



MINDSPARK

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TURMOIL IN JUDICIARY

Prisha Bajracharya - X 'Tajmahal'

Failures of the state organs leave the country in disarray.



Image Credit: Thekathmandupost.com

It is obvious for the turmoil to arise when the “savior” of the constitution performs unconstitutional activities. Current Chief Justice of Nepal Chholendra Shumsher Rana has been facing immense pressure from the Nepal Bar Association (Umbrella organization of lawyers) and all 19 justices out of 20 Supreme Court justices, to resign. They said Rana failed to lead, clean up the mess in the judiciary, and attempted to cause irreparable damage to the judiciary. They have accused Rana of demanding posts for his relatives in the cabinet and constitutional bodies.

In early October, reports surfaced that Rana had demanded a share in the distribution of posts in Prime Minister Deuba’s cabinet. As payback to Rana for his support in Oli’s expulsion, Deuba reportedly appointed Gajendra Hamal as the minister for industry, commerce, and supplies. Hamal is a district-level leader of the Nepali Congress and Rana’s brother-in-law. Following severe criticism, Hamal resigned two days after his appointment. However, the damage was already done.

Experts say that the judiciary and the Chief Justice have run into controversies earlier as

well. However, former Supreme Court Justice Prakash Osti says that the controversies involving Rana “have been higher in degree and intensity.” Chief Justice Rana faced controversies previously as well. He was appointed chief justice despite the parliamentary hearing committee having received nine complaints against him over his rulings. His decisions, especially on corruption cases, during his stint as the judge of the Special Court, were controversial, and some were later overturned by the Supreme Court. Rana’s role and personal ambitions played an important role in the current crisis but moreover, the systemic flaws created a conducive environment for the decay of the Judicial system. The Judicial Council’s composition itself has been questioned, as it has a majority of members with political leanings. It is a reflection of poor political parties and their appointment of kiths and kins and sympathetic judges to the supreme court, aiding this turmoil.

Political parties that can impeach Rana in the parliament have maintained silence. Rana has also not been willing to resign. Amid this what everyone appears to have overlooked is the complexity the judiciary could face in the event of Rana’s removal—either through his resignation or impeachment.

If Rana leaves office, Deepak Kumar Karki, as a senior-most justice, will automatically become the acting chief justice. To appoint Karki as the chief justice, the Constitutional Council must recommend him for the post. After that, he has to pass the parliamentary hearing following which he will be appointed chief justice by the President. But there could be a hurdle.

Now, Nepal Bar Association is up with a sit-in protest at the main gate of the supreme court. All 19 justices in the 20-member Supreme Court have not heard a single case for the past three weeks except for habeas corpus petitions to put pressure on the chief justice to resign. This has added to the suffering of justice seekers. Raju Prasad Chapagain, former

chairperson of the Constitutional Lawyers' Forum said, "Rana's exit is a must, but that alone is not the solution. More problems are set to arise and lawyers and justices must be aware of that fact." However, Prime Minister Deuba said that it would be better if the issue is settled from within the judiciary. This crisis has created justice delivery to be in huge delay.

COMMUNIST SPLIT: A CONCLUSION TO HOPE OF POLITICAL TRANSITION

Prashansa Chapagain - X 'Greatwall'

"Politics is a dirty game, played by rich men with the rights of the poor." - Ashan Fareed



Image Credit: nepalitimes.com

When I look at the current scenario of the communist in Nepal, I can't stop myself from thinking of the aforementioned thought. The methods that the leaders of our ailing nation have adopted to gain and hold on to political powers depicts the dirty nature of politics of Nepal.

If we look at the concept of Communism, it has a very nice principle of bringing welfare to each and every one. It focuses on ruling the nation, company or factory according to the will of the people living or working there. Its prime motive is to be democratic where every person participates equally. It focuses on socialism ending capitalism. If we look at the history of

communism, it was founded by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the second half of the 19th century to give their rights to the exploited workers of the industry. The concept gradually spread all over the world which was also utilized by the political parties.



Image Credit: en.wikipedia.org

Communism was started in Nepal on September 15, 1949 by Pushpakamal Dahal who now serves as the leader of CPN Maoist. Now there are three communist parties in Nepal namely CPN UML, CPN Maoist and CPN Unified Socialist led by Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, Pushpakamal Dahal and Madhav Kumar Nepal respectively. All the parties used to be a single party someday but have separated due to political issues. All the three parties have the same opinion, same objective, same concept, same principle but are divided. They are like the son of the same father but are not united. Communist on total hold a majority in the parliament. But due to disunity none of them are able to govern the country. As all of the communist children are divided, other parties are getting a clean, straight way to govern the country. We all may have heard about a story where a father teaches his sons to be united where he compares disunity as a single stick and unity as a bunch of sticks. Like in the story, the communist party is divided into single sticks and it is easier for others to defeat (break) them in a straightforward manner.

When we look at the recent history of communist in Nepal, the power of communist rose after the election that was held in 2017, where communist alone held 64% of the seat of parliament. The main reason for this was the unification between the communist parties (leftist parties) - CPN UML and CPN Maoist. Both of the parties unified and formed the Nepal Communist Party.

The unification not only formed the federal government but also formed 6 out of 7 provinces of Nepal and many local bodies. This made communist a powerful government. But things didn't last for a long time though. The leader of the Nepal Communist party dissolved the House of Representatives to exercise more power. The action was widely criticized by the general people. Also the supreme court was against this action. The supreme court reinstituted the house of representatives and declared the unification of CMN UML and CPN Maoist to be illegal. The terms between the leaders of the unified party were also getting worse. No one was ready to compromise and were always in hunger for power. The words of the supreme court became a spark for the huge fire of the separation. This separation opened a way for the opposing party Nepali Congress.



Image Credit: thehindu.com

Even after this the factionalism of the Nepal Communist didn't stop. One of the lead members of CPN UML - Madhav Prasad Nepal with Jhalnath Khanal and other CPN UML members also started a new alliance. Instead of being in support of their own party, they supported the opposition party. They voted in the favour of Sher Bahadur Deuwa - leader of Nepali Congress in a vote of confidence. Being

angry with the action of Madhav Kumar Nepal and his fellow members, KP Sharma Oli exiled all of the members from his party. After being exiled due to his arrogant nature, Madhav Kumar Nepal started his new party - CPN Unified Socialist. So, the biggest party was divided into different chunks which were easier to defeat.

The main cause for separation was greed for dominion. All leaders became blind in the name of power. No one was ready to compromise. The only thing that mattered to them was authority. There was an increase in nepotism. The leaders were just focusing for their personal benefit. Even the spark of communism wasn't seen in the Nepali Communist. Instead of working for the public they were working for the personal benefit only which is against communism.

The separation of communist not only brought huge change in the federal government but also in the provincial and local government. Today, almost all the provinces are disordered. The faith of the people in communist is gradually decreasing. So, the only option now is to get unified.

Will this unification ever happen again?

SECURITY COUNCIL APPEALS FOR END TO VIOLENCE IN MYANMAR

Alok Khadka- IX 'Araniko'

"Peace is not made at the council table or by treaties, but in the hearts of men."

- Herbert Hoover

The Security Council is one of the organs of the UN. It is responsible for maintaining peace and security all over the world. It plays a vital role to settle down disputes between two countries or parties or within the country as it investigates disagreements and suggests ways to resolve them peacefully.

When I used to hear the news of Myanmar, I felt like the lives of the people of Myanmar are miserable due to political issues. As we have been hearing that Myanmar's army is ruling over Myanmar. Civilians of Myanmar are not so satisfied with the ruling system of the military force as they are protesting against them but also armies are ruling over there which has been degrading the democratic condition of the country. It is creating violence every second of time due to which the innocent civilians are facing trouble every time.



Image Credit: thehitavada.com

As the armies had started to rule after flushing out the newly elected government which was under the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi. The armies are ruling mercilessly. They have hampered the peace and harmony, democracy, and governing system of the country. Due to this, civilians have cracked down on the protest against armies and have come out on the street. The civilians are fighting for democracy but also the armies haven't stopped ruling. So, the armies have started firing at the innocent civilians who are protesting against them. Many people had already lost their lives during the firing and most of the people were injured and admitted to the hospital for treatment. Even so, the armies have started to amass heavy weapons and troops in Chin state, located in the northwest part of the country, suggesting an immediate attack against military groups that have appeared since the coup.

Not only that, all the friendly countries aren't satisfied with the governing system seized by the armies in Myanmar. All the countries in the world are giving pressure to stop the ruling

system of armies in Myanmar and supporting the civilians to reestablish democracy in Myanmar. Even the Security Council is also trying to stop the violence in Myanmar. The Security Council is searching for the opportunity to solve the disputes that arise in Myanmar. The Members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern about violence across Myanmar. They called for an immediate cessation of violence and to ensure the safety of civilians. They encouraged the implementation of dialogue and synthesis under the will and interests of the people of Myanmar. They reprised their full support for the "positive and productive role" played by regional coalition ASEAN in providing a peaceful solution and accentuated support for its Special ambassador.

