capitol Theatre 113 in Swanston Street, Melbourne.

Kohinoor broke all records in Nepali film industry by grossing highest ever box office collection. Sun Joshi from Smart Entertain said, "it's our tribute to beloved actor Shrestha but also an opportunity to watch beautifully made Nepali film."

After the death of the actor Shree Krishna Shrestha, Kohinoor collected around 3 crore 20 lakhs in 10 days surpassing all the previous records.

Shree Krishna passed away on 9 August in New Delhi, India suffering from bone cancer and pneumonia.

Bollywood divas Raveena and Sushmita walking the ramp in Kathmandu



Photo: Pratap Singh



Photo: Pratap Singh



Photos: Glamour Nepal



Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon was in Kathmandu as an ambassador to the Jewellery Fashion Show and Expo 2014. At a press meet organized by Nepal Gem and Jewellery Association (NGJA), Tandon said that her visit to Nepal aims to promote Nepali culture, tradition and especially the jewellery products here. "I agreed to participate the jewellery event in Nepal as both Nepal and Jewellery are among my top priorities," Tandon added. "Nepal has unique culture and tradition. My participation at the event will be to promote them globally." Tandon said, "I will be taking some Jewellery on my way back home."

Soon after, Miss Universe 1994 and popular Indian actress Sushmita Sen visited Nepal to walk the ramp for Classic Diamond Jewellers' 'Timeless Paragon Jewellery Fashion Show 2014' which was scheduled to be held at the Hotel de l'Annapurna, Durbar Marg, on 15th of November.

The show will be attended by different Nepali and Indian models as well as hundreds of stakeholders of Nepali jewellery industry. Sen will appear on the ramp after Nepali and Indian models showcased diamond collections of Classic Diamond Jewellery.



Seto Bagh premier in Melbourne

Ordinary cinema with extraordinary significance

Melbourne based NNN Media premiered Nepali movie "Seto Bagh" in Melbourne on 9th of November. Director of the film Mr Nir Shah had flown in from Nepal specially for the event. It was the first time any Nepali cinema was being premiered in Melbourne even before it hit the screen in Nepal's theatres.

The premier saw the biggest turn up for any Nepali cinema in Melbourne. RMIT Capital Theatre's capacity of six hundred audiences was jam-packed and people did not even mind watching the movie sitting down on stairs.

NNN Media pulled off a class event in terms of organisation but was the cinema lived up to the expectation of the audience? Going by the audience reviews, the answer will be no. Blame it on movie's historical context and director's pre-assumption that the audiences would have read Diamond Shumsher's "Seto Bagh", novel that the film's story is based on. Narration is hard to follow without the pre knowledge of Nepal's history.

One audience said, "It was never an easy job for the director to match the top class story telling of Diamond Shumsher Rana however the film could have been better. I expected more from Nir Shah"

The other audience said, "I loved it but many would have struggled to understand the movie as we are so accustomed to watching no-brainers. This one requires a little bit of that, and also your full concentration."

Despite the mixed reaction of the film, the event itself, though, holds a great significance in the promotion of Nepali cinema overseas. NNN Media deserves a praise for attempting such a big step towards expanding the market Nepali cinema in Australia.

Skills, Knowledge and Innovation (SKI) Transfer

Continued from last edition...

What is it and how can this be achieved?



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1. What are skills, knowledge and innovations?

Skills

"Skills" means ability to do something well arising from talent, practice, or formal or informal vocational training or experience. Skills enable a person to do a given task more efficiently relative to an unskilled person. Skills reduce wastage of time or material resources or both and thus lower the cost of producing goods and services. Other things remaining the same, better skills make a person more competitive, more productive, which in a fairer society results in higher incomes and a higher standard of living which, in turn, are measures of progress. Higher rewards to higher skills can come from the costs saved and therefore may not impose any burden to the rest of the society. Higher skills add values and create new wealth to share.

For a country to remain competitive and progressive higher skills should always be rewarded. A society that does not reward skills adequately will not provide necessary incentives to people to acquire additional skills. If skills stagnate, the country loses its competitive edge in the globalised market and economic growth stops and may even regress.

Knowledge

Any new understanding is considered as a 'new invention' - some patentable, some not. Accumulation of all these 'inventions' or 'discoveries' made over time and across the world both in areas of natural sciences or in social sciences or in any other field results in the stock of 'knowledge' available for all to use, albeit not always free of charge.

