

Danfe

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JUL-SEP 2024



विश्वको जुनसुकै स्थानबाट नेपाल पैसा पठाउँन आइएमई गरौं



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जुन म आफन्तसँग बाँड्छु र
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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Namaste Atithi,

Welcome onboard!

Summer is in full swing, and this is the best time for a great escape to Tibet, the Roof of The World. We are now delighted to offer three weekly direct flights to Lhasa, the capital city. This offers you a perfect destination for a summer vacation to connect people and boost bilateral trade and tourism.

At the heart of our service is the commitment to providing a convenient travel experience. Therefore, we are delighted to announce the launch of our mobile application. On May 22, 2024, we launched the Himalaya Airlines Mobile Application to enhance your travel experience. Now available on both iOS and Android, the app is designed to make air travel easier and more comfortable for you. We've already received positive feedback from many users, and we look forward to seeing you enjoy the convenience of travelling with us using our new app.

In this spirit of enhancing your travel experience, we are thrilled to present the latest edition of Danfe Inflight Entertainment Magazine (Issue-19). This edition offers a rich collection of captivating contents, including travelogues, interviews, and features on the Teej festival. You will discover fascinating destinations like Doha, a city where history, culture, and gastronomy blend seamlessly, and Kuala Lumpur, the vibrant heart of Malaysia.

Similarly, you will join us for an insightful cricket discussion with Gyanendra Malla, former captain of Nepal's National Cricket Team, and be inspired by the journey of Toya Neupane, who transformed from a foreign migrant worker to a successful entrepreneur.

We deeply appreciate your continued support, trust, and patronage.

See you again on our next flight.

Thank you,

ZHOU ENYONG

PRESIDENT

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तीजको लहर आयो बरी लै...

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CALENDAR (JULY-SEPTEMBER)



16st July

SAWANE SANKRANTI

In Nepali culture, Shrawan is devoted to Lord Shiva and the first day is marked as Sawane Sankranti. This first day of Shrawan features family gatherings and celebrations. During Shrawan women of all ages celebrate Shiva by wearing green, fasting for long life and harmony.



20th August

GAI JATRA

Gai Jatra is a festival in Kathmandu Valley celebrating loved ones who have passed away. Families send children dressed as cows to parade in the streets, symbolizing remembrance and easing grief.

"Gai" means cow and is considered a goddess symbolizing wealth in Hinduism.



19th August

JANAI PURNIMA

Janai Purnima is a Hindu festival with family feasts of Kwati and men renewing their Janai. People visit Shiva temples and observe Shaman culture, performing rites at Kumbeshwar in Patan, Gosaikunda in Langtang, and Charikot in Dolakha.



26th August

KRISHNA ASHTAMI

Krishna Ashtami celebrates Lord Krishna's birthday. He is revered as a manifestation of Lord Vishnu, known for teaching the value of karma to Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita.



6th September
HARITALIKA TEEJ

Teej is a three-day festival celebrated by women in Nepal around August or September. Women wear red saris and accessories, sing folk songs, and dance. Married women are invited to their maternal homes for feasting, making Teej a significant occasion.



17th September
INDRA JATRA

Indra Jatra is an eight-day festival in September, cherished by the Newar community in Kathmandu Valley. It kicks off the autumn festival season with the erection of a pine pole at Basantapur Square, by the old Hanuman Dhoka Palace.

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HIMALAYA AIRLINES'

“STEP TOWARDS EDUCATION”

CSR CAMPAIGN



Himalaya Airlines, committed to its core CSR objective of Societal Responsibility, continued its annual "Step Towards Education" campaign this year as well. Since 2017, this initiative has been a foundation of Himalaya Airlines' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, empowering the underprivileged children of Prayas Nepal through the educational supplies support annually along with other required items.

Coinciding with the beginning of the Academic Session, on April 10, 2024, Ms. Ujjwala Dali, Head of Department - Brand, handed over the essential educational materials, including course books, notebooks, school bags, and shoes etc. to the children of Prayas Nepal.

This year's campaign also featured an inspiring field trip to the Aviation Museum in Sinamangal, Kathmandu, where the children received a guided tour of the collection of various types of aircraft peeking briefly into the aviation history.

On the occasion, Ms. Ujjwala Dali emphasized, "At Himalaya Airlines, we believe in the transformative power of experiential education in shaping future leaders. Our 'Step Towards Education' campaign not only provides educational support but also seeks to inspire and guide the children through unique experiences of knowledge gaining and sharing."

Ms. Mani Joshi, President of Prayas Nepal, added, "We are deeply grateful to Himalaya

Airlines for their unwavering support. The field trip to the Aviation Museum has left a lasting impression, contributing to both their academic growth and broader horizons."

PRAYAS NEPAL LOCATED AT BALUWATAR WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2003 WITH A FORE THOUGHT TO EMPOWER THE UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN THROUGH EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND SKILLFUL TRAINING. THE ORGANIZATION IS RUNNING A CHILDREN'S HOME FOR ORPHAN, ABANDONED AND PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF NEPAL FOR LAST TWO DECADES.

By providing the underprivileged children the first-hand exposure to the world of aviation, H9 aimed to ignite their curiosity, and broaden their horizons beyond the traditional classroom learning.

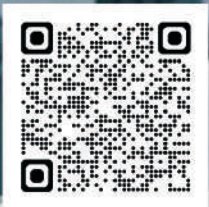




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H9 परिवारका

चाडपर्वका मिठा सभकना

हामीले हाम्रा H9 परिवारका केही पुरुष सदस्यहरूलाई तीज पर्वको बारेमा सोच्दा वहाँहरूले सोच्ने पहिलो कुरा के हो भनेर सोधेका थियौं । वहाँहरूको उत्तर यस प्रकारको थियो :

तीज भन्नेबित्तिकै मेरो स्मृति सुमधुर बालापनमा पुगेर टक्क अडिन्छ । तीज आउनुभन्दा पहिले नै घर, टोलछिमेकमा दिदीबहिनी जम्मा भएर रमाइलो गरेकी, अनि बालसुलभ उमङ्ग, हर्षोल्लाससहित तीजको दिन नयाँ लुगा लगाएर रमाइलो हेर्न गएकी क्षण अर्कै पनि मानसपटलमा ताजै छ । आज पनि यस्तै चाडपर्वका बेला आफू जन्मेहुँको ठाउँमा रमाइलोमा सरिक हुन नपाउँदा न्यास्रो लागेर आउँछ ।

- विमल गौतम, सरकारी सम्बन्ध तथा कानूनी मामिला विभाग

मेरो दिमागमा तीज भन्नासाथ महिलाहरू आफ्नो पति वा भावी श्रीमानको सुस्वास्थ्यको लागि बस्ने व्रत र रातो साडी, चुरा र पोतेमा उनीहरूको सौन्दर्यको सभकना दिलाउँछ ।

-ज्यालखेन मोक्तान, मर्मत तथा ईन्जिनियरिङ्ग विभाग

तीजले रातो सारीमा सजिएर महिलाहरू नाचगान गर्दै व्रत बसी आफ्ना पतिको सुस्वास्थ्य र सुखी जीवनको कामना गर्दै गरेको सभकना ल्याउँछ ।

-अनिशा जोशी, वाणिज्य, आईटी तथा ग्राउण्ड अपरेसन विभाग

तीजको बारेमा सोच्दा मेरो दिमागमा आउने पहिलो कुरा भनेकै रातो रंग हो ।

-उमेश बुढाथोकी, योजना, वित्त तथा आन्तरिक लेखापरीक्षण विभाग

तीज पर्वको बारेमा मेरो दिमागमा आउने पहिलो कुरा भनेकै मेरो घरका महिला सदस्यहरूलाई उपवासको समयमा आराम दिएर वहाँहरूले गर्ने दैनिक कार्यको जिम्मेवारी लिने र 'दर खाने दिन' मा वहाँहरूलाई मनपर्ने मिठाईहरू खुवाउनु हो ।

-रामरमण भास्कर, मानव संसाधन विभाग



तीजको लहर आयो बरी लै..