The Members of the Security Council insisted on their support for the people of Myanmar and the country's democratic changes, and their strong dedication to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, and unity of Myanmar. The security council is also trying to hand the governing system to the newly elected government by a conversation with the armies. Finally, the security council is providing safety kits to the people of Myanmar in need as well as providing access to medical personnel.

MAKING SANITARY PADS TAX FREE

Prestha Bhattarai - VIII 'Parijat'

"Either change its name, Or, Change your thinking. Because, there's nothing to 'whisper' about it, and the most vital question is, "Why do we get it wrapped up and that too in a 'Shh-Shh' way?!" It's high time you should be sensible and understanding of this topic. It's as natural as that of a child's birth." - C.

Vaishnavi Rao

Menstruation is a natural phenomenon. While there are stigmas attached with periods, handling them has become costly due to tax on

sanitary pads. There is no calculation for the cost of discomfort. It's not our choice, it's our compulsion. Sanitary pads have been a very important and basic necessity in the daily lives of women and girls. But, some people are not able to afford it because of added tax.



Image Credit: thehimalayantimes.com

13% of VAT is levied on it even though it should be considered a basic necessity. Many protests and programs are going on via social media platforms to make the pad tax free. In my point of view, not only tax free but pads should be totally free or subsidized because it is a very important part of our life. It helps to control the bleeding during menstruation.

It is not a choice for women, but a recurring monthly cost, which is not affordable for most of the women in Nepal. Many rural women in Nepal still use old clothes, rags, and sometimes even leaves, to absorb the menstrual blood which is one of the causes of cervical cancer. And the easiest solution to prevent it is the use of sanitary pads. If people cannot afford pads, they will use these materials which can cause great harm to their health and thereby causing additional strain on a healthcare system that is already stretched thin.

I remember an incident. Once, when I was buying a pad, a girl of my age came there to buy a pad too. She seemed to be poor. She had only Rs.20 with her and was trying to buy a pad. Poor girl didn't even know that the pad was more expensive than that. When the shopkeeper refused to give her the pad, she was so disappointed and went home unhappily without the pad. Like her, there are many girls who cannot afford a pad.

In this context, the government should provide pads free of cost or provide additional subsidies. If the government cannot do this much, at least they should make pads tax free. Similarly, why do even people feel ashamed of buying and selling pads. Most of the shopkeepers wrap newspaper around the pad while selling it. In public places people feel shy of talking about pad and whisper. I think this is not necessary. All girls, and all women use it so why should we hide it? People should change their thinking because there is no matter of feeling shame.



Image Credit: thehimalayantimes.com

Last but not least, easy availability of sanitary pads can tackle one of the biggest barriers to education for girls, as they are forced to stay at home during their periods due to lack of access to clean hygiene products, while also facing stigma and a lack of toilet and water in schools. Offering free and accessible period products can help people who menstruate save upwards of \$5,000 in their lifetimes. If sanitary pads are available at minimum price, no one would have to opt for the itchy and unhealthy materials during their periods.

DOWNGRADE IN CHINESE ECONOMY

Nhujala Maiya Amatya - IX 'Buddha'

China; a country whose population is 1.402 billion since 2020, has been facing low economic growth recently. China is the world's highest populated country. China's economic rate has been downgraded by some percent. These are all signs of injuries in the Chinese

economy. China has faced loss and economic momentum due to the energy crisis.



Image Credit: globaltrademag.com

China is struggling with a severe shortage of electricity which has left millions of homes and businesses hit by the power cuts. The main reason for the power cuts in the country is due to the more demand of the public for electricity. Energy crisis in China occurred due to the outbreak of the pandemic, eventually the demand for electricity increased as well as the resources of the country were harmed. The next fact is that China still relies on coal for more than half of its power of electricity. So, electricity demand has risen and the price of coal has been pushed up. Due to the problem, Chinese provinces are at the risk of power outages, power shortages, outbreaks of covid-19 and pressure from basing on the numbers of industry are taking their damages on the Chinese economy.

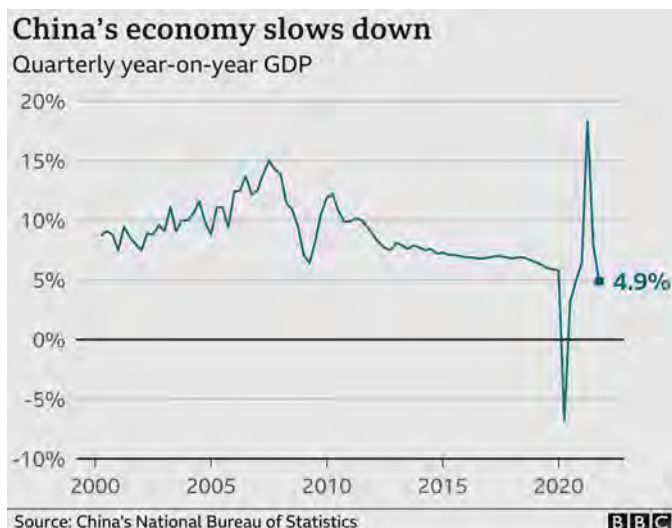


Image Credit: bbc.com

China's economy has lessened to the lowest since the outbreak of coronavirus and lockdown in February 2020. Power cuts in the country have contributed to Global Investment Bank cutting their forecasts for the country's

economic growth. Homes and businesses have been affected by the power cuts as well as electricity has been rationed in several regions and provinces of the country. The world's second largest economy has faced a number of challenges in recent months. The power cut in the country has harmed many industries including cement production, steel and Aluminium productions. Therefore, China's economic crackdowns are impacting on the business negatively, which is causing the downgrade of the Chinese economy recently.

IT'S OKAY FOR MEN TO CRY

Kaustuv Thapa - VIII 'Bhrikuti'

"Tears are how our heart speaks when our lips can't describe how much we have been hurt."



Image Credit: India.com

Men are those people who are given many expectations as soon as they are born. And after they grow up a little they are given the pressure of books. They are given love, they are scolded for their mistakes and they are beaten for their pranks as well. And when they cry they are reminded "You are men, you shouldn't cry like this." Their tears are locked in their eyes, their feelings are tied in their mind, their ability is judged by their marks, their strength is measured by their arms and their beauty is understood by their face. They are laughed at for their unsuccessfulness and for their success the 'tag of luck' is given. Their love is so easily

said falsehood and their feelings are choked. And people say so easily that, “You are men, you shouldn't be broken.” Men and women both have the same type of heart and the eyes, but why has our society restricted men from crying? Why can women weep willingly but men can't? We have been brought up to think that if a man cries then he is delicate. I beg to differ. Crying doesn't mean that a person is weak, but it means that the person has a heart, a real heart, a true heart, a human heart, a heart that isn't made of stone. As men have to do tons of work they get pressure, they also feel stress. But why doesn't society understand that? Aren't there any men in society or are they only acting like being men!

According to the ‘Theory of Evolution,’ the parts of the body that we don't need or the parts that are of no use get extinct gradually. If there was no use of tears in men then why do we have them till now? Shouldn't they be extinct till now? They should have been extinct but men need to use them so they are there till now. So, there's no shame for men to show their tears because they are gifted by nature.

I WISH THEY KNEW

Roshi Khadka - IX ‘Araniko’



Image Credit: wallpaperaccess.com

I always want to be perfect. I always want to fulfill the wishes of my parents. I never want to disappoint my teachers. I don't want my friends to get hurt through my words. I want to give a

penny for the thoughts of everyone who wants to talk with me. On the way to stand out perfectly every time, now, I wish they knew.

“To be flawless and faultless, we have to be sincere, hardworking and assertive.” This is what all the people believe. Actually, this is what I believe too. I followed the aphorism and it really helped me to get what I wanted. Not much but it helped me grow a little. Now, I have a thousand kilos of expectations from almost everyone that knows me in my back. It may sound quite egotistical but one day it really can break my back. Every time the load starts to give me unbearable pain and frustration, I wish they knew that it's not easy to be tireless all the time. I wish they knew that I also have fears and I cannot be confident every single time. I wish they knew that I always cannot take their loads of expectations to the destination. Sometimes, I have to spill some to learn not to spill it next time and I wish they knew that.

Once we start to do good, all the people around us expect us to always do good. If I helped someone once, they want me to help them next time too and when I can't, they feel disappointed. The feeling of disappointing someone needy hits like a bullet from a gun, direct to the heart. At this point of time, I wish they knew that I cannot be kind and pleasant eternally.

I don't easily show my feelings through expressions. So, many of them think they can say everything they want and show their anger and cruel behavior to me. Seeing those people, I wish they knew, deep down I also feel bad and sometimes, I also wish they could feel what I feel.

Sometimes, I unintentionally make someone feel bad or hurt them. It doesn't feel right if I make someone sad. At the very moment, I wish they knew I never intend to make them feel unhappy. I may be wrong sometimes. So, I wish they knew that it is fine to correct me.

Let's talk about our society. I wish society knew that the evil rules and norms of our society are

making the wings of many, unable to fly. I wish society members knew, their own meaningless rules are cutting down the branches of the tree of opportunities grown by them. I wish they realize that it's we who are letting ourselves go into the path of darkness.

I don't know whether these wishes of mine get fulfilled or just remain as wishes but I promise that if someone wishes the things like me, I will spare no effort to fulfill it for them. So, what do you wish for?

