



THE KATHMANDU POST

WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

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Finance minister takes flak for revising Economic Bill after it reached Parliament

YAGYA BANJADE
KATHMANDU, JUNE 9

Lawmakers have demanded a parliamentary probe into Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle after tax rates were revised multiple times through the Economic Bill. The controversy has raised questions about transparency, legal authority and the process through which tax rates were altered after the budget was tabled in Parliament.

When Minister Wagle unveiled the budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2026-27 on May 29, few anticipated that the accompanying Economic Bill



Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle

would become the centre of a political and legal controversy.

Within days of budget presentation, lawmakers began questioning repeated revisions made to the bill through which tax rates and fiscal provisions were altered. Opposition parties have gone a step further, demanding a parliamentary investigation into the minister's actions.

The issue has triggered debate over whether the government had the legal authority to revise tax provisions after the budget and Economic Bill had already been presented in the federal parliament.

>> Continued on page 2

Gurung back as home minister without answering accountability questions

Rights officials do not expect impartial investigation in line with their recommendations when the individual under scrutiny leads the ministry responsible for the probe.

GAURAV POKHAREL & SAJANA BARAL
KATHMANDU, JUNE 9

When Rastriya Swatantra Party lawmaker Sudan Gurung walked out of the home ministry on April 22, he framed his resignation as a test of the political culture he had promised to build and as a step towards ensuring an impartial investigation into allegations surrounding his controversial dealings.

Less than two months later, he returned to the position on Tuesday without the government even making the investigation report public. Instead, the National Human Rights Commission has recommended an investigation against him saying last September's Gen Z protest turned violent after Gurung took leadership of the protest, raising further questions about accountability.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah placed him in the position for the second time, three days after a panel led by former high court judge Achyut Prasad Bhandari submitted the probe report with the finding: "there was no basis to conclude that the source of the assets was suspicious". Joining the Shah Cabinet alongside Gurung is independent lawmaker Mahabir Pun, who will helm the newly created Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Before selecting Gurung, the Cabinet decided on Tuesday itself to accept the report by the Bhandari committee. However, it neither made the report public nor announced the date to publish it.

"I know the report was submitted on Friday and he [Gurung] has become minister today [Tuesday]," Dipa Dahal, press and investigation expert



Ministers Sudan Gurung and Mahabir Pun take their oaths of office on Tuesday.

to the prime minister, told Kantipur: "I have no additional information."

Officials at the constitutional human rights watchdog expect no impartial investigation into their recommendations when the individual facing scrutiny heads the ministry responsible for carrying it out.

"How can we expect a fair investigation when the person recommended for investigation is leading the ministry responsible for it?" Lily Thapa, an NHRC member who led the investigation, told Kantipur.

She said a similar pattern was observed in cases related to the Maoist conflict. When individuals facing allegations were appointed to government positions, it prevented investigation

from reaching their logical conclusion.

"This trend could be repeated," she said. Soon after assuming office, Gurung announced a series of decisions aimed at strengthening criminal investigations. He said the Nepal Police's Central Investigation Bureau would be further strengthened and made more effective, adding that "every file will be opened".

He directed investigators to expedite pending cases and announced plans to establish specialised units within the bureau to handle serious crimes, organised crime and financial offences. He also instructed officials to move ahead with an investigation into the 2001 royal massacre.

>> Continued on page 3

Up to 10,000 civil servants may be forced to exit early

An amendment to the draft Federal Civil Service Bill will retire officials at 30 years of service or 55 years of age.

RAJESH MISHRA & DURGA DULAL
KATHMANDU, JUNE 9

The government is preparing to introduce a legislative provision to summarily retire around 10,000 civil servants in a single sweep. The Ministry of Land Management, Cooperative, Federal Affairs and General Administration has drafted a fresh Federal Civil Service Bill containing a special, one-time provision targeted at bureaucratic downsizing.

According to this proposal, any civil servant who has either completed 30 years of service or reached the age of 55 will be forcefully retired upon the enactment of the law. Data with the Department of National Personnel Records shows the massive scale of this intervention. Regular mandatory retirements number only 2,000 to 3,000 personnel per fiscal year. For the current fiscal year of 2025-26, the scheduled number of mandatory retirees stands at 2,211. If the proposed 30-year service and 55-year age ceiling becomes law, an additional 10,000 employees will be sent home instantly.

The draft bill was officially forwarded to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs on May 25. Ministry sources confirm that this sweeping clause is structured as a one-time provision. "That provision is a one-time measure. For all other employees who escape this retirement round, the mandatory age limit will be 60," said a ministry official. "This proposal came directly from the political leadership. The government clearly

wants to downsize the civil service to make the administration leaner and more efficient."

The aggressive restructuring stems directly from the political leadership's desire to cut administrative costs. The executive's 100-day action plan prioritises administrative reform, structural downsizing, and fiscal austerity. It set a mandatory 45-day deadline to formulate the civil service bill. Additionally, the government recently consolidated its cabinet framework, reducing the number of federal ministries from 22 down to 18, which created immediate structural pressure to slash the workforce.

A proposed provision will slash the chief secretary's tenure to 2 years from the current 3.

The proposed law also reduces the maximum tenure of a chief secretary from three years to two, and cuts a secretary's tenure from five years to three. A senior official at the Ministry of Federal Affairs said that these multi-layered cutbacks will cause an immediate departure of 52 secretaries. Currently, there are 70 high-level secretary positions and over 600 joint secretary positions across the federal administration.

>> Continued on page 2

Recording Old Kathmandu

How Kathmandu watched the World Cup in the 1980s and 1990s

A look at how newspapers chronicled football fever before the internet age—from Maradona heartbreak and excitement over NTV, to fears of loadshedding.



A letter to the editor published in the July 2, 1994 edition of The Kathmandu Post.

PRAWASH GAUTAM
KATHMANDU, JUNE 9

"Thank you for the nice coverage to the preparations for the ensuing World Cup football in Mexico," writes Lalit Shrestha from Chhetrapati, Kathmandu in a letter to the editor titled "Mexico '86" to The Rising Nepal (TRN) on May 27, 1986. "The news about the different teams, their aspirations, strengths and weaknesses that appear almost daily in your paper are also informative. However, we also hope that you will maintain the coverage also when the games actually start on May 31. As we do not own any TV sets, we have pinned all our hopes on TRN."

Today, in Kathmandu, with the FIFA World Cup 2026 just around the corner, fans flaunt jerseys of favourite teams and hairstyles of favourite stars. Football lovers enjoy matches from big screens at restaurants and public

spaces in Kathmandu's core as much as from smart TV sets at homes and live streams on smart phones. And, on Twitter, Facebook and TikTok, enthusiasts engage in heated discussions and minute analysis of stars, teams, matches, faults, goals.

But, what moments defined Kathmandu's World Cup experience in the 1980s and 1990s?

In 1986, in what was a defining moment of Kathmandu's World Cup experience, television was just emerging in the Kathmandu scene and was a luxury while newspapers served as a major source of information on the World Cup. Turn over the newspapers from the periods of 1982 to 1998 World Cups and, just like the letter to the editor, from their pages spill Kathmandu's World Cup moments much different from today.

In that pre-internet, pre-digital age, the only two dailies disappoint

Kathmandu with no coverage of the World Cup; NTV telecasts World Cup to Kathmandu's excitement and thrill, but there are important issues and disrupted matches due to loadshedding; Maradona is suspended and his fans in Kathmandu are shocked and shattered while others feel betrayed by the star; and, while Kathmandu is drowned in World Cup fever, Kathmandu's womenfolk are untouched by the pervading mood.

Little newspaper coverage, disappointed football lovers

A key moment in Kathmandu's World Cup experience up to the 1982 World Cup was that Gorkhapatra and TRN, the only newspapers that its residents could turn to, showed little enthusiasm in their World Cup coverage, much to the disappointment of the Valley's football lovers.

Although football was known to Kathmandu in the 1920s, Gorkhapatra, Nepal's first and state-owned newspaper established in 1901, did not cover the inaugural World Cup held in 1930 and subsequent editions. A small news piece during the 1958 World Cup was possibly the first coverage. Apart from this, there was either no or only sporadic coverage of the World Cup well into the 1982 edition.

By 1982, Kathmandu was already showing an increased interest in the World Cup. However, this interest was unmatched with little coverage in Gorkhapatra and its sister publication TRN, which started in 1965. What hovered therefore was the general mood of discontent among Kathmandu's ardent football lovers, like JP Rauniyar of Indrachowk. "Football is the most popular game in Nepal," he writes in a letter to the editor to TRN titled "Football Fever" (July 2, 1982). "The massive media coverage of the games is reflected in the prominence given to it in the live telecasts, radio commentaries, and other international magazines. The Rising Nepal, however, seems to be an exception. Why?"

In a welcome respite for Kathmandu's football lovers, starting from the 1986 World Cup, there was increased coverage of the tournament in newspapers with special reports, World Cup sections and even editorials focusing on World Cup.

>> Continued on page 5

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Upcoming JE vaccination drive to focus on 11 high-burden districts

Among the worst affected districts are Chitwan, Kailali, Tanahun, Dang, Jhapa, Kapilvastu, Morang, Rupandehi, Sunsari, Rautahat and Sarlahi.

ARJUN POUDEL
KATHMANDU, JUNE 9

All people residing in 11 districts highly affected by the spread of the Japanese encephalitis (JE) virus will be vaccinated in the upcoming fiscal year.

Though immunisation experts had recommended vaccinating the entire at-risk population that has not yet received the vaccine, the government has decided to cover only 11 districts with high JE burden due to funding constraints, officials say.

"We have succeeded in convincing officials to allocate funds for vaccination in 11 districts, which have high disease burden," said Dr Abhiyan Gautam, chief of the Immunisation Section at the Family Welfare Division under the Department of Health Services.

"Something is better than nothing. Experts have recommended immunising the entire unvaccinated population."