हरितालिका तीज अर्थात् हिन्दु महिलाहरूको विशेष पर्वको दिन हो । हरेक वर्ष भाद्र कृष्णपक्ष तृतीयाका दिन हरितालिका तीज पर्व मनाइन्छ । हरितालिका (तीज) पर्व देवादिदेव महादेवको पूजा आराधना गरी मनाइन्छ । भाद्र शुक्ल तृतीयामा व्रत बसी शिव पार्वतीको पूजा, उपासना गरेमा पारिवारिक सुख, शान्ति र कल्याणको प्राप्ति हुने धार्मिक विश्वास छ । तीजको दिन सनातन धर्म मान्ने महिलाहरूले दिनभर व्रत बस्ने र साँभ पूजा गरेर फलाहार गर्ने र भोलि बिहान मात्र भोजन गर्ने परम्परा छ । तीजको व्रत अन्य व्रतभन्दा कडा मानिन्छ । विवाहित र अविवाहित महिलाहरू तीजको व्रत बस्ने गर्दछन् ।

तीजको दिन व्रत बसी शिवपार्वतीको पूजा, उपासना गरेमा सुख, शान्ति र कल्याणको प्राप्ति हुने धार्मिक विश्वास छ । पति अनि परिवारको रक्षार्थ तीजको व्रत बसेका नारीहरूको अटल सौभाग्य र सदासर्वदा भरिभराउ कोखका लागि भगवान् स्वयम् धर्तीमा भर्छन् भन्ने भान हुन्छ । अधिलो दिनको दरको भरमा तीजको आस्था र परम्पराको एउटा सहृदय अर्चना गरिन्छ, निराहार र निर्जला व्रत बस्ने चलन हुँदै आएको भए पनि आजभोलि नेपाली दिदी-बहिनीहरूले आफ्नो स्वास्थ्य सुहाउँदो तवरले सहज र सरल व्रत बस्ने गर्नुभएको छ ।

निराहार, जलाहार र फलाहार गरी तीजको व्रतका तीन किसिम हुन्छन् । सक्नेले निराहार, नसक्नेले जलाहार र त्यो पनि नसक्नेले फलाहार व्रत गर्न सकिन्छ । स्वास्थ्य ठीक नहुनेले गहुँको रोटी, मकैको रोटी, स्याउ, सुन्तला, केराजस्ता फलाहार गरेर पनि व्रत बस्न सकिन्छ । चिकित्सकले समेत आफ्नो स्वास्थ्यको ख्याल गरेर मात्र व्रत बस्न आग्रह गर्दै आएका छन् ।



Photo by: Angad Dhakal

तीज यहाँ बेलादेखि सुरु भएको भन्ने ट्याक्कै मिति निर्धारण त गर्न सकिँदैन तैपनि यो भारतवर्ष विशेष गरी उत्तर भारत एवम् नेपालमा पौराणिक कालदेखि नै चलिआएको विश्वास छ । तीज भारतभन्दा नेपालमै बढी चलेको पर्व हो । नेपाली समाजमा यो पर्वको मौलिक स्वरूप विकास भएको हुनाले तीज विशुद्ध नेपाली पर्व हो र यो नेपालका महिलाहरूले मात्र मनाउँछन् भन्न सकिन्छ । नेपाली जनजीवनको सामाजिक, धार्मिक, सांस्कृतिक आदि पहिचान व्यक्त गर्ने यो पर्वले नेपाली महिलाहरूको इतिहासलाई बोकेको छ जुन विभिन्न रूपले यो पर्वमार्फत् प्रकट हुन्छ ।

धार्मिक विश्वासअनुसार सत्ययुगमा हिमालयपुत्री पार्वतीले गौरीघाटमा बसी तपस्या गरेर श्री महादेव पति पाउने वरदान पाएकी थिइन् तर पिता हिमालयले पार्वतीको इच्छाविपरीत विष्णुसित विवाह गरिदिन खोजेपछि साथीहरूलाई आफ्नो समस्या सुनाइन् ।

पार्वती समस्यामा परेको थाहा पाएपछि उनका साथीहरूले हरण गरेर लगी कसैले नदेख्ने ठाउँमा लुकाएर राखिदिए । साथीहरूले लुकाएकै ठाउँमा पार्वतीले निराहार व्रत गरी महादेवलाई पतिका रूपमा प्राप्त गरिन् । पार्वतीले महादेवलाई श्रीमान्का रूपमा पाउन १०७ जन्मसम्म घोर तपस्या गरेपछि १०८ औं जन्ममा मात्र उनको तपस्या पूरा भएको कुरा विभिन्न शास्त्रमा उल्लेख छ ।

पार्वतीले शिवजी वरका रूपमा प्राप्त गरौं भनेर मनोकामना राखेर तीजको व्रत बसेपछि तीजको चलन चलेको जनविश्वास रहिआएको छ । तीजको दिनमा शिव मन्दिर र शिवालयहरूमा दर्शनार्थीको विशेष भिड हुन्छ । लगभग

तीजको दिन पशुपतिनाथ मन्दिर परिसर रातो रंगमा सजिएका हर्षित, उत्साहित विवाहित, अविवाहित महिलाहरूको बाक्लै उपस्थिति हुने गर्दछ ।

संस्कृत भाषाका 'हरित' र 'आलिका' दुईवटा शब्द मिलेर हरितालिका शब्द बनेको छ, जसमा 'हरित' शब्दको अर्थ हरण गरिएको र 'आलिका' शब्दको अर्थ साथी भन्ने हुन्छ ।

तीजको अधिल्लो रात अर्थात् द्वितीयाका दिन दर खाइन्छ । तीजका दिन व्रत बसिन्छ । चौथीका दिन स्नान गरी व्रत समाप्त गरेर खाना खाइन्छ भने तीजको तेस्रो दिन अर्थात् ऋषिपञ्चमीका दिन व्रतालु महिलाहरूले ३६५ वटा दतिवनले दाँत माभेरेर माटो लेपन गरी स्नान गर्छन् । माटो लेपनले छालामा हुने एलर्जी हटाउँछ । पञ्चमीका दिन अरुन्धतीसहित कश्यप, अत्रि, भारद्वाज, विश्वामित्र, गौतम, जमदग्नि तथा वशिष्ठ ऋषिको पूजा गरी हलोलो नजोतेको अन्नको भात र एक सुइरे भएर उम्रने कर्कलो आदिको तरकारी वा एकदलीय अन्न मात्र खाइन्छ । यो दिन श्रीमान्ले पकाएको भोजन खाएर आपसी आत्मीयता एवं सद्भाव बढ्ने विश्वास छ ।