JUDGING THE SOCIETAL JUDGEMENTS

Aisha Banu - X 'Greatwall'



Image Credit: dubeat.com

Sometimes, I feel like staying alone was better than living in the present society. Do you know why such feelings come into my mind? It's neither because I have an introverted nature nor because I don't get enough love or respect in society. It's just because of the comments passed or the judgments made by society. These judgments just get me suffocated and force me to leave this society and live in a peaceful world of just me myself without any interference.

It has been difficult for not only me but all other teenagers to adjust to this society. Teenagers face the problem of mood swings

and that is often taken by society in a negative way. When we are happy, we are known to be stupid. When we are sad, we are said to be unthankful. If we are too careful, we become paranoid and when we are too careless, we are a liability. This is the thing that has forced me to have hatred of society. In each and every path, a silly comment will be surely passed by society. When we are an introvert, we are said to be less interactive. But, if we are an extrovert, we are forced to keep our mouths shut. Adolescents are not allowed to make any kind of decision even though the decisions are right enough. If we keep doing the right things and at a certain point we make one mistake, all our right things will be ruined and will be forgotten. But the mistake will still be remembered. This is what society does. All good things are questioned but the bad things will be believed without a second thought. All members of society have to understand that not every teenager is bad, not every individual does the wrong things and the foremost thing is that society should stop passing comments on whatever one does.



Image Credit: medium.com

For each and every girl or women, a society welcomes the girl or women with a judgemental script where it mentions, "Welcome to this society where you will be judged on what you wear, which music you listen to, what you like, how you act, whom you hang with and on each and every personal traits and imperfection about you and you'll be made fun of for being who you are." When a girl speaks to a boy, society passes wrong comments to her. When a girl wears a short dress, society pressurizes her

to avoid such attitudes. Society judges her on the basis of height, weight and personal looks. If we speak in loud voice, we are shameless and if we don't speak, we are dumb. We should sit in a proper position, walk properly and follow various unnecessary restrictions of society.

I have faced all these situation as I am a muslim teenage girl with lots of societal pressure. Wearing sleeveless dresses and showing hair makes me a shameless girl in the society. Talking or being friends with boys thrashes social pressure to me and my family. If I talk freely about menstruation and try to learn about sexual topics I become a barefaced girl. When I put my views and thoughts in front of other male members, I am forbidden to do so and also I'm forced to keep my mouth shut. Whenever I return home late at night, every member of society asks lots of questions. Trying to interact with others for learning is like doing crime for girls. I must look gorgeous and have proper weight and height to be far from defamatory comments passed by society. When I don't tell everything, I become a liar. When I do something wrong, I become stupid. I am fat because I eat when I am hungry. I am fake because I am too nice. I am weird because I am not like others and I am ugly because my face is not perfect. Society forces me to think about all these things due to various restrictions of society. Why should I follow all these restrictions? Why should I live in such a cage where I get suffocated and have to die without flying?

We all must open the lock of this cage and fly high by crossing all the restrictions and limitations made by society. We should know who we are and cross all the limits to fly high and get a good range of success. There is always going to be either advice or judgement or even a problem with how we are doing things. It's not that we should completely ignore these restrictions but should follow the ones that are protective enough for us and right for us and should ignore the ones that decrease our confidence. We should have our loved ones around us like friends and families and if we

ever do feel like we are wrong at any moment, before questioning ourselves or the other members of society, we should seek their refuge and keep their advice in mind because at the end we are only left with ourselves and the ones we love. We should keep in mind that the game of judgment is never going to end and realize that we should avoid thoughts like how will people "think of us" or "think of me". We should learn to accept others and try to adapt to them rather than changing them. No two people are alike. No two hearts beat to the same rhythm. Every judgemental society must understand that nobody is perfect and nobody deserves to be perfect. Nobody has it easy, everybody has some issues and we never know what a person is going through. So pause before you start judging, criticizing or mocking others. Instead of being judgmental, just let them live the way they are.

ARE 'ATTACHMENT' AND 'LOVE' THE SAME?

Rubhana Adhikari- X 'Greatwall'

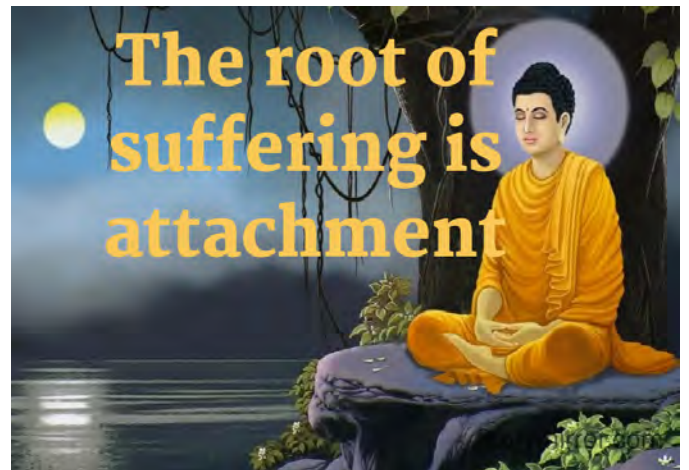


Image Credit: Storymirror.com

Do you want to be detached from your family members and friends?

So, you have your answer with you. Let's understand attachment and love a little more and come back to this question again.

What is attachment?

When we go towards the literal meaning of

attachment, it is the state of being attached or connected. Is this attachment good or bad? Is attachment and love the same or different? Is attachment necessary for emotional bonding? Attachment can have different definitions for different people. But this is just my opinion on how attachment can actually lead to pain and suffering. For example, if a mother gives birth to physically attached twins, they have to do everything together. If one baby stands, the other also has to stand, if one sits, the other needs to sit, if one plays the other also has to play and if one sleeps the other also sleeps. Now, let's think, is their life beautiful?

No, of course not. Doctors do their surgery and detach them. The same is emotional attachment. And people confuse it with love. That means when we are emotionally attached with anyone, their state of mind will affect our state of mind. If they are sad, we also tend to be sad, if they are happy then we are happy. Even if a person is not sad, they say to them, "I am sad but also, aren't you sad? Don't you love me?" That means when we are attached to somebody our state of mind and behavior is dependent on their state of mind and behavior. And whenever we depend, we become weak. Like this attachment leads to unnecessary pain and suffering.

Attachment leads to fear and fear leads to suffering. Rid yourself of attachment and become completely independant.

Image Credit: Boldomatic.com

Most of the parents are attached to their children. If they are worrying, then parents also get worried. They say, "I love you so much. So, I worry for you." But worry is a negative energy.

They radiate negative energy to their children. Their child is already worried, they go and give them more worry. And the children cannot handle that negative energy, so they say, "Please, leave me alone. I want to stay alone." At that time, they don't need any advice, they just need high vibrations that they can get through positive words. They don't get it from their parents as they carry energy of anxiety, pain, fear and worry. So they get out of their home to get rid of the negative environment and negative vibes. They go and talk to their friends or to a stranger as they don't carry any low vibration energy. So, detachment is not an option, it is a necessity for love, for being together, for being happy.

Taking this example further, the parents should care for their children as care is a positive energy. They should be comforting their children, telling them positive things. Like this, whenever the child is in worry, he/she will talk to their own parents.

Suppose a person falls in a pit then the other should stay out of the pit and take that person out. It is not that the other person will also fall and say, "I loved you so I came with you."

So attachment and love are two different things. They cannot be the same. People worry for other people and they think worrying is loving. Worry is a negative feeling that gives low vibrations. Love has high vibrations. When we are detached, that means our state of mind is not affected by anyone's state of mind, we radiate unconditional love.

Sometimes, attachment brings expectations. For example, expectations of parents towards their children. When expectations come in love, then it is conditional love. Then, it becomes a deal. It pressurises the children. They start to fear. They fear and think, "Will this thing fulfill the expectations of my family?" before trying anything. They get afraid to take risks. But when there is love, there are no conditions, just purity. When we are detached, we become a powerful soul. At Least one powerful soul is

needed in a family who always radiates love and positivity irrespective of what the family members have done and what they are going through.

So, do you want to be detached to be able to love unconditionally?

EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SPEAKING

Aashna Hachhethu - VIII 'Parijat'

Communication plays a vital role in human life. Communication skills and Speaking skills are the most important skills in our lives. Speaking skills are one of the most important skills we learn, as they allow us to communicate with others and express our thoughts and feelings.



Image Credit: lardbucket.org

Public speaking is one of the most important forms of communication. Public speaking refers to the talent of effectively addressing a group of people. Public speaking really matters in today's world. Whether it's Public speaking or anything else, we need to do it effectively. Effective Public speaking has many benefits for an individual speaker, including the world around us and becoming a go to person for ideas and solutions. Public speaking improves our communication skills and leadership skills. It also boosts our confidence and the ability to understand people.

Why is Public Speaking So Terrifying? Researchers assume that this intense fear of public speaking comes from evolution. In the past, when humans were threatened by large

predators, living as a group was a basic survival and separation of any kind would certainly mean death. People with fear of Public Speaking or stage fright are flooded with negative feelings and thoughts that tell them they are not good at speaking. But the feelings and thoughts are usually more about expectation of perfection than an accurate assessment of their actual talent and abilities.