JE is a viral brain infection, endemic to Asia and parts of the Western Pacific. It is a mosquito-borne flavivirus belonging to the same family as dengue, Zika, yellow fever, and West Nile viruses. The virus kills a third of those who fall ill and leaves up to half of those who survive with severe lifelong disabilities, according to the World Health Organisation.

Complications from JE could cause permanent injuries to the brain and the nervous system. As there is no specific cure, treatment focuses on managing symptoms.

In 2025, as many as 41 people died, and 141 others were infected by the deadly virus that has spread in over 117 local units of over 45 districts. Both deaths and infections are at their highest levels in recent years, a trend immunisation experts describe as alarming and requiring immediate intervention. JE is the leading cause of death among vector-borne diseases in Nepal.

An outbreak began in the third week of June last year in eastern Nepal and gradually spread

westwards. Half of the districts reporting JE cases are hill districts.

In 2024, twenty-three people succumbed to JE, including one in Kathmandu Valley, and over 80 people were infected.

Immunisation experts, as well as experts from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee, have recommended that the entire unvaccinated population receive a single dose of the JE vaccine, as they remain at high risk of infection, severe illness, and death.

41 people died from JE and 141 were infected across 45 districts in 2025.

"We have recommended inoculating the entire unvaccinated population against JE," said Dr Ramesh Kanta Adhikari, chair of the National Immunisation Advisory Committee, an independent, multidisciplinary advisory group of experts that provides evidence-based guidance on immunisation policies. "The 11 districts having high disease burden and high mortality rate might have been chosen first, as launching vaccination nationwide costs a huge amount of money."

Officials say Chitwan, Kailali, Tanahun, Dang, Jhapa, Kapilvastu, Morang, Rupandehi, Sunsari, Rautahat and Sarlahi are the districts most likely to be selected for vaccination, as these districts have recorded the highest morbidity and mortality rates. The government has allocated Rs460 million budget for the vaccination programme.

Health officials say that the majority—76 percent—of JE-related deaths occurred in people over 40. Around 70 percent of the infected persons are those above 15 years. The government has integrated the JE vaccine in the routine

immunisation list since 2015.

Of the total cases reported last year, Lumbini province recorded at least 11 deaths and 55 infections; Gandaki province saw eight deaths and 34 infections; Bagmati province reported eight deaths and 24 infections; Koshi province witnessed five deaths and 24 infections; and Karnali saw one death and eight infections.

No JE cases were reported in Sudurpaschim province in 2025.

As most tests are carried out in hospitals, where patients often seek treatment after becoming seriously ill, the reported cases likely may not reflect the full extent of infections, officials say.

In 2005, JE killed nearly 2,000 people in Nepal, mostly children in Terai districts. Nepal started administering the vaccine in 2006, eight years before the World Health Organisation officially issued prequalification certification, due to high rates of infection and deaths from the virus at the time.

Vaccination was expanded with support from donors and global health partners.

"We convinced GAVI, the vaccine alliance, to fund integration of JE vaccine into the routine immunisation programme," said Dr Shyam Raj Upreti, former director general of the Department of Health Services. "The alliance has been providing funds for the JE vaccine for routine immunisation, but not for special vaccination campaigns."

Experts say everyone must take at least one dose of the JE vaccine, which is effective in preventing morbidity and mortality.

The JE virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected Culex mosquitoes. Pigs and ducks are considered natural reservoirs of the virus. Pig farmers and those residing near the paddy field are at particularly high risk. Along with vaccination, doctors urge authorities to launch awareness drives on JE.

An estimated 12.5 million people are thought to be at high risk of JE infection in Nepal.

Opposition demands probe into repeated revisions of Economic Bill



Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle holds up the budget speech document for media photographers on May 29 ahead of the annual budget presentation for fiscal year 2026/27.

>> Continued from page 1

The controversy deepened after the Economic Bill uploaded to the Ministry of Finance website on May 29 was removed the following day and replaced several hours later with a revised version. The version currently available on the ministry's website is a third revision of the bill.

Each revision introduced changes—some reducing taxes, some increasing them, and others adding entirely new provisions that were absent from the original document. Here is a look into the issue.

What changes were made to the bill?

A comparison between the version first uploaded on May 29 and the latest version reveals several significant differences.

The first major change concerns value-added tax (VAT) on electricity. Initially, the government revised the VAT Act to exempt household consumers using up to 50 units of electricity per month from VAT.

However, the provision still allowed VAT to be charged when electricity producers sold power to other electricity-related businesses, such as when hydropower developers sold electricity to the Nepal Electricity Authority.

In the latest revision, the exemption has been expanded. The revised provision now exempts both electricity transactions between electricity businesses and household consumption of up to 50 units per month from VAT. Consumers using more than 50 units will continue to pay VAT on electricity.

The second change relates to electric vehicles (EVs). Under the latest version of the bill, EVs valued at less than Rs2 million at customs clearance will be charged a road construction charge of 2.5 percent. Previously, the standard rate was 5 percent, and the original Economic Bill had retained that rate.

The revision effectively reduces the road construction charge for lower-priced electric vehicles, a move likely to benefit buyers in the entry-level EV market.

"Motor vehicles classified under subheadings 8703.80.91 and 8703.80.99, with a transaction value of up to Rs2 million as determined by customs at the time of import, shall be subject to a road construction levy of 2.5 percent," reads the latest bill.

The third modification involves fuel imports and the green tax. The original bill stated that petrol and diesel imports would attract a green tax at a rate of 10 percent per litre. The revised bill changes this to a fixed levy of Rs10 per litre. It seems that the earlier provision may have been a drafting error in which a percentage rate was mistakenly used instead of a monetary amount.

Several provisions announced by the finance minister during his budget speech were not included in the original Economic Bill but appeared only after subsequent revisions.

One such provision concerns cinema halls. During the budget speech, Wagle announced a full income tax exemption for ten years for newly established cinema halls outside metropolitan and sub-metropolitan cities. However, the original bill contained no such clause.

The revised version incorporates the provision by amending the Income Tax Act. Cinema halls established outside metropolitan and sub-metropolitan areas will receive a ten-year tax holiday from the date they begin commercial operations.

Another addition relates to insurance premiums. The revised bill allows individuals who insure privately owned residential buildings with a resident insurance company to deduct either the annual insurance premium paid or Rs10,000—whichever is lower—from their taxable income. This incentive was mentioned in the budget speech but was absent from the first version of the bill. It has been included in the final bill.

Similarly, a new tax deduction has been introduced for education expenses. Under the revised provision, resident taxpayers can deduct 25 percent of annual tuition fees paid for their children's education, or Rs25,000, whichever is lower, from taxable income before tax calculations are made. This measure was also not included in the original bill despite being announced in the budget address.

Finance minister's maneuvering under scrutiny

The repeated revisions have triggered intense discussion in parliament, mainstream media and social media platforms. Critics argue that changing tax rates and fiscal provisions after the budget has been presented undermines transparency and raises questions about who benefited from the alterations.

Opposition lawmakers have claimed that tax provisions cannot be changed informal-

ly after they are tabled in Parliament and have sought a parliamentary investigation into the matter.

The issue has gained further traction because some of the changes directly affect major sectors such as electricity, fuel imports and electric vehicles, where even minor tax adjustments can have substantial financial implications.

Facing growing criticism, Finance Minister Wagle has defended some of the changes in public forums, describing them as corrections and updates. On May 31, two days after presenting the budget, he submitted a revised Economic Bill to the House of Representatives.

According to records in the parliamentary document, corrections were incorporated into the Economic Bill following a letter from the finance minister dated May 31.

Ekaram Giri, spokesperson for the House of Representatives Secretariat, said the Economic Bill is a government bill and that the Secretariat updated the document after receiving a correction letter from the government.

"The bill was tabled on May 29. Later, the government informed us that certain errors needed correction. Upon receiving the revised version along with the official communication, the Secretariat updated the document," Giri told Kantipur, noting that substantive parliamentary discussion on the Economic Bill has not yet begun because House proceedings remain obstructed.

However, Giri acknowledged that the House of Representatives Regulations, 2026 contain procedures for registering and processing bills but do not specifically address alterations to tax rates after a bill has been tabled.

What is the legal basis?

The controversy has exposed a legal grey area in Nepal's budget-making process.

Alongside the annual budget, the finance minister also tables the Appropriation Bill, the National Debt Bill and the Economic Bill. These bills become law only after parliamentary approval.

However, the Economic Bill presented on May 29 differs in several respects from the latest version available on the Finance Ministry website. Legal experts point out that no law clearly states whether a finance minister may or may not revise tax provisions in a bill after it has been tabled in parliament but before it is passed.

Section 18 of the Economic Act allows the finance minister to reduce, increase or waive taxes under certain circumstances. Yet those provisions apply only after the budget comes into effect and before the presentation of the following year's budget.

Even then, changes must follow a formal process involving decisions by the Ministry of Finance, approval by the Cabinet and endorsement by Parliament. The law also grants limited authority to ministries to make adjustments in specific situations, but these powers similarly apply only during the budget implementation period.

Did the finance minister revise tax rates without legal authority?

There is no explicit legal provision governing whether tax rates can be revised after a budget has been tabled in parliament but before it is approved. As a result, there appears to be no clear legal basis for the revisions Finance Minister Wagle has made to the Economic Bill.

This is, however, not the first time that an Economic Bill has been revised after being presented. Minor corrections were made to such bills in previous years as well. Wagle himself told Kantipur that budget-related bills have been revised on as many as 40 occasions in the past.

Yet the absence of a clear legal framework raises questions about the basis on which such revisions are made. Former finance ministers and former finance secretaries acknowledge that technical errors and drafting mistakes have been corrected in previous bills. However, they maintain that past revisions were largely limited to minor corrections and did not involve altering tax rates, exemptions or major fiscal provisions in the manner seen this time.

What is the legal basis for revising the bill?

The House of Representatives Regulations, 2026, set out procedures governing the drafting, amendment and endorsement. Section 17 of the regulations specifically deals with the procedures relating to Appropriation Bills and Economic Bills.