"Knowledge", therefore, is a familiarity, awareness or systematic understanding of something based on facts, information, or descriptions which is acquired generally through formal

(academic) education or training and/or research. As scientists, in areas of agriculture, engineering, medicine, information technology and others, possess a great deal of knowledge on their specific field so do the intellectuals or personnel in the field of, for example sociology, business, education, religion or politics. Most stock of knowledge is stored in text books, whereas the incremental or the frontier knowledge lies with the researchers and in their recent publications. A distinction needs to be made between the stock of knowledge and the frontier knowledge by which the stock grows.

A country that has access to frontier knowledge can enjoy the early mover's advantage inputting the skills of its workforce at the highest level. It, therefore, will always be able to gain additional competitive advantage in the global market place. Countries which cannot afford to maintain the frontier research capability may, nevertheless, try to benefit from their access to people working at the frontier research if an access to such research outcome can be managed through, for example, by technology transfer or by organizing and attending conferences, seminars and workshops on frontier research. This is perhaps what NRNA wants to do when it is aiming to transfer knowledge to Nepal. We, however, have to be aware of the various barriers, such as IP rights, being put in place and the absorptive capacity of the country.

Innovation

"Innovation" is the act of creating something original, new or novel such as applying a new idea or theory or device or product or patent resulting from a study or experimentation. Innovation could apply to any field or anything. For example, a biological or physical scientist could propose a new hypothesis for

The transfer of knowledge without innovation or skills transfer - has been the key characteristic of Nepalese education system so far. Without higher level skills graduates will be unable to start private enterprise to employ themselves and create employment for others or be employable by profit-seeking enterprises; they will always rely on the government to create jobs for them.

testing or could develop new techniques, methods or tools for the first time while a successful innovative business person could propose new ideas for rapid spread and reaching to scale of his/her business ideas or products. In agriculture research and extension, innovative ideas could be ways of rapidly transferring new technologies to farmers at scale in both time and space. Further, an academician or an education specialist could introduce online or e-learning or distance education which could be something new, innovative delivery mechanism for schools and universities of Nepal. However, we need to be clear at this point that the proposed method should be using a new technique for the first time. If this new method of delivery has been in use elsewhere and is being

and support further research to reduce the costs to minimum (re-innovation). At the same time they upgrade the skill level of their workforce. In short, the innovators are the ones who turn new ideas into cash (value). They provide the crucial link between the idea creators (inventors), market and the skilled workforce (skills).

In summary, the value of knowledge lies in its fruitful application in solving human problems by ingenious means. While doing so it also alters the skill sets of the workforce that produces and distributes the goods and services. People will learn a new software, drive or operate a new machine and so on. The art and science of applying a new knowledge (or inventions) into practice is called innovation.



introduced in Nepal, then, viewed in a global context, it is the skill of delivering online education that is being transferred to Nepal, NOT the innovation in the delivery of education.

The innovators are the ones who recognize that the new idea is useful to the society. They use new ideas either to create a new product or create more valuable products from the same inputs (or costs) or to reduce the cost of production of the existing products. They can gather relevant stakeholders, explain their vision and organize the necessary production and/or distribution process

It follows from the meanings and examples of skills, knowledge and innovation given above, that these terms are not only "science based" but also encompass an array of non-scientific activities that have potential to bring dramatic positive changes in income, improve quality of human life and enhance well-being. In a nutshell, knowledge points to people engaged in basic research, skills refers to productive workforce from carpenter to a world class scientist - and innovation refers to the entrepreneurs, policy makers and other visionaries who make things happen.

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Aging in multicultural communities needs to be a government priority: ECCV

The Victorian and Australian governments must make aging in multicultural communities a top political priority, committing to a state that is inclusive of older migrants, the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) says.

The ECCV recently launched its Multicultural Aged Care Strategy, written to inform Victorian political parties about effective aging and aged care strategies directed at seniors from non-English speaking backgrounds and those from culturally, religious, and linguistically diverse communities.

The number of seniors from non-English speaking backgrounds is rapidly growing in Australia, particularly in Victoria, and service provision and funding allocations need to respond to this diversity, ECCV deputy chairperson and convener of the ECCV Aged Care Policy sub-committee Marion Lau OAM said.

"Our parents and grandparents deserve to have equitable access to aging and aged care services," Ms Lau said.

"Older people that migrated to Victoria from about 200 countries have significantly contributed to today's economic and social prosperity. Seniors

from non-English speaking backgrounds have a right to access services that respond to their cultural, linguistic, and spiritual preferences and needs."

ECCV's Multicultural Aged Care Strategy recommendations will help promote the contribution and participation of older migrants in an age-friendly, cohesive and equitable community.