Effective speaking means being able to say something in such a way that it is heard and acted upon. Whether you are talking to a major conference about a new discovery, public speaking events, seminars, competitions or press conferences, you need to be able to speak effectively. There are three general purposes of public speaking; to inform, to persuade and to entertain. It is important to remember that your purpose in an informative speech is to share information with an audience, not to persuade them to do or believe something. There are many risks while speaking publicly. When you stand up to speak between a crowd, you're risking a good deal. You can fail to engage the crowd, you can make a fool of yourself or you can attempt too little or too much and miss the mark.

This can lead to having more stress and developing more anxiety of public speaking in ourselves. To not let this happen, we need to be fully prepared and have confidence in ourselves. There are three golden principles of public speaking; Authenticity, Audience and Authority. There should not be a lack of attention to the audience while public speaking because the biggest challenge in public speaking is to gain the attention of the audience. The beginning is the hardest part when it comes to giving presentations. While giving a speech you should always remember that the most important part of it is the introduction. Most people don't pay enough attention to the introduction of a speech. The introduction is one of the most important parts of the speech because if you lose your audience at the beginning, getting them back can be next to impossible.

There are many challenges you will need to face while giving a presentation. You will need to overcome the anxiety of speaking in front of an audience, get interested in your topic and speak socially. Some steps which can help you to overcome the challenges of public speaking are; 'Know your topic', 'Get organized', 'Practice', 'Challenge specific worries', 'Visualize your success', 'Do some deep breathing', 'Focus on your material, not on your audience' and, 'Don't fear a moment of silence'. By utilizing these steps, you can control your anxiety, boost your confidence and encourage yourself to speak in public effectively.

KUL MAN GHISING; AN EXAMPLE OF A GREAT LEADER

Sampada Gajurel - X 'Great Wall'

*What if there was no light? Can we live in
darkness?*



Image Credit: Merocanvas.com

In today's world our one work also won't be possible without electricity. When we want to use our electronic devices like: mobile laptops, PC etc we need electricity for the purpose of charging them. We save our time by using the electric utensils in our kitchen too, as electricity makes our work faster. Similarly, to run big industries, to do missionary work, to light the bulb everything requires electricity. We don't care how important light is in our life until we

suffer from darkness, right? But, when the darkness is removed by the shadow of light we enjoy but never think because of whom our life is full of brightness.

Probably we know the names of Thomas Ala Edison, Benjamin Franklin but do we know the famous person of our own country Nepal i.e. Kul Man Ghising? Might be yes or no. Nepal is a country where dirty politics is played by the political leaders. Everytime country needs to face political instability. Most of the leaders are self minded and just want to fulfill their demands rather than to listen to the voice of the public. Due to such behaviour of the nation leaders, citizens of Nepal think no leader is good and Nepal cannot prosper.

But when Kul Man Ghising was appointed the managing director of Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) on 14 September 2016 by a cabinet decision, Nepal's scenario was changed completely. Before his appointment, there was 18 hours of loadshedding in Nepal. Everyone thought that it is insurmountable to get 24 hours electricity without any power cut off. Within the 2 years time from the day of appointment Kul Man Ghising removed the load shedding problem in Kathmandu Valley completely. "It seems like magic but that magic was hard to bring", says Kul Man Ghising in his most of the interview. He changed the mindset of people regarding the political system of Nepal and made them believe that there are few persons in politics who are desperately working to bring some positive change in the nation and in people's life. He is a person from whom we can get inspiration. Hats off to his magnificent work.

Many political leaders tried to suppress him and discouraged him by saying that until now no one has the power or will to remove loadshedding. How can you minimise the problem? With a lot of hurdles Kul Man Ghising proved them all wrong and became one of the loving leaders of the Nepali. He gained a lot of public support for his work which boosted up his confidence level and encouraged him to do better and better. The

decade-long load shedding was eliminated. But the one who didn't like him or his opposition always tried to pull his leg and his name was in various controversies. He was blamed that he imported electricity from India and removed the problem of loadshedding in Nepal. It was also said that he was engaged in corruption. He didn't say any word but did his own work with full focus and determination and gave the real meaning of the proverb "Action speaks louder than the words."



Image Credit: VMAG

Kul Man Ghising's work was liked by Nepali so much and as a result he was re-appointed for the same post on 11 August 2021 when his service giving term was over. Nepal is rich in water resources but if those resources are not used for the welfare of people then such resources are of no use. Kul Man Ghising utilized that resource and as a result the black cloud of Nepal is removed by the sunny day. Good plans, good thoughts, appropriate knowledge, dedication for work and a fearless attitude can make everyone like Kul Man Ghising, am I right?

INCREASING HYPE OF SQUID GAME

Resha Koju - X 'Tajmahal'

With the growing interest of the youths towards the entertainment industry, the industry itself has evolved a lot. The directors and writers along with the actors have tried to portray the lifestyle of people and their needs through various genres of movies and dramas which are either fictional or are based on real lives. And

when it comes to the drama which includes the genre of entertainment, emotion, action, thrill, and drama itself, what else can be a better drama to discuss than the recently released Korean-drama; "Squid Game".

The newly released "Squid Game" has officially broken records, becoming Netflix's biggest series launched by reaching more than 111 million viewers. (Source: NBC News). People have been watching and loving "Squid Game" for the interesting plot that the drama holds. It is about a bunch of people competing with each other for a certain sum of money. Each one of them is compelled to play some risky games because of their urgency to earn money.



Image Credit: marca.com

Not only that the actors in the movie were great while playing their respective characters, the plot of the movie was interesting as the movie had made the audience connect with the situations. Either the situation is how an individual gets betrayed or how an individual tries to stand confident and self-assured even when they have a hurtful past or have no idea of what to do next, the movie has not failed to connect the audience with the characters involved in the drama itself.

The internet has promoted and hyped "Squid Game" since the drama was liked by most of the viewers. The viewers have been putting their ideas forward on what made "Squid Game" so popular these days. Most of the viewers do agree that it is because of the interesting plot and turn of events, while others have been supporting the idea of how every character in the drama has a different background and story making the audience relate to them to some

degree of extent whereas, some also believe that Squid Game's popularity is mainly because of the perfect work done by the actors. However, few people also believe that "Squid Game" is overrated and does not deserve all the popularity that it has been gaining day by day, because of how the drama ended. A few people even claim the plot of the drama to be similar to the Indian movie- "Luck".



Image Credit: variety.com

Nevertheless, the audience for "Squid Game" has been increasing on almost a daily basis. So is the Korean-Drama; "Squid Game" just overrated or does it actually deserve the fame and popularity?

MY PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON ANIME

Binit Prajapati - X 'Greatwall'



Ah, I see you're a man of culture as well.

Image Credit: Arakawa Under the Bridge

We all have watched anime at some point in our life, especially the millennials and Gen Z. It can be Doremon, Ninja hattori, Pokemon, Perman, etc. and yes they are anime. I've also watched these series when I was a child like

most of you. But my real journey in the anime world began in 2018, summer 2018 if I recall properly. Most peoples' journey begins with series like Naruto, One Piece and Bleach (also called the Big Three) or other shonen anime but, my journey began with an ecchi, harem plot, don't ask me why.

Anyways, anime at that time was not really popular among kids our age. I hardly talked about anime with other friends. There were only two other friends I could really talk to about anime unlike now. Now, it's just four friends having a discussion about "Who's the Best Waifu". It's not because the community hasn't grown, it's due to the fact that it pushes you towards the introvert side. Speaking from personal experience, you become socially awkward because you spend a lot of time in the room watching anime as a shut-in. You may be comfortable around some of your closest friends but you start avoiding social interactions with most of the world and would not want to leave your house.

Even though I don't have a lot of interactions, I've seen the anime community grow a lot in the past few years, especially the anime community in Nepal. According to Google Trends, the community saw a sudden increase during March 2020. In my opinion, it was probably due to the pandemic and lockdown, as people were at their homes learning all the household chores. The 2nd sudden increase was in April 2021, the same time when the Tokyo Revengers anime was airing. It brought a lot of people into the community but with it came some toxicity. The Newbies claimed that "Tokyo Revengers" was the best anime, offending many people on the web. The "Lost Zoro", "One Piece", "Naruto" related memes posting community started posting some hate posts, criticizing the TR fans. Some of you reading may still bear hatred for the series. But it brought a lot of opportunities in the Anime Industry.

The whole world started to notice the craze people had for anime. Global brands like

Netflix, Sony and Disney started to show interest. They started to invest and develop their own anime and are trying to compete with established companies like MAPPA, Madhouse, Toei Animation, A1-Pictures, etc. Netflix is slowly but surely being recognized in the anime community, as it is streaming anime. While Sony bought the already well-established 'Crunchyroll' to get ahead in the race.