तीजको साँझ १०८ सुतेबत्ती दियो प्रज्जवलन गरिन्छ र ती दिपशिखाहरू रातभरि नै बल्नुपर्ने जनविश्वास रही आएको छ ।

तीजको रौनकमा थप उत्साह भनेको तीजका लोकभाकाहरू अनि मौलिक सङ्गीतहरू हुन् । हरेक वर्ष सयौं तीजका नयाँ भाकाहरू आउने गर्दछन् र तीजको उत्साहमा फरक सांगीतिक हस्ताक्षर गरेर जान्छन् ।

तीजलाई महिलाहरूको चाड भनेर निकै लेप लगाइए पनि पुरुष र महिलाहरू दुवैका लागि यो चाड एकदमै महत्वपूर्ण छ । महिलाहरूले जसरी आफ्नो श्रीमान् र भविष्यमा हुने श्रीमान्को लागि व्रत बस्ने तीजजस्तो चाडको अवसर प्रदान गरिएको छ तर पुरुषहरूका लागि भने महिलाप्रति समर्पित यस्तो कुनै व्रत या चाडको इतिहास छैन । तथापि पुरुषहरूले आफ्नो जिम्मेवारी वहन गरेर महिलाहरूप्रति थप जिम्मेवार, माया र सद्भाव बढाएर आफ्नो स्नेह बाँचुञ्जेल प्रवाह गर्न सक्दछन् ।

तीजको दिन चेली अनि माइतीको विशेष सम्बन्ध छ । तीजको रौनक माइतको आँगनजस्तो अरु कुनै ठाउँमा हुनै सक्दैन । महिलाहरूलाई माइतीको विशेष स्नेह हुन्छ, माइतीको आँगनमा तीजको उत्साह अनि चहलपहल र सङ्गीत सङ्गीहरूका साथ माइती गाउँका आफन्त प्रियजनहरूसंगको भेटघाट लगायतका रमाइला गतिविधिहरू तीजको सदियौंदेखि चलिआएको जीवन्त संस्कृति हो ।

तीज बालीनाली रोपिसकेपछि केही फुर्सदको समयमा मनाइने भएकाले यो पर्वले आपसी प्रेम बढाउने गरेको छ । विवाह भएर टाढा पुगेका दिदीबहिनीबीच भेट गराएर यो पर्वले उनीहरूको मन हलुका पार्न र सुख-दुःखका कुराकानी गर्ने अवसरसमेत जुटाइदिन्छ । यसै गरी बालीनाली लगाइसकेपछि केही फुर्सदको समयमा माइतीबाट बाबु वा दाजुभाइ गएर छोरीचेलीलाई भेट्ने र सकेसम्म माइती लिएर फर्कने भएकोले माइती र चेलीको सम्बन्धलाई अझ मजबुत बनाउँछ ।



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SHARE WITH US

My first ever flight with Himalaya airlines really enjoyed the smooth flight with great crew members. Will fly soon with the airline in other destination. Thank you and keep it up. Great Service!!
With every best wishes...

Dr Tsherinf Lama
Kathmandu

I read the comment about cabin crew performance. I like to note down that cabin crew did a good job ensuring passenger land here safely. They were polite, smiley in doing so, good job...

Yeoh Slew Heah
Kathmandu - Kuala Lumpur

Pleased with service of cabin crew. Overall it was great experience. Thank you.

Shushil Thapa
Kathmandu - Doha

It was a great journey with Himalaya Airlines. I fly multiple times with Himalaya Airlines, specially this year I flew 3 times with H9. Cabin Crew member were sweet. They treat us as family. Thank you. They are such a great team and glad they are a part of H9.

Narayan Prasad Pokhrel
Doha - Kathmandu

Flight Cabin Crew are very friendly and helpful. It's been really nice to fly with Himalaya Airlines. Such a nice experience.

Ke Xu
Qingdao - Kathmandu

Team is very kind and professional. They provided exceptional service. Check in was breeze :)
Food was delicious. Team is awesome..!

Crew response found satisfactory. Thanks for the service. Keep it up.

Shukra Babu Ghimire
Doha - Kathmandu

Shibha Joshi
Kathmandu - Kuala Lumpur

DO YOU KNOW?



KLM IS THE OLDEST AIRLINE IN THE WORLD ESTABLISHED IN 1919 AND STILL OPERATING UNDER ITS ORIGINAL NAME. IT FLEW ITS FIRST SCHEDULED SERVICE, BETWEEN AMSTERDAM AND LONDON, ON MAY 17, 1920.



PAN AM, QANTAS AND BRITISH AIRWAYS CLAIM THAT INVENTED BUSINESS CLASS. HOWEVER, THE FIRST AIRLINE TO OFFER A FULL BUSINESS CLASS SERVICE, DIFFERENT SEATING FROM ECONOMY AND FIRST CLASS AND A DIFFERENT CLASS OF FARE, WAS QANTAS, WHICH LAUNCHED THE FIRST TRUE BUSINESS CLASS IN 1979.



ABOUT 1/3 OF YOUR TASTE BUDS ARE NUMBED WHILE FLYING. MAYBE THAT MEAL WAS NOT BLAND AFTER ALL? SEVERAL FACTORS ON THE PLANE — INCLUDING THE BACKGROUND NOISE, PRESSURIZED CABIN, AND DRY AIR — ALL SUPPRESS YOUR ABILITY TO TASTE SWEET AND SALTY FOOD BY AT LEAST 30%, SOME DATA SAYS UP TO 70%. IT'S INTERESTING THAT WHILE WE LOSE OUR SWEET AND SALTY SENSES, "SOUP, BITTER AND SPICY FLAVOURS ARE ALMOST UNAFFECTED.



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AN AIR TRAVELLER CAN LOSE APPROXIMATELY 1.5 LITRES OF WATER IN THE BODY DURING A THREE-HOUR FLIGHT.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS MONETISATION OF TIA TO RAISE FUNDS FOR NIJGADH AIRPORT



A government task force has recommended monetizing Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) property to fund the construction of an international airport in Nijgadh.

The task force suggests using a lease, operation, and transfer (LOT) model under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP). The recommended company should have experience in asset monetization, have operated at least one international airport under the LOT model, and possess assets of at least USD 1 billion.

The report also highlights that 25 Indian airports under the Airports Authority of India are set for asset monetization from 2022 to 2025 through India's National Monetization Pipeline. Thirteen of these airports will be developed, managed, and operated via the PPP model.

Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Trichy, Indore, Calicut, Coimbatore, Nagpur, Patna, Madurai, Udaipur, Dehradun, Rajahmundry airports are in this pipeline.

The Airports Authority of India has identified 13 airports to be operated, managed and developed through the PPP model.