"The strategy gives recommendations to enhance participation of seniors from non-English speaking backgrounds in community life and ensure equitable access to aging and aged care services. The strategy is designed to assist decision makers in planning inclusive services, developing cultural diversity policies and enhancing their engagement with multicultural aging populations," Ms Lau said.

About a third (31 per cent) of Victorians aged 65 and over and 33 per cent aged 75 to 84 are from non-English speaking backgrounds.

"A key recommendation requests that the Victorian and Federal Governments provide a framework that supports ethno-specific and multicultural services in building capacity in delivering culturally responsive services."



Kala Sanskriti Manch releases a song based on NRN sentiment

Melbourne based Kala Sanskriti Manch has come up with a video based on Nepalese living overseas. "Janma Bhumi Aama Meri", a song penned by Binod Ghimire talks about how Non residential Nepalese equally love and celebrate their country of birth and the country they live in.

Song was recorded locally and was released during Nepal Festival-2014 in Melbourne. Video of the song was shot entirely in Melbourne. To give

song a real meaning, Kala Sanskriti Manch has got the real characters to act in the video. Alongside the lyricist and composer Binod Ghimire himself, Former NAV President Bom Yonzon, NRN SCC Coordinator Rishi Kandel, NRN SCC members Krishna Neupane, Nirajan Gauli, Ram Ranabhat and Sudha Guragain have acted in the video.

Video was directed and edited by Jeevan Raisaili and sung by Ramjee Poudel.

Madheshi community observes 'Chhat Puja' in Melbourne



Madheshi Community in Victoria organised "Chhat Puja" at Edwardes lake Park, Reservoir, Victoria on 29th and 30th of October. The program was organised in collaboration with Association of Indian Culture and Education (AAICE) Inc to preserve culture and heritage of Madheshi Community living

in Australia. Chhat Puja has a great significance in the Hindu religion and widely celebrated at various places of Terai region of Nepal dedicated to the god sun for sustaining life on earth, and is worshipped to provide continuous blessings, longevity and prosperity to mankind.



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To mark the international 16 Days Campaign, UTS: Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre will host an interactive seminar and Q&A session on the theme of Women, Peace & Security.

The 16 Days Campaign focuses on the intersections of gender-based violence and militarism as an effort to work toward a more equitable and peaceful world.

Speakers will focus on violence perpetrated by state actors, domestic violence and the role of small arms, and sexual violence during and after conflict.













Speakers (L to R):
Matthew Tukalo - Co-founder Entrehub & Sustain Group
Maha Krayem OAM - Executive Officer, (MWA) United Muslim Women's Association Inc
Abdo OAM - NSW Labor Assistant General Secretary, Sydney
Kala Murnali, NSW Labor Assistant General Secretary, Sydney
Ms Sibel Tas - Co-President, Australian Kurdish Association
The Hon. Sophie Cotsis, MLC, Australian Labor Party
Sabera Turkmani - Afghan Refugee Association
The Hon Dr Mehreen Faruqi, MP, NSW Greens
Davlati Nitsios - African Women's Group, CMRC
Neeraja Samudhanathan - Torture and Trauma Counsel, STARTTS
Raman Bhalla, Blacktown Liberal Candidate

Who should attend?
Change makers, researchers, students, media, social-campaigners, community and political leaders, entrepreneurs and supporters to challenge and change in positive terms the structures which perpetuate gender-based violence

Contacts
Anjira Roper (0411 542 622), Yareni Sela (0433 289 074), Azeela Rahman (0433 775 260), Sibel Tas (0433 426 257) and Muslim Women's Jan (0750 6926)

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Heartfelt Condolence



We are deeply saddened by the news of sudden passing of Mrs Prem Kumari Kafle, the mother of our dear friend Narayan Prasad Kafle. We would like to express our heartfelt condolence to the family and friends and pray to god to give you strength to deal with this difficult times.

- Jana Samparka Samiti Australia

Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre (ANMC) incorporated to establish Nepalese Community Centre in Victoria

Aspirations of several thousand Nepalese in Victoria of having their own community centre is one step closer to reality as two topmost community bodies are collaborating for the cause. Nepalese association of Victoria (NAV) and Non residential Nepalese Association (NRNA) have jointly formed Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre (ANMC) Incorporated to establish and build Nepalese community centre in Victoria.