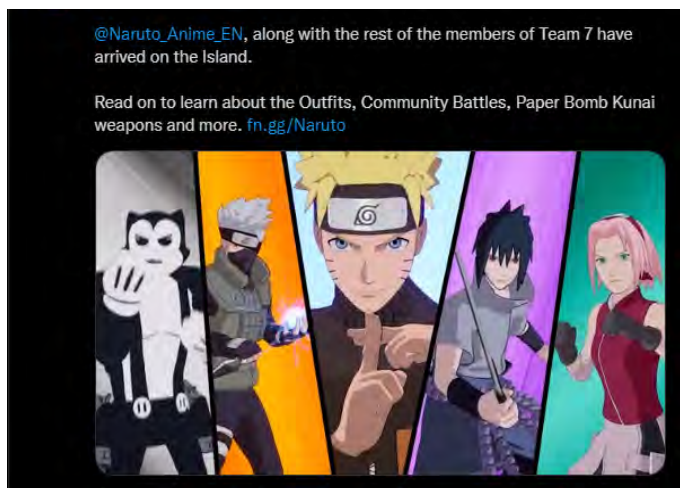


Image Credit: twitter.com/FortniteGame

Countries like China and South Korea are also trying to compete with Japan. Some Chinese anime like 'The Daily Life of the Immortal King', 'The King's Avatar', etc. are well appreciated in the community but are failing to gain a huge crowd. South Korean webtoons that are adapted into anime are getting a lot of pre-season hype and the hype immediately disappears after the anime release. Popular South Korean anime 'The God of High School' was rushed in the ending part, 'Tower of God' had a decent season but the hype died immediately after season 1 ended and 'Noblesse' hype died completely. Even after these failures, fans are still demanding an anime adaptation for the popular manhwa 'Solo Leveling' which frankly speaking has very little chances unless Netflix or any other non-Japanese company take it under their banner.

Not only that, we also saw a lot of live-action movies and video-game collabs. Live action movies are not that well received in the community, even the anime's own fandom. Popular anime like 'One Piece', 'Cowboy Bebop'

and 'Jujutsu Kaisen' are getting a live action movie very soon but I don't think it's gonna make a lot of difference like live action versions of 'Bleach', 'Death Note' and even 'Dragon Ball'. Let's just not talk about that. But video-game collabs create a global hype. Some of the popular mobile/pc games like 'PUBG', 'Fortnite', 'Free Fire', etc. are doing a worldwide collaboration with the anime industry. Free fire collabed with 'One Punch Man' and 'Attack On Titan', PUBG collabed with 'Jujutsu Kaisen' and Fortnite is collabing with 'Naruto' starting from November 16.

The anime community is growing day by day. And I can say for sure that it will continue to grow in the future due to the fact that many old anime are getting a reboot after a long time in 2022. Some of the famous anime getting a new season are "Bleach: Thousand-Year Blood War", "Devil is a Part Timer Season 2", "Attack On Titan Final Season Part 2", "Jojo Part 6", "Fairy Tail:100 Year Quest", etc. Many popular mangas are also getting anime adaptations next year like "Chainsaw Man", "Spy x Family", etc. Which one is your favourite anime returning next year?

LEARNING FROM K-POP EVOLUTION

Riya Suwal - VIII 'Janaki'



Image Credit: bts.fandom.com

BTS? We all have probably heard about it. It is the biggest boy band in the world right now. They have got tons of fans-armies from tons of

different countries. Though they are the biggest band in the current situation, they were once just an ordinary group of K-pop struggling to succeed.

Highlighting k-pop, it's one of the top-grossing genres on the internet right now. It has got millions and billions of followers from every part of the world. And the most surprising of all is the fact that k-pop is Korean music with Korean lyrics. And what shocks me the most is the fact that even though only a small part of the world's population understands the Korean language, it's the most trending content online today.

People are so addicted to k-pop. I mean like, among the followers of k-pop only about twenty-five percent of them can actually understand the lyrics of k-pop songs without the subtitles. But still you can hear its pop everywhere whether you are in Korea or anywhere else. That's the magic of k-pop sparkling upon the public in the present.

Every time we mention k-pop we think of it as a piece of fascinating music industry with one of the most successful artists in the history of music. Not mentioned frequently, but k-pop is just an evolution of Korean folk music and ballads. Note it down, Korean folk music is not as popping and rocking as k-pop. It's pretty similar to other Asian folk cultures.

Thinking of it in simple words, k-pop is the evolution of Korean folk culture which has modernized itself to reach the standards of the modern music industry, and has satisfied the modern public's opinion. Its modernization is the point when it started going all viral. It started being in the top of the billboard chart, but a k-pop group is now the biggest band in the history of music, the k-pop songs have started getting millions and billions of views on YouTube.

Well, never thought so, but yes the cultural art and lifestyle can be modernized in such a way that the whole modern world would be dying after it. Since we have started mentioning about

culture then we surely can't leave Nepal behind. We all agree with the fact that Nepal is a rich country in culture but why has it never reached the height of k-pop yet then?

Here is the thing, though Nepal is a rich country in its culture and tradition, it still is not developing with the time. We know that Nepal holds a very old culture and we are proud when we realize that we Nepali are preserving it. But still, the culture from the past was developed and designed with the mindset of people in the past. Today in the current generation the ideas, opinions have completely changed from those in the past, so the same old way of entertainment cannot satisfy modern people and meet their modern needs anymore.

Our music industry has been lacking behind in such points. Even though the public is interested in a whole new generation of our industry many artists want it to be the classic way with traditional folk instruments because many believe that Nepal can have a very unique personality if it will prioritize the traditional way of music. Yes till the next decade we can surely be the country with the title of the most preserved culture. But winning that culture once might leave the public disappointed forever. In simple words, if we get this title we will once be known as the country with the most preserved culture but still we will be listening to the foreign music. Because though we are proud of this title we still are not fans of traditional music. We will be listening to music from foreign countries which is not bad, but we won't have our own identity in music for long.

Evolution and development do not mean that we have to completely change it in English or Hindi or Korean language. It means to go on with your roots but still give it a new look when the crowd cries for it. Artists such as Sajjan Raj Vaidya, Sushant KC, Netesh Jung Kunwar, Vten, Yonkee Yolmo, etc are some artists who are succeeding day by day in the present because they follow their roots meaning they do it with their way following their own culture but still they respect the modern public ideas and give their music a modern signature. At the end

of the day, we should realize the fact that our tradition and culture are something worth appreciating but still they need to develop with the changing time.

DEIGO MARADONA; TRIBUTE TO A LEGEND. POLITICAL TRANSACTION

Sabindra Khadka - IX 'Janak'



Image Credit: wikipedia.org

Football remains one of the most loved sports of all time. Many legends have been borned and raised in the same football ground. Many have earned great titles and achievements. One of those legends is Diego Maradona.

Diego Maradona was an Argentine football player who achieved great feats. He was widely regarded as one of the greatest football players of all time. He was born on October 30, 1960 in Lanus, Argentina. He was raised in Villa Fiorito, a shantytown on the southern outskirts of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Maradona was devoted to football at a very young age at 3. At age eight, Maradona was spotted by a talent scout while he was playing

in his neighbourhood club Estrella Roja and after becoming a staple of the Little Onions, he amused his spectators just at the age of 12. His remarkable achievements were shown in the international games of Argentina. Maradona scored 31 goals in 94 appearances. Right after the age of 16, he made his full debut against Hungary on 27 February 1977 A.D.



Image Credit: fcbarcelona.com

However, at the age of 17, his coach felt too young for him to participate. So, At the age of 18, his glories began to start when Argentina won the final against the Soviet Union in 1979 FIFA Youth Championship where he scored 6 goals in 6 appearances.

He started his world popularity from the World Cup of 1986 A.D when Argentina won against West Germany. Maradona's vision, passing, ball control, and dribbling skills were combined with his small stature, which gave him a low centre of gravity allowing him to manoeuvre better than most other players.

Till this day, his greatest victories from the World Cups and international games are known by people all over the world. The skills of Maradona are recognized by all players with respect and honor. Through many games on the field, Diego Maradona had successfully attained a huge crowd.

But, it all came to an end. Diego Maradona, a football legend died on November 25, 2020 at the age of 60. Everyone was shocked by this news. At his funeral, many legends from today were present to respect him. He was an inspiring character for youths. He was truly a football legend.

LIFE WITH AI

Nirvik Dhungana - IX 'Araniko'

"Machine intelligence is the last invention that humanity will ever need to make" - Nick Bostrom



Image Credit: sloanreview.mit.edu

As we are advancing rapidly in the standards of technology, our future lies in the automation of our tasks with the help of robotics and the knowledge of computers. The sci-fi life we have been seeing in the movies is slowly becoming a possibility in our life and can advance in the span of our lifetime.

We may have or not yet have realized that we are already living with AI. The provided services such as google assistants, Siri, Alexa are a form of AI. The AI assistants are limited in this regard as the computer itself isn't built for AI architecture. We can label these as coded AIs which means, they are manually instructed by the programmer to do specific tasks when specified. But a true AI can do machine learning.

Machine learning refers to the capacity of machines to gather information without

specification. The closest thing we can compare it to is our human brain. Our brain has the capacity to gather information automatically from sources rather than someone specifying it to us. Machine learning works in the same principle.

When living with these machines, which can process the information on their own, life can be made easier. Nick Bostrom also expressed the same. When artificial intelligence has more possibilities than human resources, it can self-produce, self-work, self maintain, and self-gather information. So, humans would never have to work. AI could handle that for them.