IATA REPORTS 97% PASSENGER SATISFACTION



The International Air Transport Association (IATA) reveals that the world's airlines are delivering a satisfactory experience to 97% of their passengers. This is a vast improvement over the early post-pandemic period. The IATA Passenger Survey was conducted between March 29 and April 14, 2024, surveying the 6,500 passengers using air travel in the last 12 months. The survey showed that 97% of these passengers were satisfied flying through various IATA member carriers.

The responses included from air travellers in Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, India, Japan, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Netherlands, Indonesia, Spain and China.

Likewise, IATA's April traffic report shows that global passenger demand, as measured by revenue passenger kilometres (RPKs), grew 11% year-on-year. The report demonstrates that in April, the number of available seat kilometres (ASKs) grew by 9.6% and the passenger load factor increased to 82.4%, a one percentage point improvement compared to April 2023. Of the world's regions, Europe had the highest load factor of 83.8%, followed by North America (83.0%), Asia-Pacific (82.4%), Latin America (82.2%), Middle East (79.2%) and Africa (73.4%).

NEPAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES RS 3.77 BILLION FOR CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT IN FY 2081-82 BUDGET



Photo by: Sunil Sharma

In the upcoming budget for 2081-82, the government of Nepal has allocated Rs 3.77 billion for the development of civil aviation infrastructure. Key initiatives include the commencement of construction for a second terminal at Tribhuvan International Airport and the expansion of Bharatpur Airport, with NPR 360 million allocated for completion next year.

The Nijgadh International Airport is planned for construction through a public-private partnership in the next financial year. Additionally, non-operational domestic airports like Lamidanda, Manang, Rumjatar, and Baitadi will be repurposed for adventure tourism activities, including paragliding, parachuting, sky diving, and ultralight flights.

TIA TO CLOSE FOR 10 HOURS DAILY FROM NOVEMBER



Image Source: www.avic-kdn.com/

Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in Kathmandu will undergo significant operational changes starting November 8, as announced by the TIA office. To facilitate crucial infrastructure upgrades, including runway, taxiway, and parking bay extension, the airport will close for 10 hours daily from 10 PM to 8 AM. This schedule will be in effect for five months, ending on March 31.

During this period, TIA will reduce its operating hours to 14 hours a day, compared to its current schedule of 6 AM to 2 AM. This temporary adjustment is necessary to accommodate the extensive construction work required to enhance the airport's facilities, the airport office shared in a statement.

The nighttime closure will necessitate airlines to revise their flight schedules, potentially affecting both international and domestic flights. Passengers are advised to stay informed about changes to their travel plans and coordinate with their respective airlines.

EXPENSIVE AIRFARES IMPACTING TOURIST ARRIVALS IN NEPAL

In the first half of 2024, nearly 600,000 foreign tourists visited Nepal, with the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) reporting an actual figure of 583,016. Despite an overall improvement in tourist arrivals compared to the previous year, a notable decrease was observed in June, following a peak in March and April, considered prime months for mountain climbing and trekking.



March and April saw tourist numbers exceeding 100,000 per month, but this trend did not continue into May. According to NTB data, tourist arrivals in June dropped to 76,736 from 90,211 in May.

Tourism entrepreneurs expressed that the price hike of airfares post government charging 13% VAT on flight tickets has contributed to such decline.

They have a view that several contributing factors to the high airfare costs, including the government's inclusion of a 13% Value Added Tax (VAT) on air tickets, elevated airport parking fees, and the overall high price of air travel. They believe that until these costs are reduced, significant improvements in tourist arrivals will be unlikely.

US LAWMAKERS STRIKE DEAL TO BOOST AVIATION SAFETY, WILL NOT RAISE PILOT RETIREMENT AGE

US House and Senate negotiators reached a deal to increase air traffic controller staffing and funding to prevent runway incidents. However, they decided against raising the airline pilot retirement age from 65 to 67, despite the House's earlier vote in favour.





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हरेक कुराको नकारात्मक र सकारात्मक दुवै पक्ष हुन्छन तर आफ्नो देश फर्किँदा त्यो सकारात्मकता लिएर आउनुहोस् र निश्चित रुपमा नेपालका पनि धेरै सकारात्मक पक्षहरु छन् ।

सुनकोशी गाउँपालिका, सिन्धुपाल्चोकका स्थायी निवासी तोया न्यौपाने हाल भक्तपुर थिमीमा बस्दै आएका छन्। २२ वर्ष हुँदा आप्रवासी कामदार भएर कुवेत पुगेका उनले ४ वर्ष उतै काम गरेर नेपाल फर्कदा सुरुवातमा कालिमाटीमा किराना पसल सुरु गरे र पछि नयाँ बानेश्वरमा श्रीमतीको सहयोगमा क्याफे सञ्चालन गरेका थिए। उनले क्याफे बाटै भक्तपुरमा घर पनि जोडे। ७ वर्षपछि क्याफे बिक्री गरेर २०७७ सालमा ३७ वर्षको उमेरमा न्यौपानेले हाम्रो चिया घर सुरुवात गरेका हुन्। हामीले न्यौपानेलाई हाम्रो चिया घरमा भेट्ने र कुरा गर्ने मौका पायौं जहाँ उनी आफ्नी श्रीमतीसँग ग्राहकहरूलाई मिठो चिया खुवाउँदै थिए। अंशहरू:

तपाईंले आप्रवासी कामदारको रूपमा कति वर्ष र कुन-कुन देशहरूमा काम गर्नुभयो ?

आप्रवासी कामदारको रूपमा मैले कुवेतमा मात्र काम गरे। आज भन्दा १८ वर्ष अगाडि आप्रवासी कामदार भएर म कुवेत गएको थिएँ। त्यहाँ मैले ४ वर्ष फास्टफूड रेस्टुराँमा काम गरे। सुरुमा मैले भान्साको कामदारको रूपमा र पछि क्यासियरको रूपमा काम गरें।

तपाईंलाई कुवेतबाट फर्किँएर हाम्रो चिया घर सुरु गर्न के कुराले उत्प्रेरित गर्‍यो?

कुवेतबाट फर्कदा म सकारात्मक सोच लिएर आएको थिएँ। मलाई विश्वास थियो कि मसँग भएको सीमित सीप र स्रोतहरूबाट पनि मैले नेपालमा केही नयाँ सुरुवात गर्न सक्छु। यही सकारात्मक सोचबाट प्रेरित भएर आफूले कुवेतमा सिकेका सीप र जानेका केही कुरा सँगै आफ्नो सीमित लगानी र स्रोत जोडेर परिवारको साथले हाम्रो चिया घरको सुरुवात गरेको हुँ।

आप्रवासी कामदार हुँदै स्थानीय व्यवसायी सभको तपाईंको यात्रा कस्तो रह्यो ?