NAV and NRNA Victoria have issued a joint media statement today stating that the sole objective of Australian Nepalese Multicultural Centre (ANMC) is to undertake the responsibility of establishment, operation and management of our own community centre. The statement has further emphasized on the fact that ANMC is not an other parallel community organisation but a mutual collaboration and aspiration of the whole community with distinct objectives. ANMC's interim working committee

is headed by former NAV President and NRNA SCC Advisor Ranjan Vaidya.

Interim Committee

- Chairperson: Ranjan Vaidya
- Secretary: Gopal Pokharel
- Treasurer: Rajesh Acharya
- Executive Members:
Bom Yonzon, Sudhir Shakya (NAV President), Rishi Kandel (NRNA Vic Coordinator), Sunil Bhandari, Ganesh Bhakta Shrestha

According to the statement, The President of NAV and the Victorian State Coordinator of NRNA Australia will automatically become an Executive member of the ANMC. ANMC will shortly hold community consultation sessions in various locations across Victoria to present its vision & project plan, and to collect feedback from the community members.

Queries about ANMC can be directed to ANMC Secretary Gopal Pokharel on gopal@atfaccountants.com.au.

Melbourne University Nepalese Students Society Gets Formal Recognition

Students at the University of Melbourne in Australia have recently formally constituted Melbourne University Nepalese Students' Society (MUNSS). In the light of growing number of students in the university, such a committee had been felt for some time. Before this, the society had been active in social medias. Students such as Shankar Dhakal, Kamal Gaire and Dheeraj Kandel had been working to form a network of students through Facebook and LinkedIn groups.

The inaugural general meeting (IGM) held on 23 October, followed by a very systematic Pre-IGM and IGM Preparation/Election Committee chaired and coordinated by Dhakal, elected a 9-member executive committee led by Tilak Pokharel. The committee has Avishek Siwakoti as Vice-President, Sabita Bhattarai as Secretary and Kamana Poudel as Treasurer. Paras Kharel, Namrata Sunuwar, Bishnu Ghimire, Gehnath Khanal and Sabin Dhital are in member's role. In addition, an advisory committee of experienced scholars was formed.

A draft of the constitution, including names and objectives prepared by Dhakal and Pokharel was unanimously passed by the IGM chaired by Gaire. MUNSS has been registered under Graduate Student Association (GSA), the apex body of all graduate students across the University of Melbourne where Dhakal himself is

an active Councillor and executive board member.

The objective of MUNSS aims not just to organize get-togethers, welcome and farewell programs for students but also organize research oriented programmes and publications, explained Pokharel. This committee would also disseminate news about Nepal and facilitate Nepal based research among interested colleagues in Australia. Dhakal, who is now an active member of the Advisory Committee and has been endeavouring to link MUNSS with other like-minded Nepalese societies in Australia and abroad including NRNA Australia and proposed NepSSA (Nepalese Students Society in Australia), believes that such activities would improve engagement, harmony and impact of the society and its members. Pokharel is confident about the success of his team in meeting these objectives.

Mr Dhakal can be contacted at tpokharel@unimelb.edu.au or 0450 092 041.



Nitesh's short movies screened in Darwin

A number of short movies directed by accomplished Nepali director Nitesh Raj Pant have been screened in Darwin amid a special ceremony on 16 November. The English language short movies were screened in the presence of representatives from multicultural communities at the theatre of Darwin Community Arts. Culture Minister of Northern Territory State Peter Styles also attended the event. The movies were screened in back to back shows to accommodate the huge turnout of the audience.

On the occasion, the Cast and crews of 'Under the Emu Sky' were handed the token of appreciation.

Panta is the director as well as executive producer of two movies 'Under the Emu Sky' and 'Need'. Nepali Association of Northern Territory former vice

chairman Nirajan Pokharel assisted Panta in making of the films. 'The circle' and 'Detective should never fall in love' have been directed by Eva Acharya, promising Nepalese origin script writer and director. Eva's 'The Circle', full of suspense and thriller also received huge acclaims from the audience. She has also penned a novel- The Stranger Company in 2013.

'Under the Emu Sky' is a short film based on child psychology written by Acharya. It tells a sweet tale of a day in the life of two young brothers and the profound bond they share. Set in the gorgeous Northern Territory, the film also carries inspiration from the beautiful aboriginal cultural influence of the region.

Likewise, the movie- 'Need' revolves around the story of a migrant couple in a new country.

It speaks about how in the quest of a better life, one loses the human connection and values. Love and romance takes a back seat as the want for



Panta is the director as well as executive producer of two movies 'Under the Emu Sky' and 'Need'. Nepali Association of Northern Territory former vice chairman Nirajan Pokharel assisted Panta in making of the films. 'The circle' and 'Detective should never fall in love' have been directed by Eva Acharya, promising Nepalese origin script writer and director.

luxury takes over.