On a smaller scale, that may be the future ahead of us. But as we know, everything has some consequences and benefits. Life with AI can be the biggest breakthrough in the whole of human civilization. And it may be the only way to explore the endless possibilities of the cosmos. By where we stand, we gather information about our existence, our significance all through robots. If those robots could self-learn, it would automate the process. But, it has consequences on a very large scale. The reason why humans are leading all life is due to the developed brain. But, we have emotions and the desire to live. We can't share the exact detailed memories with each other. So, if the machines were to gather information, they can get out of hand pretty quickly. Many theories and conspiracies state that our invention is the cause for our end. AI can destroy human civilization. There are endless possibilities but we can never be too careful.

Life with AI can be exactly as anticipated or can lead to a devastating path we never imagined. But, we are already moving on that path. But, life with AI may not be so nightmarish. The scope is very large. Companies like Meta are creating their very own world named Metaverse which is a programmed world in which a person can do really anything. In the end, the direction we are headed to has a very interesting path and an unknown destination.

COSMIC WEB

Aditya Raj Raut - VIII 'Bhrikuti'

"The cosmic web is a vast superstructure connecting every galaxy. The Cosmic web is the building block of the cosmos - consisting primarily of dark matter and laced with gas - on which galaxies are built. Gas, mostly hydrogen, is the fuel that forms stars, and the stars form the galaxy. To discover more on this topic lets review through the journey of the formation of Cosmic Web"

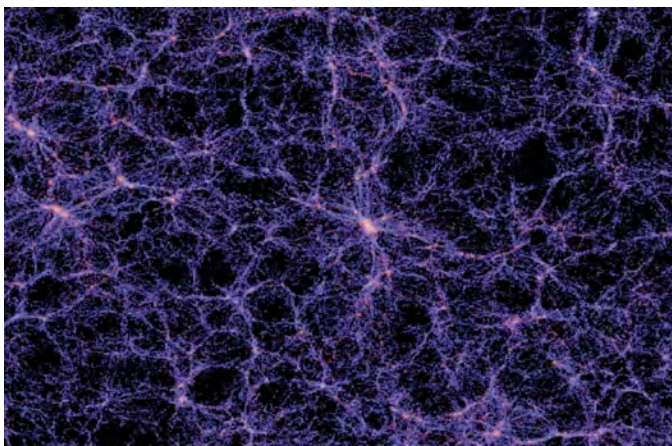


Image Credit: wikipedia.com

When the universe was young, the stars, planets, galaxies, and creatures which we know now, did not exist. Everything was uniform. Then change in density made the gravity attract the denser regions by which the dark matter started to become non-uniform. The changes in the matter and in the amount of substance at any place became the seed that eventually gave birth to the cosmic web. The cosmic web consists of the structure of dark matter, when it falls together it forms a skeleton for the distribution of galaxies, planets, and stars.

The cosmic web is an extensive interconnection that connects everything in the universe including the ones traveling more than 12 billion light-years across from the Earth. There are multiple galaxies in a piece of the web. Then just imagine, how many would there be on the whole web!

But it is a finite scale as we already know the fact that the universe has evolved and crossed approximately 13.8 billion years and it will keep evolving which will change the cosmic web. It will not look the way it looks like now. It is finite yet its structure will keep changing and varying.

You better get to know that the dark matter we are talking about is a hypothetical form of matter which is dark as it does not appear to interact with the electromagnetic field. It does not absorb, reflect or emit electromagnetic radiation, therefore is difficult to detect. The observable universe is a ball-shaped region, comprising all matter that can be observed from Earth or its space-based telescopes and exploratory probes at present. In fact, our whole Earth lies in the solar system which extends from 4.5 to 7.5 billion kilometers whereas our solar system lies in the Kuiper belt, Kuiper belt, and many other astronomical bodies lie in the Milky way galaxy. Similarly, there are more galaxies - consisting of stars, planets, and many other celestial objects, creating a vast connection like a web known as Cosmic Web.

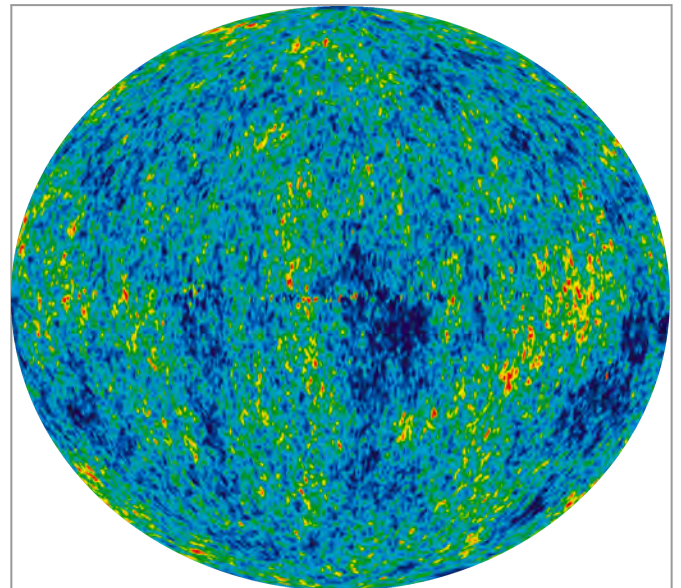


Image Credit: wikipedia.com

The Cosmic Web is covered by Cosmic Microwave Radiation. Connecting to the Big Bang's invisible plasma, the universe is designed by the collective formation and combination. This is defined as Cosmology; the

science of the origin and development of the universe. Modern cosmology is dominated by the Big Bang theory, which brings together observational astronomy and particle physics. Long before the formation of stars and planets, the early universe was smaller, much hotter, and starting 10⁻⁶ seconds after the Big Bang, filled with a uniform glow from its white-hot fog of interacting plasma of photons, electrons, and baryons.

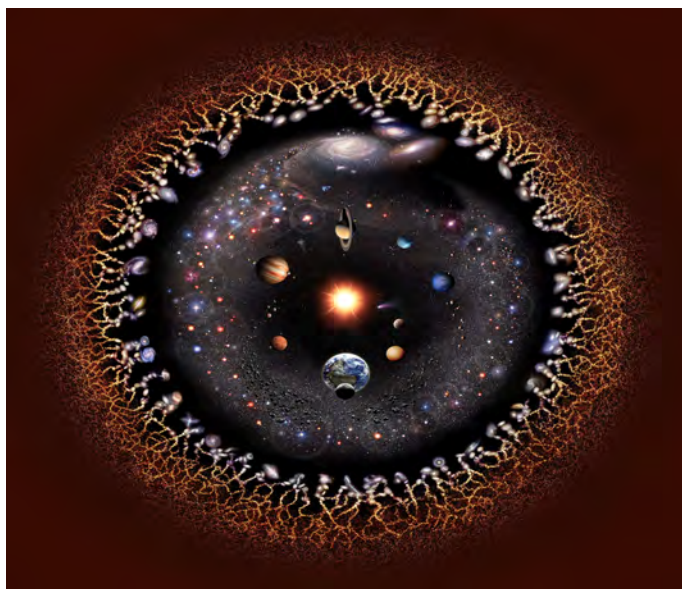


Image Credit: wikipedia.com

The cosmic microwave background (CMB) or cosmic microwave radiation, (CMR), in Big Bang cosmology, is electromagnetic radiation that remained from an early stage of the universe, also known as "relic radiation". The CMB is faint radiation filling all space. It is an important source of data on the early universe because it is the oldest electromagnetic radiation in the universe. The cosmic microwave background radiation is regarded as the best available evidence for the Big Bang theory. Measurements of the CMB have made the inflationary Big Bang theory the Standard Cosmological Model.

The cosmic microwave background was first predicted in 1948 by Ralph Alpher and Robert Herman, in close relation to work performed by Alpher's Ph.D. advisor George Gamow.

The Cosmic web brings up different interesting and mysterious subjects that people and scientists are interested to study and research on. The whole universe is a great thing to

explore as it contains fascinating entities and bodies. We have seen millions and billions of stars in the sky, the cosmic web is just like that consisting of billions and trillions of galaxies and planets.

INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTHS IN SHARE MARKET

Shoham Pradhananga - VIII 'Parijat'



Image Credit: pinterest.com

What is a Share market you may ask? Basically, It is a cycle, a market in which securities are bought and sold; a stock exchange. As simple as this definition might seem, At its inner depths, it is a game of patience, observation, strategies and endless possibilities. If the game is played right, it can become the turning point of an individual.

Hoping big, Today's younger generations are seeking an easy way to earn more with less. According to the article published by CNBC, 39% of teenagers see the share market as an opportunity to make quick cash and 40% believe that stocks are good long-term investments. This is the place where Share markets play their roles. According to the Nepal Labour Force survey, about 908 thousand

Nepali are unemployed. Amongst them 38.1% of the job seekers were young people aged 15-24 years. On an average, a teenager aged 18, can invest in a single kitta at a price of Rs.100 in the context of Nepal. As informed by the Nepal government, on average an employee earns Rs.17,809 per month. Including the unemployed and the fact that a standard employee at least earns a sum of Rs.15,000. This gives the young investors an alternative to practice and seek knowledge about the market with minimum investment and less to none risk in play.