विदेशमा हुँदा २-४ कुरा सिकेनै मौका मिल्यो, पैसा कमाउने मौका पाए र उता एकलै रहँदा परिवारको महत्व पनि बुझें। उता सिकेको कुरा यहाँ लागु गर्दा परिवारको साथ मिल्यो। कुनै पनि व्यवसाय सुरु गर्दा परिवारको साथ अति महत्वपूर्ण हुन्छ। आफ्नो परिवारको साथले मैले सानो व्यापार गरेर थोरै पैसा मात्र कमाए पनि म खुशी छु र ४-५ जना भाइ-बहिनीहरूलाई समेत रोजगारी दिन पाएको छु सायद उनीहरू पनि खुशी नै छन्। सबै कुरा कुवेतबाट नेपाल फर्किँदा मैले सोचे जस्तो सकारात्मक छ र परिवारको साथले आप्रवासी कामदार हुँदै स्थानीय व्यवसायीसम्मको मेरो यात्रा सुखद नै रहेको छ।

वैदेशिक रोजगारीबाट फर्केर नेपालमा व्यवसाय सञ्चालन गर्न तपाईंले के कस्ता चुनौतीहरू सामना गर्नुपरेका र तिनीहरूलाई कसरी पार गर्नुभयो ?

मैले यो व्यवसाय कोभिड-१९ लकडाउनको बेला सुरु गरेको र त्यो बेला धेरै असहज परिस्थिति थियो। मैले हाम्रो चिया घर सञ्चालन गरेको यो बिल्कुलै नयाँ ठाउँ थियो। यहाँ कुनै संरचना थिएन र मैले यो ठाउँमा सम्भावना देखेर नै जोखिम लिएँ। सोही क्रममा वडा कार्यालयमा व्यवसाय दर्ता गर्न जादाँ केही असहज परिस्थितिहरू भेल्लु पन्थो र मसँग त्यो बेला त्यति धेरै लगानी पनि थिएन। लगानी नहुँदाँ हुँदै पनि मैले सुरुमा सानो संरचनाबाट व्यवसायलाई थालें र बिस्तारै यसलाई बढाउँदै लगें। मेरो होटेल क्षेत्रमा लामो समयको अनुभवले पनि मलाई साथ दियो र चिया, बेकरी, पेय पदार्थ र आइसक्रिमबाट सुरु गरेको व्यवसायमा

खाजाको सेवा पनि थप्दै गएँ। म सबै साथीहरूलाई के सुभाब दिन चाहन्छु भने यदि हामीले सुरुमै ठुलो लक्ष्यभन्दा पनि आफ्नो क्षमता बुझेर र तदनुसार कुनै कुरा सुरु गर्‍यौं र आफूलाई त्यसमा समर्पित गर्‍यौं भने सफलता अवश्य मिल्ने छ। हामीले अरूको कार्य र हासिल गरेको सफलताको केवल अन्ध रूपमा पछि लाग्नुभन्दा पनि आफ्नो क्षमता, सीप र स्रोतहरू प्रयोग गरेर सकारात्मक सोचका साथ अघि बढ्न जरूरी हुन्छ।

विदेशमा काम गरेका तपाईंको अनुभवले हाम्रो चिया घरको व्यवस्थापन र आफ्ना कर्मचारीहरूसँगको अन्तरक्रिया गर्ने तरिकामा के कस्तो प्रभाव पारेको छ ?

वैदेशिक रोजगारीमा रहँदा मैले सिकेको व्यावसायिकताको एउटा सकारात्मक पक्ष के थियो भन्दा हामीले कार्य गर्ने रेस्टुराँको प्रमुखलाई अभिवादन गर्दा वहाँले ग्राहकहरूले तिमीहरूको पारिश्रमिक दिने हो भन्दै आफूलाई भन्दा पनि ग्राहकलाई अभिवादन गर्न र बढी ध्यान त्यता दिन सुभाब दिनुहुन्थ्यो। त्यसै गरी बच्चाहरू हाम्रो भविष्य र दीर्घकालीन ग्राहक हुन् भनेर बढी हेरचाह गर्न सबैलाई उत्प्रेरित पनि गर्नुहुन्थ्यो। यो कुरा मेरो मनमा गढेको थियो। त्यस्तै गरी, म काम गर्ने टिममा स्वामित्वको भावना हुन जरूरी ठान्दछु र आफै पनि एक सदस्य भएकोले काममा आफै पनि सघाउने गर्दछु। मैले वहाँहरूलाई कर्मचारीको रूपमा भन्दा पनि हाम्रो चिया घरपरिवारको सदस्यको रूपमा चिनाउने गरेको छु। एक कर्मचारीको रूपमा मेरो व्यक्तिगत अनुभवबाट सिकेर मैले के महसुस गरें भने, व्यवसाय ठूलो होस् वा सानो होस्, कर्मचारीहरूको सन्तुष्टिबिना सफल हुन सक्दैन।

वैदेशिक रोजगारीबाट प्राप्त भएको अनुभवले नेपालको व्यवसायिक क्षेत्रमा कसरी नवीनतम र सकारात्मक परिवर्तन ल्याउन सकिन्छ ?

हामीले विदेशमा सिकेको कामलाई यहाँ नेपालमा हुबहु लागू गर्न असहज हुन्छ। विदेशमा उपकरण र विशेष गरी जनशक्तिको दक्षता यहाँको तुलनामा पक्कै पनि बढी हुन्छ। मलाई अन्य राष्ट्रहरूको बारेमा त्यति जानकारी छैन तर कुवेतमा धेरै स्थानीयहरू कार्यालयमा काम गर्दैनन् र प्रायः जसो कामदारहरू आप्रवासी हुन्छन्। प्रत्येक आप्रवासी कामदार मापदण्डअनुसार काम नगर्दा आफ्नो जागिर गुम्ने डरमा हुन्छन्। त्यही भएर पनि इमान्दारिताका साथ काम गर्छन्। हाम्रो देशमा विशेष गरी कर्मचारीहरू इमान्दार नभएर थुप्रै कलकारखानाहरू बन्द भएर देशको उन्नति अघि बढ्न नसकेको हो भन्ने लाग्छ। हामीले विदेशमा जसरी नै आफ्नो कर्मप्रति बफादार हुने हो भने धेरै क्षेत्रमा देशलाई अघि बढाउन सक्छौं। आप्रवासी कामदारका रूपमा काम गरेर विदेशबाट फर्किँदा हामी आफुसँग नयाँ विचार, अमूल्य सम्बन्ध, विश्वव्यापी ज्ञान, समस्याको समाधान गर्ने सीप, वित्तीय स्रोतहरू सँगसँगै साक्षरता र काम गर्ने सांस्कृतिक चेतनासमेत लिएर आएका हुन्छौं र यसले हाम्रो व्यवसाय गर्ने तरिकामा पनि निकै प्रभाव पर्ने गर्दछ।