The section outlines the process for tabling, deliberating and endorsing budget-related legislation in Parliament. However, it does not contain any provision authorising the revision of tax rates or fiscal measures after a bill has already been presented to the House.

Government plans to force mass retirement of civil servants

>> Continued from page 1

Out of 50,768 sanctioned federal positions, only 39,888 are currently occupied, within a wider pool of 85,240 civil servants serving across federal, provincial, and local levels. Instead of offering employees a dignified farewell, the government's plan to force through mass redundancies has sparked widespread resentment across the civil service. Affected employees view the move as a direct attack on their career security and retirement predictability.

Legal experts within the ministries are equally alarmed, warning that the provision directly

violates existing statutory protections. Critics point to Section 58 of the Civil Service Act, which strictly prohibits the government from altering service terms—such as salary, gratuity, and pension—to an employee's disadvantage without their explicit, written consent.

Law ministry officials have quietly informed Minister Sobita Gautam that the proposed text is unconstitutional. "A person enters the public service under a specific contractual guarantee," a senior official at the ministry said. "The state cannot arbitrarily shift goalposts and evict them early. If the Ministry of Federal Affairs refuses

to amend this clause during our review, we will return the draft with a formal note indicating its illegality."

Former Chief Secretary Bimal Koirala criticised the approach, urging the state to respect natural justice. "The government cannot simply chase everyone out by force," said Koirala. "Those who entered through the Public Service Commission have a legal right to predictable service terms. If the state genuinely needs to downsize, it must design an attractive, dignified 'golden handshake' package. Forcing a purge without compensating for lost pension advantages is deeply unjust."

The Ministry of Finance has already provided its feedback on the draft prepared by the Ministry of Federal Affairs, and the document has been sent to the law ministry with those inputs included.

41 people died from JE and 141 were infected across 45 districts in 2025.

"Once we receive the law ministry's opinion, we will adjust the draft accordingly and forward it to the Cabinet. The Cabinet will then send it to the Public Service Commission for their review," said a joint secretary at the Ministry of Federal Affairs. "Only after receiving the commission's feedback and holding discussions in the cabinet's Legislation Committee will the cabinet officially decide to table it in parliament." He said because the proposed bill must clear so many stages, nothing is set in stone just yet.

The government is keen to introduce the Civil Service Act quickly. The official hinted that if the government considers it urgent, they might bring it in through an ordinance. Civil servants are due for a 10 percent salary hike starting July 17. Since implementing this in the upcoming fiscal year would place an extra financial burden on the state for both salaries and pensions, he mentioned that the government might opt to introduce the Civil Service Act through an ordinance by mid-July to retire tens of thousands of employees early.

This aggressive downsizing mirrors a highly controversial historical precedent in the 1990s, executed under the Girija Prasad Koirala administration. At that time, the Koirala administration capitalised on loopholes within the Civil Service Act of 1956.

Through the infamous 29th amendment to the regulations in 1992, the Koirala government lowered the retirement age from 60 to 58, and introduced a mandatory retirement trigger upon the completion of 30 years of service. It also granted the state arbitrary power to retire any employee eligible for a pension.

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A senior official said proposed multi-layered cutbacks will cause an immediate departure of 52 secretaries.

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Karnali's pioneer technical education school struggles to survive

Founded 46 years ago to equip young people in remote mountain communities with practical skills, Karnali Technical School has produced generations of technicians and professionals.



An aerial view of Karnali Technical School in Ghughuti, Jumla. The school was established in 1980. (Right) Students at a practical class in the school, pictured recently.

RANJANA BC
JUMLA, JUNE 9

At a time when roads were virtually non-existent in Karnali, communication was scarce, and higher education remained out of reach for most young people, a bold experiment in technical education took shape in Jumla.

Established in 1980 with the goal of providing skill-based education to youths in remote mountain districts, Karnali Technical School (KTS) has since become one of Nepal's most significant vocational training institutions. Nearly five decades later, however, the school that helped lay the foundation for technical education in the country is grappling with a severe financial crisis.

Located on the hill of Ghughuti, around three kilometres north of Khalanga Bazar, the school occupies more than 652 ropani (33.17 hectares) of land. Surrounded by pine forests and overlooking a stream, its stone-and-lime buildings stand as reminders of an ambitious effort to bring technical education to one of Nepal's most isolated regions.

KTS was established eight years before the creation of the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) and later became its first constituent school. For many

in Karnali, the institution remains a source of pride.

Yet the school is increasingly struggling to maintain its infrastructure and operations.

Several buildings constructed in the late 1970s have deteriorated significantly. Roofs leak during the monsoon, walls have weakened and parts of the structures are vulnerable to earthquakes. A micro-hydropower project that once supplied electricity to the campus was destroyed by floods in 2022 and has yet to be restored.

According to Principal Bikal Adhikari, the school requires at least Rs2 million to repair the hydropower system alone. The institution also needs modern laboratory equipment, improved hostel facilities, additional academic buildings and proper fencing around the campus.

"Because of the difficult geography, operating costs are high and several important projects have been stalled due to budget shortages," Adhikari said. "Since the school falls under the federal government, both local and provincial governments tend to avoid taking ownership of these issues."

Until four years ago, the school generated its own electricity through the micro-hydropower project. The system powered classrooms, laboratories and agricultural facilities. Since its destruc-

tion, the school has relied on the national grid, where power interruptions have affected academic activities while electricity bills have added to operating expenses.

School officials estimate that between Rs2 million and Rs3 million is needed to restore the project. Despite repeated requests to federal, provincial and local authorities, they say no funding has been allocated for repairs.

Weak internet connectivity and rising operational costs have compounded the challenges.

Ramadevi Kathayat, deputy mayor of Chandamath Municipality, said the local government does not allocate funds to the institution because it falls under federal jurisdiction.

Despite the current difficulties, KTS occupies a unique place in Nepal's educational history.

The idea for the school emerged at a time when most young people in Karnali relied primarily on agriculture and livestock farming for their livelihoods. Seeking to expand technical education in remote regions, the Ministry of Education and the international non-governmental organisation United Mission to Nepal (UMN) launched a plan to establish a vocational training institution in Karnali.

A team that included American educator Larry C Hoyle and Nepali



POST PHOTOS

educator Tanka Nath Sharma travelled across the region in search of a suitable location. Jumla was eventually selected, and construction began in 1978.

The school was formally inaugurated in July 1980.

When CTEVT was established in 1989, KTS became its first constituent institution, cementing its status as Nepal's pioneering technical school.

Hoyle served as the school's founding principal from 1980 to 1983, while Sharma later took over leadership and helped expand the institution.

According to Nanda Chaulagain, assistant principal and a former student, the school initially offered Junior Technical Assistant (JTA) programmes in agriculture and veterinary science. Students who had completed Grade 7 were selected from villages across Karnali and enrolled in the programme.

After three years of study, students completed a 10-month on-the-job training programme.

The school covered much of the cost of accommodation, meals and learning materials.

"When I studied here, the monthly fee was only Rs25," Chaulagain recalled. "Even to manage that amount, we sometimes had to sell firewood."

Having joined the school as a student in 1987, Chaulagain now serves in its

leadership team.

"The credit for where I am today goes entirely to this institution," he said.

In its early years, the school enrolled only around 20 students at a time. Teacher-student ratios were exceptionally favourable, and instructors included both Nepali agricultural specialists and international volunteers from Canada and the Netherlands.

"At that time, one teacher could closely supervise just two students throughout the day," Chaulagain said.

UMN managed the school for around 15 years before handing it over fully to the Government of Nepal in 1995. Since then, KTS has operated under CTEVT.

Today, more than 500 students from all seven provinces are enrolled at the institution.

The academic programmes have evolved considerably over the years. The school currently offers diploma-level courses in Civil Engineering, Plant Science, Forestry and Pharmacy, as well as a pre-diploma programme in civil engineering. Scholarship-supported programmes in General Medicine and Plant Science are also available.

Programmes such as CMA and ANM were offered in the past but have since been discontinued.

According to Adhikari, the school possesses substantial infrastructure,

including more than 50 buildings, hostels, a library, computer and science laboratories, agricultural farms and specialised technical facilities.

"Because we already have sufficient infrastructure, KTS continues to provide quality technical education at relatively low cost," he said.

The school currently charges around Rs70,000 for Pharmacy, Rs60,000 for Civil Engineering and Rs55,000 for Plant Science and Forestry. Students are allowed to pay in installments, and scholarship schemes support economically disadvantaged and academically strong students.

More than 150 students currently live in hostels that can accommodate over 200 people.

To attract students, the school has introduced a range of scholarship schemes. Recently, it partnered with Laxmi Sunrise Bank to provide scholarships to 25 students. In addition, CTEVT scholarships are available, while top-performing students are exempted from enrolment fees for the following academic year.

Nevertheless, Adhikari said enrolment pressure has declined in recent years as technical education programmes have expanded to community schools across the country.

Despite those challenges, he believes the institution continues to fulfil its original mission.

"KTS remains committed to producing skilled human resources and helping young people become self-reliant," he said.

Karnali's former provincial minister for internal affairs Naresh Bhandari said the school's contribution extends far beyond education.

"The school is a blessing for Karnali," he said. "It laid the foundation for technical education in the region and has produced skilled manpower that is now working across the country."

KTS graduates can be found in agriculture, forestry, health services, construction and infrastructure development projects from remote mountain districts to Kathmandu.

Bhandari argued that the institution should now be upgraded and expanded rather than allowed to decline.

"The government should prioritise reconstruction of ageing infrastructure while ensuring quality education," he said. "In the long term, KTS should be developed into a technical college and eventually evolve into a major centre for technical education."

Questions unanswered as Sudan Gurung returns to home ministry

>> Continued from page 1

The June 1, 2001 palace massacre claimed the lives of King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, Queen Aishwarya, Crown Prince Dipendra and several other members of the royal family. The tragedy put Gyanendra Shah on the throne.

Gurung also announced plans to form a special task force to study whether criminal cases filed in connection with incidents linked to the Gen Z movement could be withdrawn.