Knowing the basic principles about the share market is good enough to start investing, the registration process is straightforward and very minimal investment is needed. This makes the share market more appealing to young investors. Timothy Sykes, a self made millionaire at the age of 22. He is a penny stock trader. People like him inspire the younger generation. In his Millionaire Challenge program, he made two millionaires named Micheal and Tim. As Timothy said, "I am so proud of Michael and Tim for being my first millionaire students." This shows the Involvement of youths in the Share Market.

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Amish Dahal - VIII 'Bhrikuti'

"Technology touches everyone, everywhere, and I want to be part of that." -Caitlyn



Image Credit: pinterest.com

First of all, what is the digital divide? The term "Digital Divide" refers to the gap between

individuals, households, businesses and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels with regard to both their opportunities to access information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to their use of the Internet for a wide variety of activities. It has become a great problem in Nepal. It affects people from all walks of life. Digital divide is a multifaceted issue, but two main characteristics define this gap: access to high-speed internet and access to reliable devices.

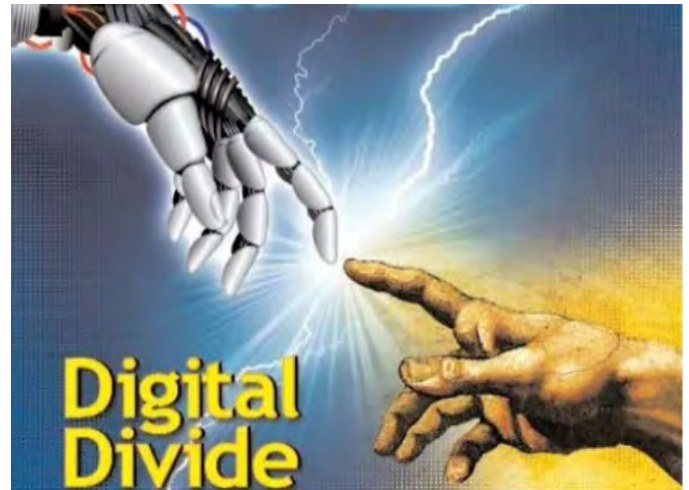


Image Credit: avination.tv

Many of the individuals who struggle from the digital divide face both. As we know the importance of the Internet in the current digital world but yet in some areas, internet access is either limited, unavailable, or unaffordable. Even with a reliable internet connection, access to certain digital spaces can remain a challenge, always just out of reach for those who can't afford costly tools like laptops and softwares. This leaves countless students and professionals to depend on public computers or their mobile devices as their only tools to exist in an increasingly digital world. It still leaves many more, like those in rural areas or living under the poverty line.

The lockdown has forced we students to work online. We are easily able to connect through virtual meetings . But some of our parents are claiming that online study is not so effective. In my point of view, at least we are able to read. One question that came to my mind was, students with stable internet access had a more smooth transition to online learning. But can

public schools and underprivileged students adjust? When I see on social media or hear news that students of rural areas have died while going school through tuition, I feel very awful. I thank god that I am one of the luckiest because I am able to be part of the digital world, and don't have to struggle to reach the school!!

What are the solutions?

There are countless obstacles to bridge the digital divide in Nepal, yet we are taking steps to counteract it, since the lockdown. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has launched an e-learning portal for grades 1 to 10 where students can access course materials online and offline. Another organization, "Room to Read" is providing literary materials to students via radio broadcast and social media.

NIHILISM: THE BELIEF IN NOTHING

Dilasha Vaidya - X 'Tajmahal'



Image Credit: Reddit.com

Do you ever just wonder, If your parents are actually your parents? This sounds rather preposterous than rational but hear me out. You probably haven't seen yourself coming out from your mother's body. You had an obscure

vision for the first couple of weeks after you were born and most importantly you barely remember the first 2 years of your life. Well, there certainly are ways like DNA and genes but let's not go there for now. If you exclude science, isn't it belief that makes you believe your parents are your parents?

Belief; a small simple word but really isn't. It is literally literary with an essence given by mortals that is actually holding the earth. How? You pray because you somewhere believe in a force that connects you to what you desire. But if you're an atheist and don't believe in gods then you still do believe that gods don't exist. Beliefs shape our perspective and perspective's your reality. Now, Nihilism is its exact opposite. It's the belief in nothing. Everything is nonsensical for a nihilist. This world carries the existence and lives of 7 billion people, in which you or your deeds are commemorated by some hundreds. The generations pass and then no one remembers you. So what's the use of all that you've done in all these years, if it holds no significance after destined seasons? The standards, culture, religion, beliefs, who made them? Why did they make them and what is its motive? Keep answering these questions, you mark a period at nothing, simply nothing. This is Nihilism; where nothing is bad nor good, it's just meaningless.

There are two aspects to Nihilism. One might come off as pessimistic and the other as optimistic. The pessimist nihilists just don't put effort. The life they are living has no sense, the earth's going to vanish someday, humanity will go extinct, so what's the point of trying? Everything will be forgotten, destroyed, flushed by something new or nothing at all. So what's the point of striving at all? While the optimistic nihilists are carefree and doers. To explain the difference. A pessimist nihilist thinks, "What's the point of doing all these things if nothing won't matter at the end?" that affirmably contradicts to "If nothing's going to matter in the end, what's the point of not trying out on things?".

People often confuse Nihilism with Pessimism. But they are divergent. Pessimists believe in negative conclusions but Nihilists just believe in nix. Nevertheless an interrogation comes across that If Nihilists believe in nothing, it's 'Nothing' that they believe in. So is the discussion on Nihilism purposeless?

FRENCH REVOLUTION

Atharba Pal - X 'Tajmahal'



Image Credit: vaventura.com

Royals were beheaded, monarchy was abolished and the people overthrew the centuries-old political system of France. This was the French Revolution.

France of the 18th century wasn't the France it is today. The nation was in financial ruin while the royals and the upper class enjoyed their lives to the fullest off the backs of the hard working poor. Such a condition existed in France with them waging war against nations for power. They would then lose the wars and the nobilities left the peasants to pay for it. This was when the populace started to reconsider their entire system, starting the campaign towards democracy.

What triggered the Revolution?

While the angry French people started to question, Louis XV, also called Louis the Beloved, died of smallpox on 10th of May, 1774. Prince Louis Capet, Louis XV's grandson, then assumed the title of King from the same day becoming King Louis XVI. He was a notoriously weak man with no wisdom of ruling his

kingdom in crisis whatsoever. For instance, the King was unable to retrieve the 1.3 billion French money they lent the Americans during the revolution against the British. The funding was an act of revenge pointed towards Great Britain by the King but it actually hit them. And now, France was in an even deeper debt.

France's poor peasants, who made up almost 80% of the population, watched as the carefree nobility immersed themselves in parties and fun programs, growing extremely disdainful of them. In particular, Marie Antoinette, the Queen, was greatly disliked by the public for her extravagant and lavish spendings that earned her the nickname 'Madame Deficit'.

The nation's economy was at an all time low and the King and his aides were left with a single solution; tax. The peasants were taxed heavily even having to give up a huge portion of their harvest. They were even forced to work for their feudal lords without any wages. This is when the poor really started going out of control and the respect for the government was just next to nothing.

Revolution: The Beginning

The riots of citizens were well heard by the King, too. This is when the King decided to summon the 'Estate Generals' which was the closest thing France had to a government except for the King and was rarely summoned, so much so that it hadn't been summoned for 175 years till that point. The 'Estate Generals' consisted of three levels: the Clergy, the Nobility and the third level included everybody remaining. The third estate made up 98% but was heavily dominated by the two aforementioned estates and they were obviously not very happy about it. Then, they had an idea, "Hey! We have 275 million people on our side. Why don't we just consider making our own government?" and so they did, making the Tennis Court Oath on 20th June, 1789, pledging to continue meeting until democracy was established. They formed the 'National Assembly' as a revolutionary force in the country.

Now, the King was fearful of his position being snatched away from him. So, he placed the military all around Paris. The revolutionary forces thought of it as an act to suppress them, so they became more aggressive, reaching for an armed preparation. The aggrieved crowd, now armed, approached the King's palace with royal officials' heads on pikes, with only one option left for the King; constitutional monarchy.

Though the King was now reduced to just a titular position, some new radical people demanded for the King's execution while other countries (who had been alarmed about the possibility of similar revolution within themselves) kept pressurizing the assembly not to do so. This started a tension within the newly formed system resulting in massacre on both sides. The Assembly finally decided to completely banish monarchy, despite foreign pressure, and imprison the royals declaring France as a republic nation on 22nd September, 1792.

Revolution: The End

Slowly, the new republic government started to execute every potential enemy, not even sparing women and children. However, the one person they wanted dead was the former king and they did it. The King was executed on January 21, 1793 and the queen on 16th October, 1793. Now, do you remember the other nations mentioned above? Yes, France waged another war against them. When the French military was squeezed to the last ounce of their strength, citizens were forced to fight, giving rise to another opposition all over France.