त्यसैले विदेशमा जे जति सीप सिकेर कमाउँछौं, त्यसमा दक्ष भएर त्यसलाई हाम्रो भूगोल, वातावरण र स्थानीय अवस्थाअनुसार कार्यान्वयन गर्ने प्रयास गर्नुपर्छ। विशेष गरी हामी हाम्रा ग्राहकहरूलाई बढी ध्यान दिन आवश्यक हुन्छ र वहाँहरूको भावना बुझ्नु पर्छ। हाम्रो चिया घरमा विभिन्न थरीका ग्राहकहरू आउने गर्नुहुन्छ। कोही गाडीमा आउनुहुन्छ भने कोही खाली खुट्टामा समेत आउनुहुन्छ। हामीले सबैलाई समावेश हुने सेवा र मूल्य राखेका छौं। यहाँ वरिपरि करिब १०० वटा चिया पसलहरू छन्। यद्यपि, हाम्रो सेवा र हाम्रो अभिवादन गर्ने व्यवहारले गर्दा हामीलाई धेरै माया गरेर नै हाम्रोमा आउनु हुन्छ। यसमा होटलमा काम गरेको मेरो वर्षौंको अनुभवले पनि मलाई साथ दिएको छ। हामी हाम्रा सबै ग्राहकहरूलाई नियमित शिष्टाचार गर्छौं र वहाँहरूसँग प्रतिक्रियाहरू पनि लिन्छौं। हाम्रो चिया घरले हालसम्म राम्रो गर्दै आएको छ र म खुशी छु।

रोजगारीका लागि नेपाल छोडेर वैदेशिक रोजगारीमा जाने संख्या बढ्दै गएको अवस्थामा नेपाल फर्किँएर आफ्नो देशमै केही सुरु गर्ने सोच राख्नु हुने नेपाली दाजु-भाइ/दिदी-बहिनीहरूलाई के सल्लाह दिन चाहनुहुन्छ ?

अहिले विशेष त हाम्रो ढिलो उठ्ने, आफु केही नगर्ने, सामाजिक सञ्जालमा अल्मलिने र सबै कुराका लागि अरूलाई मात्र दोष दिने संस्कृतिलाई सुधार्न जरुरी छ। 'खाली दिमाग शैतानको घर' भनेजस्तै हामीले हाम्रो दिमाग खाली राख्नु हुँदैन र केही न केही काममा संलग्न हुनुपर्दछ। नेपालमा थुप्रै सम्भावनाहरू छन्, तपाईं एक पटक मात्र भए पनि विदेश जानुहोस्, नजानु भन्दैन तर फर्केर देशमै केही गर्नु भन्ने मानसिकता राख्नु पर्छ। हरेक कुराको नकारात्मक र सकारात्मक दुवै पक्ष हुन्छन् तर आफ्नो देश फर्किँदा त्यो सकारात्मकता लिएर आउनुहोस् र निश्चित रूपमा नेपालका पनि धेरै सकारात्मक पक्षहरू छन्। विशेष गरी कुनै पनि काम सानो तुलो हुन्न भनेर हामीले बुझौं र आफ्नो काम आफैले गर्नु भन्ने मानसिकता राखौं। सबैभन्दा महत्वपूर्ण कुरा अरूसँग आफूलाई तुलना नगर्नु बरु आफ्नो सीप, ज्ञान, स्रोतहरूको मूल्याङ्कन गरी आफुले गर्न सक्ने कुराहरू सकारात्मक भएर गरौं। ठूलो जोखिम नलिईकन बरु सानोबाट सुरु गरौं। परिस्थिति र ग्राहकको मागअनुसार बिस्तारै आफ्नो व्यवसाय बढाऔं। प्रारम्भिक चरणमा ठूलो लगानी गर्दा जोखिमपूर्ण हुन सक्छ र तपाईंलाई आर्थिक दबावमा पुऱ्याउन सक्छ जसले गर्दा हामीले यसको सामना गर्न नसक्दा कामहरू सही रूपमा नगर्न सक्छौं। विदेशमा बसोबास गर्नुभन्दा पनि यहाँ फर्केर केही काम थाल्ने हो भने परिवारसहित अरूलाई पनि रोजगारीको अवसर दिन्छौं। यसो गर्नाले तपाईं केही काममा लाग्नु हुनेछ, कमाईको अवसर पाउनु हुनेछ र मजस्तै परिवारसँगै जीवन बिताउन पाउनु हुनेछ।





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NEPAL'S AIRPORTS HAVE INTRODUCED SEVERAL INITIATIVES TO ENHANCE PASSENGER EXPERIENCES, PANDEY



Hansha Raj Pandey, the Deputy Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), also serves as the spokesperson and a member of the authority's management team. Our team from Himalaya Airlines recently met with him in his office at CAAN to discuss the latest updates on the Nepali aviation industry. Below are excerpts from what he shared.

Nepal's aviation sector has experienced significant advancements recently, focusing on modernizing its infrastructure to enhance international connectivity. Key areas of development include:

MODERNIZATION OF AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE:

Infrastructural

Developments: Major airports, including Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA), are undergoing substantial expansions and upgrades. Efforts include terminal expansion, runway safety initiatives like runway/taxiway upgrades, runway extensions, improved airfield lighting, and the installation of precision navigation systems.

Improved Facilitation: TIA has enhanced passenger facilities, featuring improved check-in counters, security screening, baggage handling, and waiting areas. Additional upgrades include new parking facilities, upgraded lounges, and the provision of free Wi-Fi and charging stations.

Ground Services: Upgrades in ground support services and infrastructure encompass fueling stations, maintenance facilities, and airport logistics, aiming to streamline operations and reduce turnaround times.

Similarly, to reduce the burden on TIA and promote regional development, Nepal marked a significant achievement in its aviation

history by inaugurating its second international airport outside of the capital on May 16, 2022. Located in Lumbini, Gautam Buddha International Airport (GBIA) features a harmonious blend of modernity and functionality. The airport boasts state-of-the-art infrastructure, including a spacious, world-class terminal building, a well-maintained 3000m long and 45m wide runway equipped with navigational aids, airfield lighting for precision approaches, and taxiway systems capable of handling large aircraft. Additionally, it offers cutting-edge air traffic control facilities and technology-driven solutions to enhance operational efficiency. GBIA provides a wide range of traveler-centric

facilities, including CUPPS-enabled check-in counters, customs and immigration services, lounges, retail shops, restaurants, and local travel-related services, ensuring a comfortable and convenient experience for passengers.



ON JANUARY 1, 2023, POKHARA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OPENED FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT OPERATIONS, FURTHER ENHANCING THE INFRASTRUCTURE AVAILABLE FOR AIR CONNECTIVITY WITHIN AND BEYOND NEPAL. THE AIRPORT IS EXPECTED TO HANDLE ONE MILLION PASSENGERS PER YEAR. IT FEATURES A 2500M LONG RUNWAY, ICAO 4D CATEGORY, WITH ILS PRECISION APPROACH CAT-1 (PA1) FACILITY. THE APRON CAN ACCOMMODATE THREE B737 OR EQUIVALENT-SIZED AIRCRAFT AND EIGHT ATR72/DASH8 TYPE AIRCRAFT.

Since its inauguration, Jazeera Airways operated scheduled international flights from GBIA in the Kuwait - Bhairahawa (OKKK - VNBW) sector until April 19, 2024. Himalaya Airlines commenced 68 charter flights between Bhairahawa and Kuala Lumpur (VNBW - WMKK) starting from November 3, 2022, and Nepal Airlines started its scheduled flights from Kuala Lumpur to Bhairahawa (WMKK - VNBW) on June 13, 2024, continuing to serve the Kuala Lumpur - Bhairahawa - Kathmandu (WMKK - VNBW - VNKT) route. Notably, GBIA is gaining popularity among private charter flights, while Pokhara is still awaiting airlines to serve the airport.