Similarly, 'The Circle' depicts a story of a group of wannabe actors and how one dramatic turn changes their lives forever. All four movies have received a huge applause from the audiences.

Nitesh Raj Panta appeared in cinema for the first time in Nepal television on Tele serial 'Kathai' in 1986. He started his career in television since 1992 as an actor and later devoted his career into cinema making as production assistant, assistance director and chief assistance director for major Nepal television tele serials 'Aja Bholi Ka Kura' and 'Hijo Aja Ka Kura' for Nepal Television.

'Catmandu' was his first break as a

director which was produced with joint collaboration of UNICEF Nepal and Nepal television in 2001. Similarly, youth oriented tele-serial 'Hostel' was his first independent production in 2002.

Nitesh also marked himself as a lead actor in the Nepali film industry during 2001/2002 with two Nepali feature movies 'Bhanni Sakina' and 'Aakha

Lobhi Mann Papi'. Nitesh moved to Australia with his wife in 2006. Despite living away from home, he continued his passion for media by producing talk show 'Kwanti' for Nepal Television from Sydney and directed first Nepali video movie 'Guruba in Australia' featuring Nepal's veteran actor Santosh Pant in 2007.

Nitesh completed Interactive Digital Media at Charles Darwin University and accomplished few more multimedia projects as director. He has just completed nine week long film making course from New York Film Academy, USA.



Mila Creations' Mha Puja in Melbourne

Multimedia and event company Mila Creations hosted "Mha Puja" in Melbourne on 24th of October 2014.

The event was attended by large number of Nepalese community members, must-say a well-organised cultural program coordinated by Ms Ramila Maharjan from Mila Creations.

Mha Puja literally means making offerings to self. Mha means a human body and Puja means making offerings in the Newar language. Newar – one of the natives in Nepal has a tradition of making offerings to self on the first day of the New Year according to the Nepal Sambat/Calendar.

The Newar community celebrates a New Year Day making offerings to themselves to strengthen their mind, speech and body so that they would be able to work with vigor for the whole year. The essence of making self-offerings is that every human has a guardian spirit in him/her. In other words, every human possess with the divine spirit and s/he needs to revere it at least once a year. The Newar community does it on the first day of the New Year. Such an offering stimulates the hidden spirit in a human, and then energizes him/her to be active for a year. Therefore, philosophy of performing worship to self is to empower him/her for fighting against evil spirits, diseases and for making fortunes in the year.

Mila creations started to organise the event since last year and aims to maintain that as a yearly ritual.

Photos: Ravi Dhungana, Binod Shrestha and Solangture





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Reflection of my two years' study in Melbourne

I am filled with abundance of pleasure to write the fond memories of the time I spent studying in Melbourne and draw some conclusions from it. I apologize to those who find that I am harping a lot about my personal experience, but the intention here is to provide the reflection that may offer some advice for many readers. I arrived in Australia on 18th January 2013 as one of the recipients for the Australian government scholarship program called Australia Awards. We awardees are fortunate to have received an intensive academic support for five weeks that shaped the strong foundation for our academic journey ahead. For accommodation, even prior to my arrival in Melbourne, Binit Sharma dai had kindly granted me a place to stay. I am deeply grateful that we still live together and have become friends for a lifetime. I am finishing my post-graduate degree in Development Studies and returning to Nepal to continue working there after my graduation in December, as agreed with the Australia Awards.

Through the development studies course, I have not only received an opportunity to learn theories, but also gained valuable project experiences, deepened my research experience, and enhanced my critical writing skills. I am thankful for the opportunities that I received to prove my capability as an Ambassador for the Graduate School of Social Science at Melbourne University. The university even used my profile in the website for the 2014 recruitment campaign. I similarly went to Indonesia to present a paper last year. This year I am going to New Zealand. My message to the ongoing and prospective students is that always think beyond the box. What I mean by this is- always have an eye around notice boards, engage yourself in academic workshops and other career enhancement programs organized by the university and your school. I observe these facilities are highly underutilized in most of the universities, particularly true in the case of Melbourne University.