In addition, he directed the formation of a Sensitive Information Vigilance Team (SIVT) within the security apparatus to monitor and prevent leaks of confidential information from the home ministry and security agencies.

A prominent figure to emerge from the Gen Z movement, Gurung first assumed office as home minister on March 27.

On his first day in office, he directed police to arrest former prime minister KP Sharma Oli and former home minister Ramesh Lekhak in connection with recommendations made by a commission investigating the September incidents.

Although his first tenure lasted only 26 days, Sudan Gurung quickly became one of the most visible ministers in the Balendra Shah administration, until he was forced to step down.

The directive was issued shortly after Gurung met Nepal Police Inspector General Dan Bahadur Karki and then-Armed Police Force Inspector General Raju Aryal.

The arrests were based on recommendations by a commission led by former judge Gauri Bahadur Karki. Ironically, Aryal himself had been recommended for criminal investigation by the same commission. The Cabinet later decided to form a separate inquiry panel to investigate security personnel implicated in the incidents.

Gurung stayed at the Police Headquarters until Oli and Lekhak were arrested in the early hours of the following morning.

Although his first tenure lasted only 26 days, Gurung quickly became one of the most visible ministers in the Shah administration.

He carried out frequent inspections of police units, visited victims of political violence and attracted public attention through an active social media presence. He also made head-

lines after posting photographs of himself sleeping overnight at the ministry.

His style, however, drew criticism.

Gurung regularly publicised details of ongoing investigations on social media. When former minister Deepak Khadka was arrested on money laundering charges, Gurung shared a copy of the arrest warrant from his personal Facebook account, prompting questions about the appropriateness of such disclosures by a sitting home minister.

Security analyst Indra Adhikari believes Gurung's return reflects the prime minister's confidence in him.

The home ministry remained under the prime minister for months before Gurung's return, she told Kantipur. "That suggests Shah considered him the preferred candidate for the post. Statements made by Gurung and his associates during the investigation also indicated that he was expected to return."

Even after Gurung resigned, his personal secretary, James Karki, continued working from the ministry.

Yet some observers caution that his second tenure may prove more

challenging. "In several instances, there seemed to be a lack of institutional maturity," said Hemanta Malla Thakuri, a retired deputy inspector general of Nepal Police. "There may have been a desire to achieve results, but decisions were often made in haste rather than through established procedures. That created difficulties for the police organisation. It remains to be seen how he handles the ministry this time."

Gurung also returns to a ministry facing major policy challenges.

Nepal Police continues to function under the Police Act of 1955, while a long-awaited federal police law remains pending. Several provinces have already enacted their own police law. Work is also underway on a new Armed Police Force law, placing responsibility on the home ministry to move both bills forward.

He also faces the challenge of implementing several initiatives announced during his first tenure, including

plans to improve police uniforms and establish a domestic factory to produce them, at a time when the ministry's budget has been reduced.

Before entering politics, Gurung was known primarily for his social work.

Following the 2015 earthquake, he organised rescue and relief efforts and later established 'Hami Nepal', a volunteer organisation focused on disaster response. The organisation later sent relief assistance to earthquake victims in Turkey.

While Gurung returns to a familiar office, Pun begins his ministerial tenure in a portfolio that reflects his long-standing advocacy.

Pun has long argued that science, technology and innovation receive insufficient attention in government policy.

Speaking in Parliament previously, he criticised the exclusion of science and innovation from government policies and budgets.

"You can build a beautiful vehicle and comfortable seats, but without an engine it will not move," he said. "Science, technology and innovation are the engine of the economy."

After returning to Nepal after graduation from the University of Nebraska in 1989, he taught mathematics and science for nearly 13 years before returning to his home village.

In 1997, using four donated computers, he established a computer laboratory at Himanchal Secondary School in Myagdi. With no electricity available, he installed a small hydro-generator to power the equipment.

His efforts to bring internet access to remote villages later attracted international attention. In 2001, after seeking assistance through the BBC, he received support from around the world. The broadcaster subsequently featured his work in a report titled "The Wooden Computer".

Pun went on to pioneer wireless internet connectivity in remote parts of Myagdi district, using modified routers and repeater stations to link isolated communities to the outside world.

His work earned him the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2007. He later received honours including induction into the Internet Hall of Fame, the Social Innovation Award and the Jonathan B Postal Service Award. The University of Nebraska also awarded him an honorary doctorate.

In recent years, Pun has been promoting innovation and technology through the National Innovation Centre. He had established the centre in 2012.



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OPINION



OUR VIEW

Digital deflection

A nation cannot be governed by social media status updates and viral photographs.

In recent months, the Prime Minister Balendra Shah-led government has increasingly substituted policy engagement with a digital-first approach that prioritises viral engagement over the rigours of statecraft. While the adept use of technology is a hallmark of modern leadership, a worrying pattern has emerged where social media serves as a tool for deflection, trivialising serious state affairs and obscuring critical national crises.

The recent controversy involving a late-night social media post, in which the prime minister jokingly requested the 'prime minister's number' to apply for an ambassadorship, exemplifies a growing disconnect between the gravity of high office and the levity of online personas. To dismiss such interactions as harmless digital engagement is to ignore the sensitivity of statecraft. The selection of diplomats to represent the nation is a solemn responsibility, not a subject for satirical exchanges with Cabinet ministers and parliamentarians on public forums. Such actions risk degrading the executive office, transforming a space reserved for governance into a theatre of 'clout culture'—a phenomenon where public attention is manufactured through performative antics to manipulate digital algorithms.

This penchant for digital spectacle appears to be part of a broader strategy. On April 27, the federal parliament was abruptly prorogued to bypass the legislature and introduce ordinances concerning the Constitutional Council and cooperative fraud. As public indignation mounted over this evasion of parliamentary oversight, the narrative was swiftly redirected. A photograph of the prime minister, posted on May 9, shifted the national discourse from legislative integrity to the aesthetics of a viral portrait.

The human cost of this distraction is perhaps the most concerning element of the administration's communication strategy. In mid-May, while the nation was confronted with the harrowing reality of displaced landless squatter families living in squalid conditions, the prime minister published light-hearted content promoting local cheese. This juxtaposition—of a postpartum mother in a state holding centre lacking basic nutrition while the head of government posts playful 'say cheese' captions—highlights a lack of empathy and priority.

Furthermore, the administration has demonstrated a troubling tendency to use the machinery of the state to enforce the personal whims of the executive. The arrest of a government secretary, Krishna Hari Pushkar, for allegedly sending a direct message to the prime minister to advance personal interests, sets a precarious precedent. By deploying law enforcement agencies over an electronic communication, bypassing established civil service regulations and administrative procedures, the government has shown authoritarian overreach. Governance must be dictated by codified law and institutional stability, not by the shifting moods or digital grievances of an individual leader.

The digital conversation surrounding the national budget for FY 2026-27 followed a similar pattern of obfuscation. Rather than addressing the structural gaps, economic policies, or the pressing issues of youth unemployment and macroeconomic stability, the prime minister issued a cryptic 'rest assured' status. This brevity, while effective in capturing public attention, stifles the detailed public debate required for sound fiscal management. While the current leadership claims to represent a new political era, these tactics of using wit and sarcasm to disarm critics are reminiscent of previous administrations. The danger lies in the public becoming so consumed by the personality of the leader that critical issues vanish from the collective consciousness.

Popularity on social media is a fleeting commodity and an insufficient substitute for institutional governance. While the prime minister may have an expert understanding of digital algorithms and the ability to introduce populist themes that ensure no single controversy lingers, this approach prioritises temporary entertainment over durable solutions. The focus must return to the floor of the parliament and the corridors of the ministries where policy is debated and implemented. A nation cannot be governed by status updates and viral photographs. It is time for the government to move beyond the superficiality of online disputes and re-engage with the serious, often unglamorous, work of statecraft.

THEIR VIEW

The next shock

The significance of a new El Niño episode lies in the conditions under which it is now unfolding.

The return of El Niño is a reminder that the world's climate crisis is no longer defined solely by long-term warming trends. Increasingly, it is being shaped by the interaction between a warming planet and recurring natural climate cycles that can magnify risks in sudden and unpredictable ways. For policymakers, the significance of a new El Niño episode lies not in the phenomenon itself, which has occurred for centuries, but in the conditions under which it is now unfolding.

Global temperatures remain near record highs. Oceans have absorbed vast amounts of excess heat. Extreme weather events have become more frequent and more costly. Against that backdrop, even a moderate El Niño can act as an accelerant, turning existing vulnerabilities into full-scale emergencies. The economic implications are often underestimated. El Niño has historically disrupted agricultural production from South Asia to Latin America, altered rainfall patterns across Africa and affected fisheries in the Pacific.

In a globalised economy, local weather shocks quickly become international supply-chain disruptions. Food prices rise, energy demand surges, transport networks face new pressures and inflationary risks emerge in economies already struggling with debt and slowing growth. India has experienced this reality before. Weak monsoons linked to El Niño conditions have affected crop yields, rural incomes and food prices. While improved forecasting and irrigation infrastructure have reduced some vulnerabilities, the country's dependence on a successful monsoon remains substantial.

Similar concerns exist across Southeast Asia, parts of China, Australia, southern Africa and South America, where livelihoods remain closely tied to climatic stability. The political consequences can be equally significant. Food insecurity and water shortages have historically contributed to social unrest, migration pressures and governance challenges. Climate-related disasters are no longer viewed merely as environmental events; they are increasingly recognised as national security concerns. Governments that fail to anticipate predictable climate shocks may find themselves confronting avoidable humanitarian and economic crises.

Insurance systems, financial markets and disaster-relief agencies will also face mounting pressure as climate-linked losses continue to escalate. The most important lesson is institutional rather than meteorological. Scientific forecasting has advanced dramatically over the past two decades. Governments today possess far more information than previous generations about the likely trajectory of climate-related risks. The challenge is no longer a lack of warning but a lack of preparation. Early-warning systems, resilient infrastructure, drought management plans, flood-control measures and emergency response mechanisms must become central components of economic planning rather than afterthoughts activated only during crises.