However, the two international airports outside Kathmandu now are waiting for scheduled international flights. Despite offering full waivers on landing, parking, and navigation charges for international flights, GBIA and PIA have not yet attracted the expected number of airlines. Recognizing the need to reevaluate their incentive mechanisms, efforts are underway to create tailored incentive packages that reduce operational costs for interested airlines. These initiatives include improved ground handling, flight catering, and hangar/housing options.

Meanwhile, Nepal's airports have introduced several initiatives to enhance passenger experiences, including:

PASSENGER-CENTRIC SERVICES:

Improved information dissemination through digital displays and mobile apps providing real-time updates on flight statuses.

Free Wi-Fi service, news and entertainment options, kids play areas, baby feeding rooms, and medical facilities.

Introduction of premium lounges, better dining options, and retail experiences to cater to diverse passenger needs.

Contactless Services: Terminal entry, check-in/self-check-in, security screening, payment options, and boarding passes are now facilitated through contactless technologies to ensure a smooth and efficient passenger processing experience.





Image Source: www.avic-kdn.com/

Enhanced Comfort: Airports are focusing on the comfort and convenience of passengers by offering better seating arrangements in waiting areas and lounges, ensuring that passengers have a pleasant and relaxing experience while waiting for their flights.

Customer Assistance: Trained staff are available to assist passengers with special needs, ensuring that everyone, including elderly travelers and those with disabilities, receives the necessary support.

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION:

Mobile Applications: Dedicated mobile applications have been launched to provide passengers with real-time updates on flight statuses, gate information, and other important notifications.

Automated Systems: The introduction of automated systems for check-in, baggage drop, and passport control helps in reducing queues and wait times, making the entire process more efficient.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES:

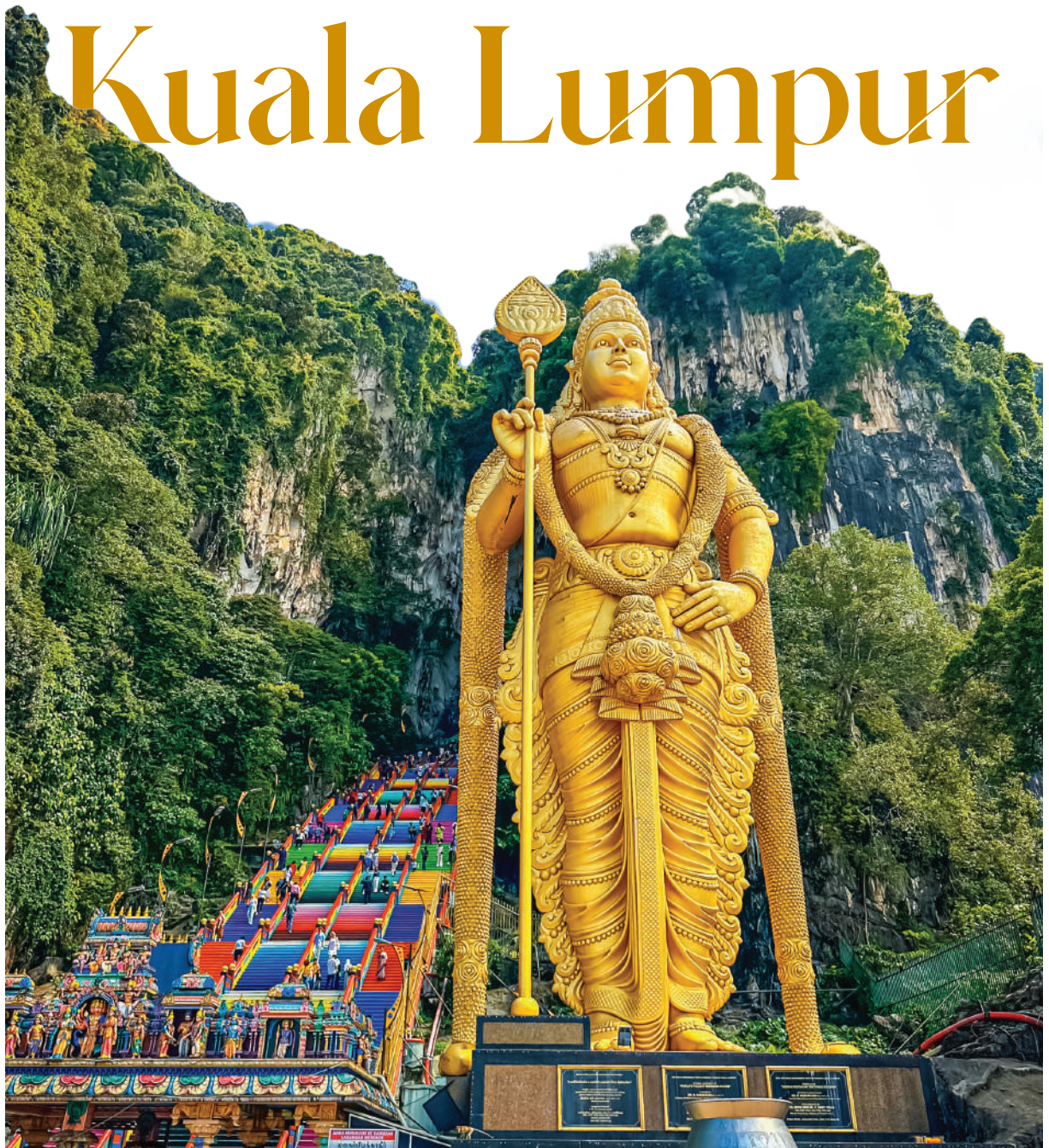
Eco-Friendly Practices: Airports are adopting sustainable practices, such as energy-efficient lighting, waste management systems, and initiatives to reduce carbon footprints.

Green Spaces: Incorporation of green spaces within airport premises to enhance the environment and provide a calming atmosphere for passengers.

These efforts reflect a comprehensive approach to improving the overall passenger experience at Nepal's airports, ensuring that travelers enjoy a seamless and enjoyable journey from arrival to departure.

In the meantime, there have been new introductions and expansions of airline services too. Notably, Himalaya Airlines inaugurated the Kathmandu-Lhasa-Kathmandu route on December 28, 2023.

Kuala Lumpur



DISCOVERING THE HEARTBEAT OF MALAYSIA

-Evana Manandhar

In the heart of Malaysia lies Kuala Lumpur, the capital city that revolves around life and culture at every turn. From the moment I arrived, it swept me up with its vibrant energy. My journey began detouring the iconic Petronas Twin Towers, whose towering presence against the skyline, is a beacon of the city's ambition and modernity. Yet, as I delved deeper, I discovered that Kuala Lumpur is not merely defined by its skyscrapers, but more by its blend of history, tradition, and customs, reflected through its streets.



As I wandered through Chinatown, it felt like walking through another world, narrow alleys connecting with the aroma of exotic spices and the chatter of local vendors. From sampling street food delicacies to bargaining for unique souvenirs, every step brought new delights, a vibrant snapshot of Malaysian life. One can breathe a mix of cultures here, with elements from Chinese, Indian, and Malay traditions coming together in a colourful array of flavours, sights, and sounds.