With wars going on from inside and outside, the French economy didn't rise up. This was when the radical forces (the ones that believed in the King's execution) arrested the officials and began their rule. This basically became a dictatorship with Maximilien Robespierre as its leading voice. The government handed out death sentences to their opposers and fear had become their ultimate policy. Around 40000

heads were chopped off of their bodies in the process. The assembly finally realized the insanity of the act and executed Robespierre himself, becoming a victim of his own paranoia in 1794.

But the revolution still continued for 5 years until 1799. During this time, while a new constitution was drafted, many royalists started revolting. They were soon silenced by Napoleon Bonaparte, who rose to power as general after the incident. Napoleon then almost single handedly led France to many victories, growing in popularity. Bonaparte then dissolved the government through a coup and formed a constitution staging himself as the dictator.

This is the French revolution; born with the promise of freedom and liberty, triggered by protests and ended with replacement of absolute monarchy by an absolute dictatorship.

FEROCIOUS HISTORY OF NEPAL

Dikshya Poudel- IX 'Buddha'



Image Credit: luxuryholidaynepal.com

If we start turning pages of the historical books and diaries, listening to stories from grandparents or going through old stone inscriptions then only we would know how ferocious the history of Nepal was. Killing own brothers just for getting higher post in the kingdom was the most revolting event that took place in the history of Nepal.

It all began with Jung Bahadur Rana and his cleverness for getting premiership of prime

minister, with the help of his brothers, he killed about 40 high rank noblemen and ministers in the Royal palace of Nepal. Wait, it just didn't end there. He even killed Prime Minister Fattah Jung Shah. That was the first Kot Massacre in the history of Nepal.

All the violence and cruelty he showed was just for getting the supreme power. And he was actually successful in achieving the better post and strongest power. Whatever he wanted was easily achieved by him through his cruel behavior and cleverness. He declared himself the new prime minister and Chief of Nepali army.

Beside this many other events took place in order to remove Jung Bahadur Rana from his post. But, nothing worked in front of his cleverness and courageous behavior. Due to this cruel incident, the Rana regime came into existence. Sad to know, but it continued up to 104 years. Just imagine, how our grandparents and our great grandparents had sustained their lives in such a cruel environment where they were just treated like servants.

Jung Bahadur Rana was the one who made the rule that the premiership would pass from elder brother to the younger one. Due to this many other vicious events took place. Brothers used to be the enemies of one another just for getting the supreme post. Just think once, how treacherous the situation would have been in those days.

The ferocious events in the history of Nepal didn't end there. On 1 June 2001, the Nepali Royal Massacre occurred at the Narayanhiti palace. Including King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Lakshmi Shah, nine members of the royal family were killed. That event caused a level of frustration in every citizen of Nepal. Although Crown prince Dipendra was declared the one to kill the royal family by the official investigation, Nepali citizens were not satisfied by that conclusion. They believed that Gyanendra, who was the brother of King Birendra, shot the royal family

just for getting the position of King. Well, the royal massacre event is still mysterious.

After knowing about all these incidents, we can just imagine how ferocious the history of Nepal actually was. Such a ferocious history of our country makes us realize how lucky we are now. We are not facing such hazardous situations that our ancestors faced.

I HEARD THEM

Sanjila Khanal - X 'Greatwall'

"No, I don't want to eat the meal.", I turned my head to the other side, avoiding the spoon which was coming towards my mouth."

"Yes, you want to and you have to. If not, how will you grow taller?" My mom was not an easy person to argue with. She was trying hard to feed me the same rice and dal which I ate every single day."



Image Credit: worldwildlife.org

Oh, I guess I forgot to introduce myself. Hi, I am Sanjila Khanal. Now, you must be thinking that I am 15 and still my mom feeds me? Actually, no, she doesn't. This is the story of me when I was 6 years old. My mom always mentioned that it was really difficult to feed me. So, she and granny used to tell me stories and then I used to open my mouth without a pause. Mostly, she used to tell me the stories of the forest and the animals. I used to listen to her excitedly and nod my head everytime she completed a sentence. Now, let's get back to the story.

“Mom, I’m bored. You and granny always tell me the same stories of the lion, fishes, monkeys, crocodiles. I want to hear something new.” I was really trying to push her to tell me the stories of something else.

“Okay, fine. So, see there. What do you see?” She pointed her finger towards the small hill which was near my home. “There? There is a big big hill.” And, granny told me, the lions and the tigers live there with their family.” I was excited to share the information with her. And, as I was on my terrace, it was easier for me to describe the hill to my mom.



Image Credit: santabanta.com

“Oh, I surely didn’t know that. But, you know what? That hill has many trees and those trees are the home to numerous birds and the birds also live in those trees with their family. Some animals might live there as well.” My mom grinned at me. But, I was confused. I mean how can birds live in a small nest with their whole family? This was unconvincing.

But, today after nine years, I look towards the same place, where my mom pointed her finger. But, What do I see? I just see huge piles of sand. I don’t see those trees anymore. I don’t hear the chirps of the birds anymore. I don’t hear the loud noise made by cicadas anymore. I don’t hear the melodious song, the trees used to sing in the windy days anymore. As a whole, I don’t see or feel like nature is alive anymore.

But, I did see the hill getting dug by an excavator. I did see the trees getting uprooted. I did hear their screams. I did hear the cries of the birds, when their nests were being destroyed. I did hear the call of their small babies, who didn’t know how to fly. I did hear

the thoughts of their eggs, as the new chicks couldn’t even see the world once. I did hear the cicadas protesting against the activity with their screams, which were louder than ever. I did hear the tears rolling down the tree’s branches and trunk, but, in the next second, everything was quiet. I saw, heard and felt nature getting destroyed and not valued.

Who did that? Well, I think you already know. Those selfish people with no humanity at all. Those money minders, whose greed led them to do such a sin. Those greedy people killed nature and everyone was just standing aside, being an audience. They dug the whole hill to sell sand, even though they do mention about constructing a highway. To take profit from the budget separated by the government, they decided to invest in a highway. But, now you might be a little confused. I know you’re thinking, ‘How can they profit from a big project like constructing a highway?’ To be more precise, well, I did mention about the sand before. But, their dreams were ruined when there was a controversy regarding the selling of the sand. So, they were forbidden to sell the sand. But still, what about those trees who made the sand so fertile and shiny for decades? Maybe those people had good intentions too. They wanted to construct a highway for the ease of all. And also, to develop the place. So, I don’t want to blame anyone, but, even when I say this, I do blame them. I am just being neutral. But, I care more about nature than the egocentric people who destroyed it.

People care about development and not the sustainable one. They know destruction and not creation and maintenance. They shut us down when we raise our strong yet weak voices against them, for nature. You know what? Sometimes, I question humanity. Where is it? Who has it? Nowhere and Noone will be the perfect answer. I apologize if you are feeling bad about me questioning you. But, I am not questioning the people who can hear the voice of nature. I am questioning those who can’t. And I’m often confused. Why isn’t the forest act

or any other laws regarding the trees and nature, being implemented properly? Are those laws just written in the constitution, to make sure that the politicians get the appreciation in the future, when the people in 3031 AD, will be reading about the constitution? Why isn't there another way to conduct development activities? Do they always have to go straight for the forests or trees? These answers will be well answered by a report published by global forest watch, "In 2010 AD, Nepal had 4.08Mha of natural forest, extending over 33% of its land area. In just a decade, i.e. in 2020 AD, it lost 2.23kha of natural forest, equivalent to 1.20Mt of CO₂ emissions." Another report published by forest action mentions that, "Nepal has a deforestation rate of 1.7%, which is well above the Asian or global average." So, these reports clearly mention the way our country is exploiting forest resources. Well, if this deforestation rate continues to increase, then we have to pack our bags and wave goodbye to our motherland someday. And, I can see that coming.



Image Credit: kathmandupost.com

So, why are we still sitting here quietly, folding our arms? The probable answer is, because our voices will not be heard? Why? Because our humanity will be too much for those people to shut down. Our voices will be silenced. Our thoughts will be limited inside our head. Our opinions or views will be discarded or simply ignored.

I am not talking about the ways to preserve and conserve nature and its resources, because that is the thing we have been doing from the very beginning phase of our education or schooling. We know about sustainable development,

proper use of resources, balanced regional development and all. But the thing I am talking about is the voice of nature, because that is the thing we are not taught about. Why aren't we taught that nature feels pain and sorrow and still it stands there quietly? Why aren't we taught that above all, nature is our ultimate guardian? Why aren't we taught to take care of nature as we take care of our parents and family, when we grow independent and they grow old? Why aren't we taught that even if for a few seconds, if all trees disappear from this earth then, billions or more of us will die? Why are the ways for the preservation of nature just limited to the pages of our books or our copies?

I will answer that in a sentence. Because, we are too afraid to try. The most difficult thing to do is to take the first step. And as they say, a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. So, let's take this step and do whatever it takes to protect our ultimate guardian. Let's hear their voices and be their support. People say that nature doesn't speak, it doesn't have a voice. But, let's prove them wrong. Because it does. It has, only for the ones who want to hear it.



Image Credit: icimod.org

So, I just want to lock those memories of my childhood in the golden prison of my heart because I don't have another option or alternative. I want to see the hill inside my mind, in my memories, when I look towards the place my mom pointed to when I was 6 years old. She taught me to love nature, from the very time when I didn't even know how the birds lived in the small nest with their whole family.