El Niño's arrival should therefore be viewed as a test of global preparedness. The event itself is natural. The scale of the damage it causes is not. In an era of rising temperatures and growing climatic instability, the difference between a manageable disruption and a humanitarian disaster will increasingly depend on whether governments act before the storm arrives rather than after it has passed.

— The Statesman (India)/ANN

How the youth understand federalism

Many misconceptions about federalism arise not from direct experience but from limited access to reliable information.

GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY

KHIM LAL DEVKOTA



Nearly a decade has passed since Nepal adopted federalism under the Constitution of 2015. Yet the implementation of federalism has not fully lived up to people's expectations. Many citizens question whether federalism has delivered on its promises, while debates over the relevance and cost of provincial governments have become increasingly prominent in public discourse.

This growing dissatisfaction has been particularly evident among young people, culminating in the emergence of the Gen-Z movement, which reflected widespread frustration with governance, public accountability, corruption, unemployment and the performance of established political parties. Although the movement was largely concentrated in Kathmandu, it demonstrated that a new generation of Nepalis is increasingly demanding better governance and more responsive public institutions. The subsequent general election, which produced a government commanding nearly a two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives, further highlighted the changing political landscape.

The active participation of young people in civic movements and electoral politics clearly indicates that many are seeking political change. At the same time, it also suggests that many young citizens have become increasingly sceptical of the state, successive governments and traditional political actors.

However, one important question has remained largely unexplored. While considerable attention has been given to youth activism in Kathmandu, far less is known about how young people across the rest of Nepal perceive the country's federal system. There has been little empirical evidence to understand youth perceptions of federalism, and opportunities for informed dialogue and reflection on these issues have remained limited.

This article seeks to fill that gap. It draws upon discussions, interactive exercises and perceptions gathered from 315 young people under the age of 40 from all seven provinces of Nepal. Forty-five participants were selected from each province, representing provincial and local governments, political parties, universities, civil society organisations, media and professional groups, while ensuring broad geographical, gender, ethnic and social inclusion. Rather than focusing on



UNDP NEPAL FACEBOOK

political elites or constitutional experts, the dialogue captured the voices of young citizens from diverse backgrounds, providing a rare opportunity to understand how Nepal's next generation perceives federalism.

The discussions covered a wide range of issues relating to constitutional governance and democratic participation. This article focuses on four questions that emerged as particularly significant: Do young people believe provincial governments are unnecessarily expensive? How well do they understand Nepal's federal system? Has federalism brought government services closer to citizens? And has it strengthened inclusion and representation?

The first finding relates to one of the most common public criticisms of federalism, that provincial governments are expensive. Before the dialogue, 67.97 percent of participants agreed that provincial structures are expensive, while 21.71 percent disagreed and 10.32 percent were unsure. The perception was strongest in Bagmati (83.87 percent), followed by Karnali and Sudurpashchim (77.78 percent each), whereas Madhesh recorded the lowest level of agreement (39.39 percent), with nearly half of the respondents disagreeing. These variations suggest that perceptions of provincial governments are influenced not only by national political narratives but also by provincial experiences.

The second question examined young people's understanding of federalism. Following the dialogue, more than 80 percent (80.77 percent) of participants reported having a medium to very high understanding of Nepal's federal governance system. The highest levels were recorded in Bagmati (87.5 percent), followed by Karnali and Sudurpashchim (84 percent), Lumbini (82.61 percent), Gandaki (80.77 percent), Koshi (80.65 percent), and Madhesh (67.86 percent). The findings demonstrate that civic education and informed discussion can significantly

improve understanding of federal institutions.

Participants were also asked whether federalism has brought government services closer to citizens. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Overall, 86.91 percent agreed that federalism has improved access to public services, while only 11.64 percent disagreed. Agreement was highest in Karnali (100 percent), followed by Gandaki (93.48 percent), Koshi and Lumbini (85.71 percent each), Madhesh (84.38 percent), Bagmati (78.13 percent), and Sudurpashchim (71.43 percent). Despite concerns about the cost of provincial governments, most young people acknowledged that federalism has made government more accessible.

The strongest support emerged on the issue of inclusion. Nearly 89 percent (88.85 percent) of participants believed that federalism has strengthened inclusion and representation in governance. Lumbini recorded the highest level of agreement (96.97 percent), followed by Bagmati (94.44 percent), Gandaki (91.84%), Koshi (91.49 percent), Karnali (89.09 percent), Madhesh (87.5 percent), and Sudurpashchim (71.43 percent). These findings suggest that young people widely recognise federalism's contribution to expanding opportunities for historically marginalised communities to participate in governance.

Taken together, the results present a balanced picture of youth perceptions. While many participants initially viewed provincial governments as costly, they also believed that federalism has improved public service delivery and strengthened inclusion. More importantly, the dialogue demonstrated that greater understanding leads to more informed opinions. Young people did not reject federalism; rather, they called for its more effective implementation through stronger accountability, better coordination, improved service delivery and transparent governance.

The findings carry an important les-

Crisis of political communication in digital era

Shitposting is not always malicious, but in today's political climate, it diverts or derails serious ongoing conversations.

KRIKA SAKPOTA



A terrifying crisis has emerged in today's political communication: Shitposting as a shield for authoritarianism. The country's chief executives and powerful leaders post bizarre content on social media that possesses neither diplomatic value nor policy-related seriousness. Yet, the irony is that these very posts are showered with thousands of 'likes', leaving their supporters ecstatic. To understand this political behaviour in the digital age, we must first understand the various dimensions of internet culture and its internal architecture.

The bizarre digital content we consume daily on 'asocial' media—as CK Lal terms it—may be broadly classified into three genres: memes, trolls and shitposts.

Not every joke or bizarre post seen on anti-social media belongs to the same genre; each has its own character and purpose. A meme has a specific template. It is an idea, image or video whose basic template remains the same, but the content is modified as it spreads rapidly from one person to another. The purpose of a meme is to create a shared social understanding or collective laughter.

Trolling, on the other hand, is driven by clear malice or a deliberate intent to provoke, anger or humiliate someone. It targets a specific individual or group.

Shitposting, however, has no fixed format, nor is it designed to go viral like a meme. The core characteristic of shitposting is being crude, low-quality and absurd. Shitposting is not always done with malicious intent, but in today's political climate, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that its main function is to completely divert or derail serious ongoing conversations.

Naturally absurd and semi-nihilistic, the term 'shitposting' first appeared in the Urban Dictionary in 2007, where it was defined as: "Posting useless worthless garbage on a messageboard."

When those who run the country's governance become the main players in this 'shitposting' genre, the discourse

of the entire nation falls into the trap of distraction. There is a massive gap between the new, urban-dwelling generation fluent in memes, trolling and shitposting, and well-versed in pop culture and the ordinary citizens who have little to do with internet culture. Balancing the needs of the general public who do and do not have online access should have been the duty of the state, but populist leaders seem to be exploiting this very gap.

Even a superficial look at the political environment before, during and the Gen-Z movement reveals that modern populist movements use social media as their primary weapon to breed distrust towards established institutions. They bypass traditional media and legal channels to fake a direct connection with the public.

to deal with this situation, where administrative warnings or disciplinary actions could have been taken.

However, the prime minister did not want to appear bound by 'administrative procedures'; our young, energetic, departure-loving PM may have wanted to look like *Singham* on social media. Grossly abusing his power, he mobilised the Nepal Police in the 'middle of the night'. The police picked up the secretary late at night and reportedly held him at the station for about nine hours. After this procedural mockery, a 'triumphant' shitpost appeared on the prime minister's personal account.

The comment section was even more embarrassing, as people ranging from lawyer Ranju Darshana (who doesn't usually 'get involved' on Saturday-Shenanigans) to Education Minister



POST ILLUSTRATION

Singha Durbar, always ready to serve the algorithm, has also acquired expertise in the genre of shitposting. Nepal's rulers have realised that today's youth harbour extreme frustration, and that this despair can easily be converted into digital sentiment by 'roasting' someone on Facebook rather than through any concrete policy. The PM's Saturday shitposts continue to expose the grotesque nature of this trend.

We experienced the ugliness of this shitposting and 'Digital Heroism' just this past Saturday. A government secretary had reportedly asked the Prime Minister for a 'favour' via personal message to secure an ambassadorship. Bargaining for positions within the civil service like this is, in itself, administrative indiscipline. The state had—and should have had—thousands of administrative and departmental ave-

Sasmit Pokharel, and others arrived to entertain the circus. Along with them were the PM's personal Gorkhapatraesque he(ze)roes like Victor and the undeclared fan page manager of Rabi Lamichhane, Jwala Sangraula. It goes without saying that this is a mockery of the rule of law.

Why is it dangerous when the prime minister of a country engages in shitposting on Facebook? To understand this, we must grasp the classical theory of satire. In the 20th century, using boxing metaphors, terms like 'punching up' and 'punching down' came into use. 'Punching up' means the weak mocking the powerful, while 'punching down' means the powerful mocking the weak.

However, long before these metaphors were used, the boundaries of satire had been set by ancient philosophy. In ancient Greece, Plato and Aristotle laid

the foundation for an important theory of humour known as the 'Superiority Theory of Humor'. According to them, our laughter often stems from a feeling of superiority, of being above people less fortunate or less powerful than ourselves. However, they considered laughing by belittling others in this manner to be highly contemptible and distasteful. In his book, *Poetics*, Aristotle argued that comedy or satire should not cause actual pain to anyone or target the helpless, but should only mock the "vices and foibles" of society. Mocking vulnerable or weak classes is 'punching down'—an assault by the powerful on the weak. This was the very first intellectual expression of that concept, even though they lacked the metaphorical boxing terminology of 'punching down' at the time.

Long before the precise phrase 'punching down' became a central pillar of comedy, the famous comedian George Carlin gave one of the most celebrated expressions, both written and spoken, to preserve the essence of this concept. In the late 2000s and early 2010s, the phrase rapidly entered the field of stand-up comedy. It began to be used continuously to analyse setlists, satire and the ethics of the genre.