I have participated in several events organized by various Nepali organizations. I am introduced to Yeti Football Club by Sudip Maskey dai and I must say the club has made a tremendous contribution to keep the Nepalese people healthy, socially active, and

I have learnt and developed an appreciation for differences in interest and culture and how they affect the communications between different people.

most importantly united community members through their sports related initiatives. I have similarly participated in the cultural and entertainment programs organized by Nepalese Association of Victoria and many others and found that these associations are great forums to impart Nepalese culture and tradition to the children who are either born here or arrived here at their young age. Whilst some initiatives are worthwhile, I personally think these institutions are capable and therefore should go beyond these ordinary cultural, entertainment events and general fundraising campaigns.

I have had an excellent opportunity to make new international friends, learn from their culture and experiences. To me, having an international network of intellectually likeminded colleagues, sharing solid vision for development works, and expanding the depth of practical skills are far more important than just obtaining an academic degree. Professors from my class instruct that the role of the university is to impart knowledge for all; it is the students who make the most of it by checking its relevance, testing them in the practical field. Thus, we need to use the framework provided by the University education and develop our modality to it. How far I will be successful to do that rests in the future. I am nevertheless certain that I will strive to do the best on my own way and regardless of what I do, sharing my learnings and experience for greater good will be the overarching theme of my professional journey ahead. This paper is an indication of that.

Not only wonderful things happen in Melbourne. I have also perceived several miseries especially amongst the international students for being unable to manage their study cost and living expenses. Regardless of few individuals like me who receive sufficient financial and other support for the study, a large majority will have to either request parents to pay for their fees or they will have to earn to make their living in Melbourne.

Unfortunately, what I have seen during my stay, particularly during my formal and informal communication with undergraduate and master's level students, is that they find it extremely different to what they have thought Australian experience would be. I have read few Nepali scholars write on this issue previously. Nevertheless, this issue necessitates a greater attention given the degree of seriousness I have personally observed. Let me cite one significant example that highlights the seriousness of this issue. Like many other hosts, we had received two young and bring students with their excellent educational and family background who came to Australia to pursue their undergraduate study at one of the best universities of Melbourne. These students were given countless hope by educational consultancies in Nepal of getting permanent residence, high availability for part-time jobs, great hourly pay rate, and many more. However, soon after they commenced their course, they started feeling demotivated, struggled to find a proper place to settle down, remained unsure whether they can complete their studies, and whether the decision to come to Australia was at all good one. Therefore, they somehow managed to change the course within the same school. But the problem still persisted.

After few weeks of this painful process, and having observed the hopeless situation these younger brothers have been through, we thought to talk to their parents about it. Initially, we were advising them that the transition can be painful for everyone and this type of struggle make them stronger and eventually help them to grow further in their life. They seem to have convinced but after sometimes they came up with the idea of returning to Nepal, having no better hope that they will accomplish their degree apart from such high level of course cost. We then had a serious discussion around what they really want in their life, also consulted their parents and faculties and finally both of them returned to Nepal. They are now doing well



Sudarshan Neupane
Post-graduate student at
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in their studies in Nepal. Fortunately, these students were candid, and they managed to withdraw the course before the final deadline and managed to get the full refund from the University. But, we should remember that not every student will have strong financial situation nor they will receive strong support from their parents if they decide to return. Therefore, I see the greatest risk of many Nepali students having financial, academic as well as psychological distress. I personally think the major organizations such as Non-resident Nepali Students Association and others should seriously discuss this concern and help to address this problem. If there be any need, I am happy to provide specific support from my part.

On the whole, my study and overall living in Australia was treasured and life-changing experience. I have learnt and developed an appreciation for differences in interest and culture and how they affect the communications between different people. Nevertheless, there are several distresses and sufferings, especially among young Nepali students-who excitedly arrive in Australia chasing their dreams and later become frustrated as they see no better future. I would be obliged if the seriousness of this issue is understood as I intend to portray here.