Today, even though some purists who believe comedy should have no rigid rules occasionally criticise the phrase, it remains the primary metric used by both critics and artists to analyse the ethics of any punchline.

Today's populist shitposting is 'punching down,' where the person assuming the country's most powerful position is mocking weak national institutions, the law and ordinary citizens who dare to question. The objectively unfunny, below-average and grammatically incorrect shitposts made by our leaders are not a reflection of their intellectual weakness. Rather, it is their most conscious political strategy.

It is designed to keep us distracted and without an agenda, veering us away from grave realities—like the finance minister getting a clean chit while making the customs department a scapegoat after hundreds of vehicles illegally entered the country due to leaked budget tax rates; the blatant abuse of power in the secretary incident; and citizens held 'captive' in holding centres dying.

Devkota is an expert in federalism.

Sapkota is a queer feminist writer.

Kathmandu's World Cup moments captured in newspapers

>> Continued from page 1

Joys and angst over NTV telecast of World Cup

In what was Kathmandu's watershed World Cup moment, in 1986, just about the time television sets were emerging on the Kathmandu scene, Nepal Television (NTV) broadcast the World Cup matches, bringing the matches alive in action for the first time for Kathmandu's residents.

The World Cup on NTV was received with a pervading mood of excitement and joy. "Hats off to Nepal Television for deciding to telecast the World Cup football matches," writes Sudhir Sigdel from Thamel in a letter to the editor to TRN (June 3, 1986).

Onto 1994 and 1998 World Cups, television and NTV continued to dominate Kathmandu's World Cup atmosphere. "World Cup live telecast: Nepal Television leads in all of South Asia", reads one headline in Gorkhapatra (June 8, 1998).

NTV and World Cups marked the departure point of television culture in Kathmandu, increasing TV sales during the 1990 and later World Cups.

"Most football lovers planning to buy TV to watch the World Cup," reads a headline in Gorkhapatra (June 5, 1998). "In 1990, most didn't have a TV, so people bought them. But everyone has TV today, so how could sales happen?"

Indeed, proud advertisements for TV sets filled newspaper pages during the World Cups.

"Rownsnic will bring to your home World Cup 1990," declares Rownsnic advertisement in Gorkhapatra (June 6, 1990). "Watch on 14 inch Rownsnic TV with clear sound and colour so natural." And Samsung announces: "Worldcup Football 1994 on Samsung's colour screen" for Samsung's 20 inch colour TV and 14 and 17 inch black and white TV in TRN (June 23, 1994). Two days later, TRN displays an announcement for Philips (June 25, 1994). "Get ready to watch FIFA World Cup football with a Philips power vision colour television."

It was not merely excitement over the World Cup on NTV.

Some locals were concerned about the timing of the telecast of the recorded matches.

"I would like to suggest that the matches be telecast at about seven in the morning the following day," writes one Sudhir Sigdel to TRN (June 3, 1986). "[I]t would also help make it rather 'fresh' to the viewers. If it is telecast in the evening it might be 'stale' since the viewers know, by this time, the results of the matches from the radio."

The time zone difference was also troublesome. Telecasts happened at odd hours in the night and Kathmandu residents struggled to keep a balance between the enthusiasm for football and the need to sleep. As one Sarad Pradhan from Om Bahal writes in a letter to the editor to TKP (July 6, 1994) titled "A suggestion for NTV": "the common problem among spectators is keeping awake. Specially [sic] during

11 fans cry for Maradona



Maradona supporters from Pulchowk campus burnt FIFA chairman Javlang's effigy on Friday. Post Photo

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PRAWASH GAUTAM

A snippet from the July 9, 1994 edition of The Kathmandu Post daily.

the few hours interval that there is between the first and the second match.

"Wouldn't it be a wise decision on the part of NTV to fill in this most difficult-to-stay awake part of the night or early morning hour with an interesting variety of programmes like songs, dances, comic TV serials, or even single episode TV films. When the interval exceeds three hours, then even full length feature films Hindi or Nepali could be shown."

But there was something more serious that evoked football fans' wrath towards NTV.

"We have been anguished by NTV showing advertisements in the climax of the match and depriving us of watching the highly important moments of the match when a majority of sports lovers were watching with immense interest by sacrificing their sleep the World Cup semi-final between Brazil and Netherlands being telecast live on July 7," write Sanjay, Sri Kamal, Birendra and friends from Kathmandu in a letter to the editor "Anguished by TV telecast" to Kantipur (July 9, 1998).

"We are saddened by Nepal television adopting a patronizing attitude of showing advertisements even in the telecast of the last important match of this century [...] We feel that our national broadcasting institution has severely betrayed our trust."

Loadshedding dread amid NTV telecast

By the 1998 World Cup, loadshedding had become Kathmandu's daily routine and the dread of the power cuts during NTV telecasts was looming over the excitement of the World Cup matches.

"In Nepal, football fans dread power outage", read the title of Suman Malla's report in TKP (June 9, 1998). "[A]t home the Nepali football fans are crestfallen," it reads. "In fact, they have been praying. Why? The current round of power outage [...] means half of the Valley's TV sets will remain turned off as the match progresses in faraway France."

"It seems my hard-earned leave from the final year medical class will go in vain due to the current situation," a worried "football adorer" Bijesh Ghimire is thus quoted in the article.

Power disruptions were so overwhelming that one viewer suggested solutions in letters to editors.

"[W]hile four billion people in the world are enjoying the World Cup 1998 via live television broadcast, those interested in Nepal are deprived of this due to loadshedding," writes Upendra Lamichhane from Mulpani in a letter to the editor "Loadshedding time should be changed" in Kantipur (June 29, 1998). "[...] If the Nepal Electricity Authority schedules the

loadshedding at 5 in the evening, viewers would not be deprived of watching the pre-quarter final matches most of which start at 8:15 pm."

Shock, anger, protest over Maradona's suspension

From 1986 to 1994, one footballer dominated Kathmandu's World Cup experience. The telecast of World Cup matches in 1986 coincided with Maradona's prime, cementing his presence in the hearts of Kathmandu's football lovers. Those who saw him crushed and weeping after losing the 1990 final with Germany had waited for him in 1994. So when Maradona was suspended from the 1994 World Cup following a drug test, it shattered them.

Newspapers capture the intense moment of shock, anger and sadness in Kathmandu.

"Nepali fans shocked by Maradona's exit", reads Sushil Thapa's news headline in TKP (July 3, 1994).

Thapa writes that in tune with the strong emotions aroused by Maradona's exit across the world, in Kathmandu too it "sparked unexpected sadness, empathy and wrath in different age groups. Maradona was liked and known to everyone from an eight year old girl to a three wheeler driver. It was a bag full of mixed reactions."

Quoting Buddhi Sagar, an employee of the National Sports Council, he writes, "I felt electrocuted on hearing Maradona's case. I became very emotional and in tears. I do not believe that he took the drug to enhance his performance. I have decided not to see any more matches. For me World Cup without him is having tea without sugar."

Sudha Lama, "ardent fan of Maradona", is quoted as saying, "I almost shed tears. I love him. He is such a great player. He has been brutally treated by FIFA."

Meanwhile, emotions ran high among the students of Pulchowk.

"Pulchowk campus football fans cry for Maradona," reports TKP (July 9, 1994). According to the report, students wrote and displayed slogans: "Uncle Maradona we miss you, we miss you, You are the victim of FIFA conspiracy; You have been cheated; No Maradona, no World Cup; Shame on you FIFA; Dissolve FIFA; Down with FIFA President."

They burnt the effigy of FIFA president Joe Havelange. And, in a strongly worded statement, they accused FIFA of "hatching conspiracy against the super star to end his glorious career." In protest, they also "decided to boycott classes for 8 days."

But not everyone felt that Maradona's suspension was unjustified, and instead felt let down by the football star. A local Maradona fan sent a letter titled "Don't cry for Argentina" to TKP (July 2, 1994). "You have let us down," he writes. "You have proved your performances to be no more than a mirage."

A photo published [photographer]

along with this letter shows Argentine fans of Patan who put up posters with slogans to vent their anger at Maradona. "DRUG ADICTS" reads a poster placed against Maradona's jersey. "Maradona [sic] you give deeply sock [sic] for your crazy fans," reads another.

World cup 'forbidden pleasure' for Kathmandu's womenfolk?

Apparently not all of Kathmandu was affected by Maradona's suspension, or even the World Cup fever in the least, most notably Kathmandu's women who were apparently untouched by the pervasive World Cup mood.

"Football for girls has never been a subject of interest", reads the title of the news report under the byline of reporter Sushil Thapa in TKP (June 21, 1994).

"The ongoing World Cup football tournament may have aroused unprecedented interest in girls in different parts of the world. But it does not speak the same in our girls," he writes. "In a random survey conducted by this Post reporter to find Nepali girls interest in the World Cup, it was found that a shocking 90 percentage had no any sort of interest. And were not even bothered to watch the matches."

He quotes Pratima Pradhan, a student, who "flatly said what more bore can it be seeing 90 minutes football on television."

In his another report "World Cup rouses little interest in girls" (June 29, 1994), Usha, a class 10 student from Adarsha Vidhya Mandir tells him, "I just do not like football... When my family members see matches at home, I feel like smashing the screen. It really gets my nerve."

Binita Joshi, a BA student, writes in her article "Exams and World Cup" in

TRN (June 17, 1994) that she is "puzzled why boys are so thrilled when it comes to football."

But did it really mean that the World Cup was only for Kathmandu's men?

Shikha Upadhyaya, a class 8 student from St. Mary's School, writes a passionate letter to the editor, "Born to be burdened?" in TKP (July 8, 1994).

"Everyday we are told to do what we have been doing for years," she writes. "Study, study, study". Tons of home work await completion and there are books to pore into.

"I can't even watch World Cup football matches that comes [sic] once every four years inspite [sic] of the great interest I have. It seems as if it is 'A forbidden pleasure'. So I have become fed up, I only long for holidays. Studies have become like a curse. What should I do? I guess all have the same problem....."

"I pacify myself by watching the highlights, but I miss all the excitement of the interesting matches. At that time I feel very sorry and I feel as if we were born to be burdened by our teachers and guardians who do not want to give respite."

Shifting media, shifting World Cup moments

Post-1998, in the decades of 2000s and 2010s, the internet and mobile phones arrived, and defined Kathmandu's World Cup experience.

"The Twitter World Cup", an article by Dinesh Wagle in TKP (June 20, 2010), discusses and records the moment of Kathmandu's shift to the digital world to experience the World Cup.

"I shared my 2002 World Cup excitement by email, downloaded many photos of my favourite players and match schedules from web sites, and posted comments on some online discussion boards. Four years later [in 2006 World Cup], I posted my first World Cup entry (blog) on my interactive web site," he writes.

Far from the world of newspapers and television, with the turn of the 21st century, broad platforms of digital and social media, in texts, visuals and multimedia have prominently defined and shaped Kathmandu's World Cup moments.

Mobile phones and internet platforms, all of newspapers, television and radio have been merged into a tiny portable device.

Watching the World Cup need not be a group event today as in the television age of the 80s and 90s. Incessant data and online streaming have purged fears of loadshedding disrupting matches and of lost thrills in recorded matches.

Should Kathmandu's favourite star be suspended this World Cup, his Kathmandu fans need not organise a protest, for they can vent all their rage on Twitter, Tiktok and Reddit.

And with every teenager holding a mobile phone, a school girl will not have her teachers and guardians dictate her schedules for matches.

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Dreams or visions could put you in touch with deep feelings that you may not have been aware of before, Aries. This could enable you to release traumas from your past and give you a new sense of lightness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Relationships of all kinds are likely to be strengthened by an increased level of understanding today, Taurus. Your thinking is greatly enhanced by your emotional intuitiveness, so you'll be more able than usual to identify with the desires of those around you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Today your emotional intuition intensifies your mental abilities, Gemini. Friends and family members are likely to grow closer to you. You may be more aware of what they really need and want, and they could see you in a new light.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Relationships with those closest to you, particularly friends and love partners, should be enhanced by an increased understanding of their emotional world, Cancer.

LEO (July 23-August 22)

Dealing with the ups and downs of other family members could be easier for you today than usual, Leo. You're less inclined to be logical and more apt to identify with what other people feel.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22)

Today your mind is strongly influenced by feeling and intuition, Virgo, so you'll be able to communicate especially well with others. You might sense what they need to hear before they know it themselves.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22)

You generally like to think of yourself as someone who faces life logically and rationally, Libra, but today your intuitive side could prove a valuable resource, especially when it comes to dealing with others.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)

Your intuition is usually very strong, Scorpio, and your level of empathy enhances your relationships. Today, however, a burst of logic could enable you to see many things in a different light.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)

Your intuition is heightened almost to the point of telepathy today, Sagittarius, you may be able to sense what others want and need even before they know it themselves.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

Getting in touch with your closest friends could bring about some intense communication, with many revealing some of your deepest concerns, Capricorn.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18)

A heightened level of intuition and understanding of others might catapult you to the center of attention at a gathering, Aquarius. Knowledge combined with experience results in wisdom today.

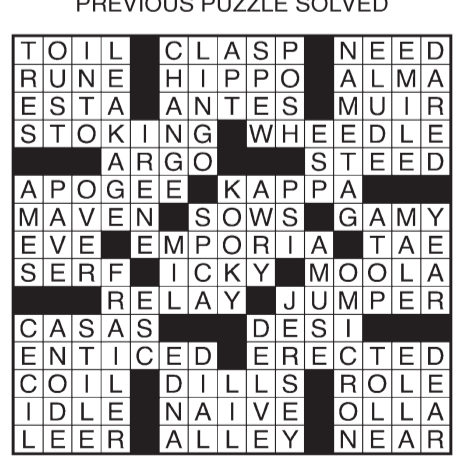
PISCES (February 19-March 20)

If you're dreaming of traveling to a foreign country, you may want to take a stab at learning the language. Actually, this is a good time to study a language—your mind is particularly sharp.

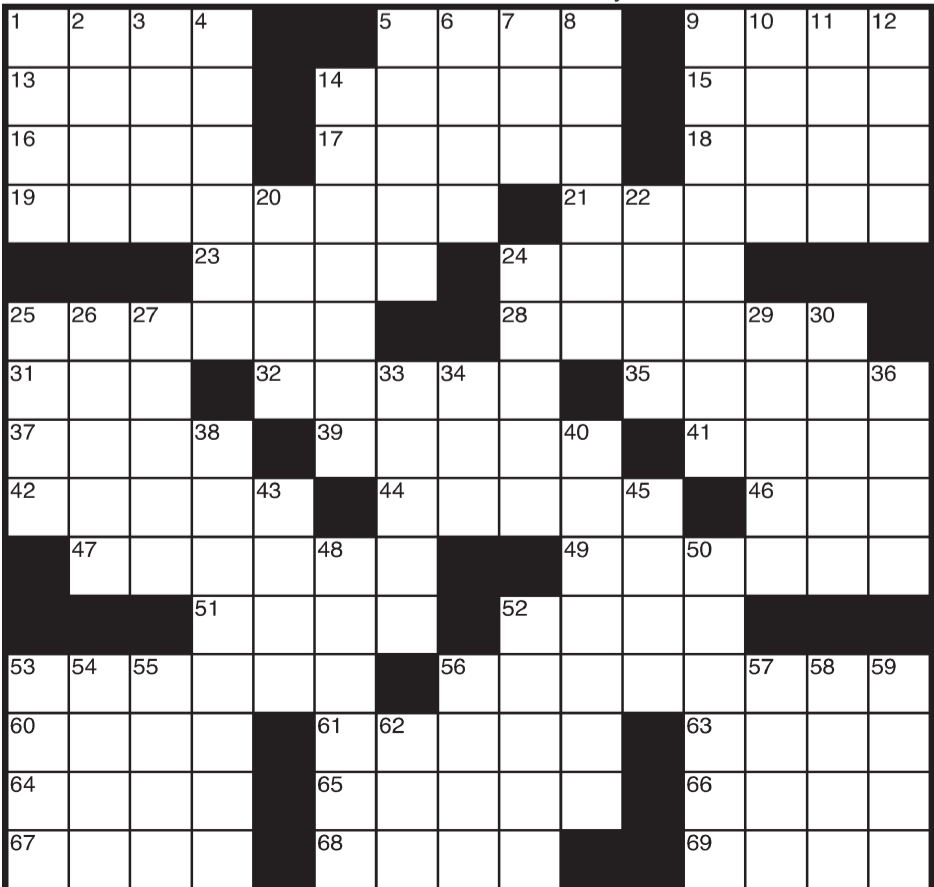
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Civil rights figure — Parks
 - Oversupply
 - Ear cleaner
 - Elongated circle
 - Hop out of bed
 - Tostada's cousin
 - Dole out
 - Quick reminders
 - Doesn't continue
 - Deprive of strength
 - Cottage roof
 - Cheerful (hyph.)
 - Pb, on the periodic table
 - Stylist's goop
 - Improvises (hyph.)
 - Startled cries
 - Ankara natives
 - Unearthly
 - Difficult duty
 - Went by boat
 - Refute
 - Sitcom afterlife
 - Hurled
 - Skilled person
 - Generator
 - Bubbled up
 - False witness
 - Arapaho foes
 - Palermo locale
 - Grace
- DOWN**
- Forum site
 - Type of mitt
 - Overindulge
 - Critical warnings
 - "Ninotchka" name
 - Citrus fruit
 - Road show org.
 - Did lab work
 - Kept from falling
 - Hunger for
 - "Moneytalks" group
 - Nonsense
 - Hobbyist
 - Enormous
 - and hearty
 - Beam
 - Dock
 - Bought
 - Excessive interest
 - Freshwater fish
 - As of
 - Generator part
 - Utility bill abbr.
 - Ogled
 - Daytime feature
 - Most skillful
 - Claw or talon
 - Trials and tribulations
 - Spring festival (2 wds.)
 - Help out
 - Modern lead-in
 - Pretzel coating
 - Composer
 - Stravinsky
 - First name in perfume
 - Flatter oneself
 - Theory
 - Statistical measure
 - Great merriment
 - PFC mail drop

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



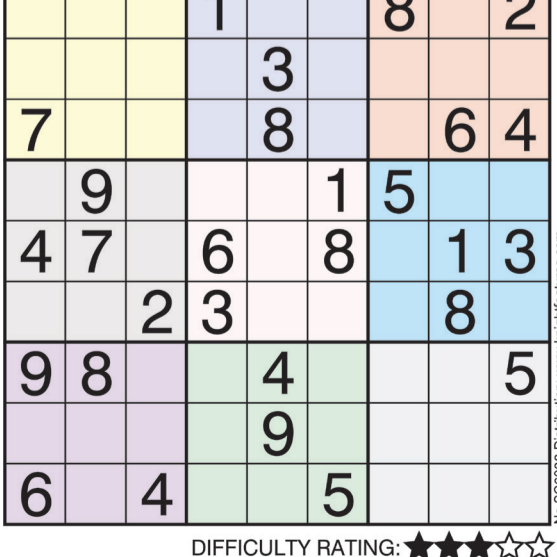
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SUDOKU



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

'Roll No. 1' questions the cost of chasing academic success

The movie balances social commentary and family drama to question how society measures a child's worth.



SCREENGRAB VIA YOUTUBE

○ JONY NEPAL
KATHMANDU

Around a small, flickering screen projecting a Rajesh Hamal film, an entire village gathers, but none look more alive with excitement than Gyan.

Film references tend to slip into his everyday speech and even homework, to the extent of evoking his teacher's frustration. Yet, cinema is only a gateway to his visceral passion. The tactile and creative world of carpentry fascinates him above all else.

Coming from the makers of 'Purna Bahadur Ko Sarangi', one of the highest-grossing works in Nepali cinema, 'Roll No. 1' makes a piercing commentary on societal structures, educational systems, authoritative parenting and the fragility of child psychology.