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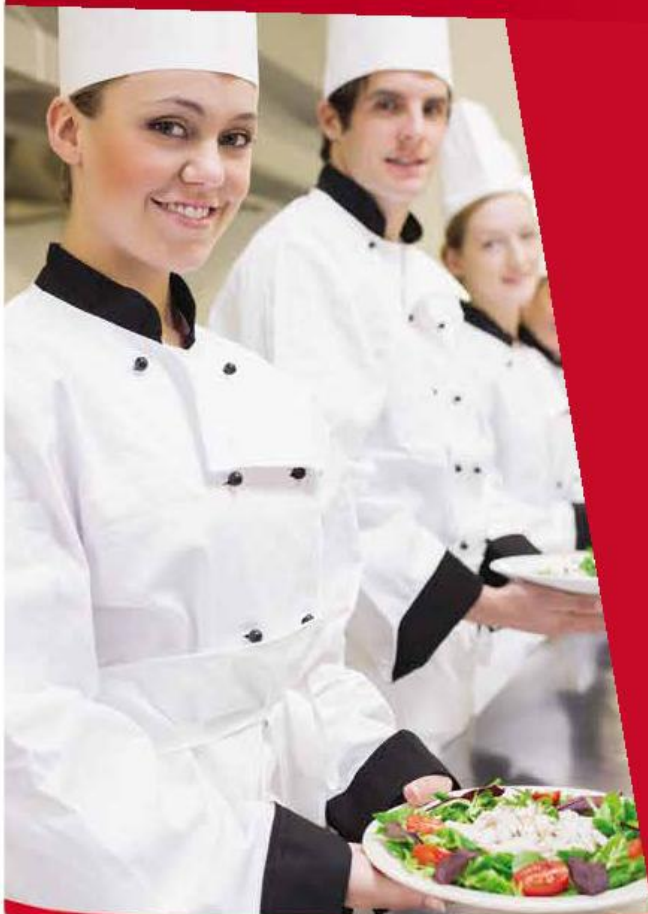
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Calling out from a Hungry Tiffin

By- Aaradhana Makhijani

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So last month, I began our conversation by talking about Spring. !! How September brings with it mixed-emotions... couple of positives and one BIG negative. Just quickly skimming over the one big negative of 'Hay-Fever', I immediately jumped into the business of the 'Festive Season'.

First obviously comes Navratri, as we chatted about last month.

And this is followed by "Karwa Chauth". It is the Nepalese equivalent to 'Teej' and with all the gorgeous events and photographs floating around on Facebook around Teej- time, I know that it is one of the most looked-forward-to and celebrated festivals for the Nepalese community. Every year, I plan to jump onto the bandwagon but having grown up in Delhi, since childhood I always envisioned myself celebrating Karwa Chauth.

So dutifully, I woke up before the crack of dawn to gulp down as much of water and food as possible, as I will not be getting any of that until the moon rises. To be honest, I reckon as the years pass, you get better with time in fasting for Karwa Chauth. I managed to stay busy the whole day and then as evening approached, just like during Teej time, I got dressed in bridal coloured and made my way to the Temple for the Prayers. Now this is where the story gets interesting. Not just for me, but I have noticed that the hunger pangs and mood swings really start hitting you after the evening prayers. And Lord save the Husbands then. !! I am sure every Husband/ Partner has some trick up his sleeve to distract the Wife and stay clear from the firing lines... haaa. haaa



Well, in a nutshell, Karwa Chauth lived up to its name again this year... Between my hunger pangs, driving around Albert Park to get a glimpse of the Moon and then finally settling down to eat Dinner, I think I did quite well for this year.

However, we always save the best for the last, don't we? And DIWALI certainly brings the season close with a bang. Can I just say, Diwali has always been my favourite festival out of all? I am yet to find anyone who doesn't have a smile on his face as they set up the lights around the house, watch the lights come up for the first time or watch those Diwali fireworks at one of the many Diwali *Melas*. But, I must add, preparing for Diwali is another stressful job in itself. Now that Diwali is all done and dusted, I can mentally imagine myself running around like a headless-chook, cleaning up around the house, finalising and cooking the Menu for our yearly Diwali and Card Party with close mates. But in the end, I find myself tired, but extremely satisfied to have celebrated Diwali the traditional way, with lights, sweets and mates, just the way it is meant to be celebrated.

Now going back to the topic of celebrating Diwali with sweets, I was actually so happy with my recipe of 'Mango Kalakand' I shared last month that I was very adamant about making it again for Diwali Prayers. But the recipe I am sharing below, is one I tried many months ago and immediately I changed my mind to make this instead.

Hence, presenting to you Carrot & Coconut Laddoos. The recipe is not my own, but I have added a few elements to make it just the way I like it.

CARROT & COCONUT LADDOOS

Ingredients:

- » 2 cups carrot, grated fine.
- » 1.5 cups desiccated coconut (easily available at all big grocery stores)
- » 1/2 to 3/4 tin sweetened, condensed milk (1 tin is normally 400 ml)
- » 2 Tbsp Rose Water
- » 1 Tsp Cardamom Powder
- » Sugar, as required
- » 2 Tbsp ghee
- » Chopped almonds to cook with and to garnish
- » Chopped pistachios
- » Some strands of Saffron

Recipe:

For the Laddoos:

- » In a deep bottomed pan, add the Ghee and heat it on medium to low flame.
- » Once the Ghee is warm, add the grated Carrots and saute for about 10 mins. Make sure you are constantly mixing it, else it may stick to the bottom.
- » Add a portion of condensed milk and simmer until carrots are cooked. I added about slightly more than half the above prescribed quantity first to cook the carrots.
- » Add the cardamom powder and desiccated coconut and mix well.
- » Add the remaining condensed milk, rose water and chopped almonds.
- » You can also add some pistachios and saffron strands at this stage, but I chose not to.
- » Continue to cook, but if you feel more condensed milk is needed, feel free to add some more.
- » Once all the condensed milk is absorbed well into the carrot and coconut, and the mixture looked cooked, turn off the flame.
- » After the mixture has cooled, grease your palms with some Ghee or Butter and make small balls.
- » Garnish with some coconut, almonds, pistachios or saffron strands, as per taste.



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Too old to get married?

- Nani Ram Aryal

It is almost customary for Nepalese men and women to get married before thirty. Families will otherwise start to get anxious. Specially for daughters, there will be desperate efforts to marry off their girls.

The quest for 'A Suitable Boy' for the girl exists in most families and is greatly influenced by the communities we've been raised in. But is there really a defined marriageable age for Nepalese women?

Everyone wants to settle down sooner or later and it is only natural to feel so. The urge becomes stronger when you see people younger to you get married. However, the need to confirm to the age factor, as far as marriage is concerned, is not practical.

Sujata is now 37 and still carries the 'unmarried' status and she is happy doing so. She says, "when I was in my late twenties, it was a little difficult. Parents pushing me to meet some guy every other day and friends assuring me of the match-made-in-heaven concept; it seemed everything around me was turning negative. That's when I decided to give up the idea of marriage and concentrate only on my career," says she. But no matter how strong we train our minds to behave practically, doesn't the



heart feel let down at times? "I am not averse to marriage. It's just that I don't want to marry just anyone for the sake of it. I am sure, if and when the time is right, I'll find someone. Even if I don't, I am quite happy in my space," she adds.

The society we live in is such that they believe a person can be only truly happy after he/she has entered the holy communion of matrimony. That anything against this norm is questionable. It is not that great a crisis for a man who remains unmarried for a long time, but a spinster woman who invites criticism or at best unsolicited advices. Perhaps

Everyone wants to settle down sooner or later and it is only natural to feel so. The urge becomes stronger when you see people younger to you get married. However, the need to confirm to the age factor, as far as marriage is concerned, is not practical.

this notion stems from the fact that as a woman climbs the ladder of age, her chances of conceiving become less, and in most cases complicated too.

Dr Sapana Dhital who is

an Obstetrics and Gynaecology agrees, "Women who decide to have a child after the age of thirty five, face greater possibilities of congenital abnormalities. The Down syndrome is a common defect among children in such cases. With age, chances of an easy delivery become lesser and the choice remaining is a caesarean delivery that has its own recovery time."

But there are others who despite having crossed the customary marriageable age have found partners of their choice, although a little late in life, and have

been successful in overcoming the biological complications too. An architect and visual designer by profession and now a full time mother of a three-year-old daughter, Renu Manandhar says, "That is the only drawback of marrying late but then it is a conscious decision. One must be prepared for the challenges and open to consultations from doctors". Having studied in the United States for almost nine years, her parents understood her mindset and hence avoided any discussion on marriage. Only when she came back to Nepal, they started asking the dreaded, unavoidable questions. "But everything has its own time..." she adds.

Whether all families have such an unbiased outlook, is hard to gauge, thanks to diverse cultures and their interpretations of the 'marriageable age for women'. But one thing is certain; the spinsters in the country have been and are still fighting an uphill battle.

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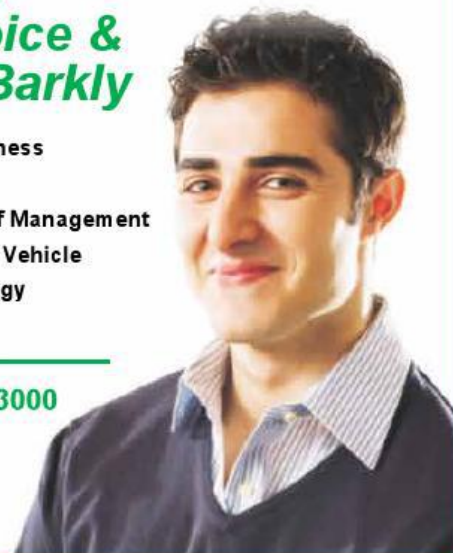
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