The film's emotional anchor drops during a routine village screening. As the credits roll, Gyan, played by Nirvik Regmi, turns to his father to ask him the name of the movie. His father falls silent. Unable to read and write himself, he is confronted by the limitations of his own upbringing.

Initially, Sanchar, the father played by Mukun Bhusal, fears that formal education will separate him from his son, leaving him abandoned in his old age. However, the harsh realities of social marginalisation soon transform his fear into a desperate ambition. He begins to dream of his son becoming the top student in his class, the elusive 'Roll No. 1'.

With a commendable critique of societal structures and disparities, the film, however, is driven by heavy emotional sequences, demanding that the audience empathise with multiple climactic moments that often flatten the narrative rather than making it powerful. Eventually, the film's emotional excesses ultimately work against it, making parts of the story feel forced and fragmented.

Yet Nepali audiences seem to respond wholeheartedly to these sequences, almost as if the filmmakers anticipated this reaction from the outset. Perhaps they understand their audience exceptionally well.

Having inherited the burden of illiteracy, a legacy of generations of poverty, Sanchar is determined to break the cycle. He envisions education as the pathway to dignity and opportunity for his son. It is this dynamic that drives the narrative of 'Roll No. 1'.

It is also this dynamic that varies how the audience connects with this film. Parents are drawn to the sacrifices of Gyan's father, while younger audiences find themselves reflected in Gyan's temperament and aspirations.

It is often the case that children become vessels for their parents' dreams. A future is determined for them, and expectations are firmly set in place. Despite the socio-economic challenges that Sanchar seeks to overcome through Gyan's academic success, he instead suffocates the child's psychological world.

Emotional attachment with his father turns into exhaus-

tion, frustration and resentment. This pressure makes him question what life truly amounts to. A child's demands are simple: warmth, security and moments of playfulness. Sanchar, while trying to reshape his family's silhouette of poverty, fails to understand his son's emotional architecture.

Roll No. 1
Director: Zuan Yonjan
Year: 2026
Language: Nepali
Available in nearby cinemas



Scan the code for a related video.

Seeking escape, carpentry and Begumbaje become Gyan's refuge.

Gyan is also particularly spirited when he spends time with his friends. Govinda, played by child actor Samyam Katwal, presents him with the beauty of literature and poetry, almost as an escape from the competitive expectations of their fathers to make one of them Roll No. 1.

With their group of friends, they play together, exploring their mischief and the freedoms of childhood. They are also bound together by the shared overwhelming expectations of their parents. A scene in which one of their friends cheerfully shares how lucky he is not to have a father lays bare an emotional contradiction in 'good parenting' in Nepali society.

The film's paradox lies in the name 'Gyan'. Translated as 'knowledge', the character is seen redefining the parameters by which it is measured. Gyan juxtaposes his inherited identity, perpetuating societal structures in his own way rather than shrinking to his father's expectations. Bipin, played by Avon Raj Upreti, occupies a small yet defining role in this arc.

'Roll No 1' functions as a satirical critique of an outdated Nepali academic culture that creates a conflict between human individuality and academic grades in measuring a child's self-worth, a system that has long received resistance from citizens. Also, it questions the political structure that vests ultimate power in its leaders. Here, the village's fate is determined by how much it can satisfy a politician.

Maternal psychology is also explored in the film through Saraswati, played by Renu Nath Yogi. After losing her child to birth complications, postpartum depression emerges as a layer in Gyan's expeditions.

Filmed within the eccentric landscapes of Myagdi district, the frames and camera movements amplify its narrative arc. Scenes of mountains and hills serve both as backdrops and as an emotional extension, reinforcing the sense of isolation and aspiration.

Remaining true to the emotional blueprint laid out by the makers' previous hit, the melancholic score in 'Roll No 1' arrives quickly in climactic scenes. While the rhythms heighten the audience's immediate emotional responses, they occasionally risk rushing their natural grief.

The film, therefore, grants the audience the moral agency to either accept the logic of academic conformity or critically interrogate the structures that enforce it. Its strength lies in its ability to evoke empathy for both child and parent, even when it does not fully resolve the contradictions it presents.



Three historic craft hobbies at risk of disappearing—and how to give them a go

Crafts are one type of hobby that have always been popular.

○ ALEXANDRA MAKIN

If I say the word "hobby", you'll likely think of something you like to do in your spare time – gardening, walking, reading, knitting, model kits. Maybe it's pottery classes, DIY projects or learning something new on YouTube. But what you may not know is many hobbies were originally forms of work that evolved into something to do in our spare time as manufacturing practices changed.

Crafts are one type of hobby that have always been popular. Many, like lacemaking, were originally jobs that women and children did, and some, like tablet weaving, have long histories that can be traced back to the bronze age.

In the UK, the Heritage Association advocates for traditional craft skills and supports makers. One of their roles is to monitor the risk of a craft becoming extinct in the UK through their red list. Many crafts they list are professions; however, there are some that are now thought of as hobbies as well.

Here are three crafts that are at risk of becoming extinct in the UK. Maybe one will pique your interest. If so, why not give it a go – you might even help keep a traditional skill alive.



PHOTO: THE CONVERSATION

Nålbinding

Also called naalbinding, nålbinding and needlebinding, nålbinding is a looping technique used to create textiles without using knots. It's similar to crochet or knitting but much older. The earliest known example dates back to the Neolithic period, around 5,000 years ago.

Examples of nålbinding have been found all over the world. There are over 200 different types of stitch, often associated with specific places or cultures. Many surviving examples in Britain come from Viking contexts. The Coppergate sock is the most famous. Discovered in York, it dates to around the tenth century.

Nålbinding is still popular in Scandinavia. However, in the UK it is only worked by a small number of enthusiasts. Nålbinding is relaxing craft and a good way of using up left over yarn from other wool crafts. You can make not only socks but hats, gloves, mittens and other accessories, from traditional pieces to modern designs.

If you are interested in learning more, check out the work of nålbinding expert and archaeologist Emma Boast.

Lacemaking

Lacemaking, often called bobbin lace to distinguish it from machine lace, requires a pillow, bobbins, thread (normally cotton), a pricking (the pattern) and pins.

The bobbins are worked in pairs and each pair is wound with thread. The pattern is drawn onto card that is pinned onto the pillow. The wound bobbins are hung in a set sequence at the top of the pattern and they are moved, interlacing and knotting the thread in particular ways. Patterns can range from the very simple to hugely complex.

Lace was popular during the 19th century. Queen Victoria was very keen on Honiton lace and had her wedding dress and veil made from it. Because it was handmade, lace was expensive, but this changed with the introduction and development of machine lace, much of which was made in Nottingham.

Bobbin lace is known around the world, but Bruges in Belgium and Malta are perhaps the best-known centres. It is thought to have arrived in the UK in the 16th century from either Flanders or Italy and became a way for women and children to earn money. Over time different techniques developed, many of which used to be practised in specific geographical areas. Honiton lace, for example, was made primarily in the English town in Devon and surrounding area of the same name.

There is also Bucks point and Bedfordshire, known as "midland laces", which use midland-style bobbins. These have beads (spangles) to weigh them down and can be very elaborate pieces of art in their own right.

Lacemakers may have important celebrations engraved onto specific bobbins and there is much cultural history about otherwise unknown people memorialised in them. However, the technique that

most people start with is Torchen, which uses midland bobbins to create geometric patterns.

Today, bobbin lace is championed by The Lace Guild and a small community of enthusiasts, who run workshops and give advice. The Lace Guild also has branches around the country welcoming starters and more experienced lace makers alike. If you are interested in learning more, The Lace Guild is a good place to start. You can also buy starter kits that you can expand as you develop your interest.

Straw working

Traditional straw working has been used for centuries. It is a plaiting technique that can make straw toys, accessories such as hats and baskets and straw marquetry – decorative designs used on furniture and objects. Today, straw making is primarily used to make ornaments for thatch roofs, with only 50 professionals and around 100 crafters remaining.

However, there are types of straw work more suitable for crafting. Straw plaiting has regional varieties of plait patterns that can be worked into ribbons, hats, baskets and other decorations. Corn dollies – decorative figures originally called harvest trophies – also have many regional variations that cover shape, size and type of plait or knot.

The Straw Craftsmen group promotes this craft in its many forms. If you are interested in exploring straw making more, their website has blogs, suppliers and other information. If you want to give it a go, independent craft shops sell starter kits and some crafting websites have free online step-by-step instructions.

– The Conversation

WHAT I WATCH ONLINE



Agrani Thakuri Jha

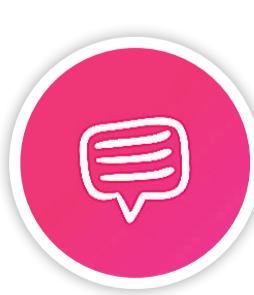
Jha is a visual artist and production designer. She is also the art director of the Nepali movie 'Ek Mutthi Badal'.



► **Atashinchi**
Atashinchi used to air on Nickelodeon when I was a child. The animated series is a comforting slice-of-life comedy about an ordinary family in Japan. I used to watch the series in the early morning while getting ready for school.



► **Brooklyn Nine-Nine**
I consume social media the most as mindless background noise while doing chores or eating (like a typical iPad kid). I switch between 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine' and 'Cunk on Earth' to have a laugh while also getting my household chores done and eating.



► **StudioBinder**
To stay up to date with my job as a production designer, I go through a lot of video essays on filmmaking and production design. While I consume almost any kind of video suggested to me, I've carefully curated my social media algorithm.



► **Art Prof: Your art school**
Art Prof has a variety of conversations and materials on visual art education. The videos are structured and serious, and a good watch if you want to take a deep dive into the fundamentals and nurture critical thinking in visual art.



► **Kurzgesagt - In A Nutshell**
Kurzgesagt usually comprises videos under 15 minutes that explain various topics about the universe and its existence in a nutshell. If any of the topics interest me further, I watch other video essays or read articles related to the same topic.