The Batu Caves, in particular, provided a spiritual interval amidst the city's hustle and bustle. I was humbled by the sense of peace that enveloped me upon entering the cavernous temple, nestled within the cave. The

glimpse of sunlight shafts piercing through the darkness, illuminating the complex Hindu carvings and the statues adorning the cave walls, was mesmerising. Climbing the steep staircase flanked by colourful statues and sacred shrines will keep you curious for this unexpected wholesome experience.

In the meantime, Bukit Bintang, with its bustling streets and vibrant nightlife, offered a stark contrast to the tranquillity of the Batu Caves. This local market had the city's energy reached its zenith, as I was swept up in a whirlwind of shopping, dining, and entertainment. For a budget shopper, it has everything to buy and explore.

On the other side, Suria KLCC Mall, nestled at the base of the Petronas Twin Towers, provided a luxurious escape. Its upscale boutiques, gourmet dining options, and stunning views of the city skyline make it a true luxurious paradise.

Likewise, Aquaria KLCC provided a moment of relaxation from the urban hustle and bustle, as I descended deep into the ocean to greet the wonders of marine life. The colourful coral reefs and graceful sea creatures reminded me of the delicate balance of nature breathing gracefully underneath our busy world.

Lastly, a trip to Genting Highlands offered fresh air to breathe flowing through the lush greenery of the Titiwangsa Mountains. As I ascended the winding mountain roads, the cityscape faded with mist-covered peaks and cool mountain air taking over my heart and soul. At the top, a world of attractions awaited with thrilling rides to tranquil gardens, an experience of paradise amidst the clouds.

LEAVING KUALA LUMPUR FELT LIKE CLOSING AN AMAZING CHAPTER FILLED WITH THRILLING ADVENTURES AND JOYFUL DISCOVERIES. THE CITY'S MIX OF CULTURE, HISTORY, AND STUNNING SCENERY MADE MY TRIP UNFORGETTABLE. WHETHER YOU ENJOY FOOD, HISTORY, OR LOVE EXPLORING, KUALA LUMPUR ENSURES A MEMORABLE TALE THAT MAKES YOU DESPERATE TO TELL.



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Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve lies on the floodplains of the Sapta Koshi River in the south-eastern Terai. The reserve was gazetted in 1976 to preserve habitat for the only remaining population of Wild buffalo, Arna (*Bubalus arnee*). The 176 sq. km. reserve is Nepal's smallest wildlife reserve. The eastern and western embankments of the Sapta Koshi River define the area. In 1987, Koshi Tappu was declared a Ramsar site, a wetland of international significance. Government of Nepal has declared the buffer zone (173.5 sq. km) surrounding the reserve in 2004. The reserve is also home to around 20 other animal species such as Hog deer ,Wild boar , Spotted deer, Blue bull, and Rock Python. Around 441 species of birds-many seen now here else in Nepal (14 endemic species) have been recorded, including 20 duck species , 2 Ibis species, white tailed stonechat , Striated marsh warbler, 30 shore birds, 114 water birds, and the endangered swamp partridge and Bengal florican.

Photo by: Ameet Giri



DOHA

A FUSION OF HISTORY, CULTURE, AND GASTRONOMY



NESTLED ON THE EASTERN COAST OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA, DOHA, THE CAPITAL CITY OF QATAR, IS A VIBRANT METROPOLIS THAT SEAMLESSLY BLENDS TRADITION WITH MODERNITY.

When most Nepalese think of "Doha," we often see it as our go-to spot for jobs in the Middle East, where almost half a million of us work. Yet, beyond its role as the focal point of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Doha has a rich history.

Evidence shows the settlement of human civilization in Doha dates back to the seventh century. Then a small fishing village, Doha's fortunes surged in the 19th century thanks to the pearl trade and its strategic location along the Persian Gulf. However, its transformation into the bustling metropolis we know today only began in the mid-1900s with the discovery of oil.

DOHA HAS EXPERIENCED A REMARKABLE SURGE IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT YEARS, EVOLVING FROM A LANDSCAPE OF SAND DUNES INTO A DYNAMIC SKYLINE ADORNED WITH TOWERING BUILDINGS, LUXURIOUS HOTELS, AND STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE. DESPITE THESE MODERN ADVANCEMENTS, THE CITY HAS REMAINED DEEPLY ROOTED IN ITS RICH HERITAGE, EVIDENT THROUGH ITS ANCIENT SOUQS, TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS, AND CULTURAL LANDMARKS.

The newly inaugurated Hamad International Airport stands as a testament to Doha's transformation. This cutting-edge airport serves as the primary gateway to the city. Offering a seamless blend of hospitality, tranquility, and rejuvenation, the

airport mirrors the unique charm of Doha itself.

All in all, the city's cultural landscape is an interesting blend of modernity and heritage. It has a multicultural population that comes from all over the world, resulting in a diversity in languages, customs, and cultures. From touring the Souq Waqif to viewing world-class



exhibitions at the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha offers a multitude of opportunities for visitors to fully engage with the local way of life.

The busy Souq Waqif is a market that's been around for a hundred years. Here, visitors experience a mix of sights and smells. Among the shops selling spices and gifts, you'll find something special: falconry, a traditional part of Qatari culture. Falcons have been important to Arab history for a long time, used for hunting and inspiring poetry. Even as Doha grows quickly with tall buildings, these majestic birds remind people of Qatar's rich traditions, making it a great

place for travelers who want to explore the Arabian Gulf's culture. The Souq Waqif Falcon Hospital showcases a profound love for falcons, providing exclusive care for these majestic birds.

Furthermore, the city is rich in art and music, with galleries showing modern pieces by regional and global artists. The air in the concert halls is filled with tunes ranging from modern jazz to classical Arab music. Likewise, the Qatar International Food Festival and the Doha Tribeca Film Festival, which honor creativity and art, further demonstrate the city's dedication towards cultural promotion.



Meanwhile, no visit to Doha is complete without trying its culinary delights. Doha has a mixture of mouth-watering culinary scenes, a reflection of its diversity. Both casual restaurants and fancy ones serve a variety of tastes. The traditional Qatari food, in particular, is popular for its tasty spices and fresh herbs.

Machboos (spiced rice with meat or fish), Harees (a savory porridge made with wheat and meat), and the ever-popular Hummus and Falafel are some of the popular local offerings that one shouldn't miss out on. Machboos, a flavorful rice cuisine, is the national dish of Qatar. Its rich taste comes from a mix of aromatic spices, giving it a smoky flavor. Served with different meats, it

is loved by many in the Arabian region. Likewise, seafood is also prominently featured on menus, with delicacies such as grilled hammour (local grouper) and jasheed (dried fish) offering a taste of the region's maritime heritage.

The capital's culinary scene offers a global variety of alternatives for those who look for more food options, ranging from delicious Italian pasta to authentic Indian curries. Every meal in Doha is a memorable experience, whether you're eating at a Michelin-starred restaurant with a view of the city's glittering skyline or enjoying street food at a busy souq.

Doha is a city of contrasts, blending the old with the new and tradition with innovation. Its history, culture, and food offer exciting experiences for visitors. From exploring ancient streets to tasting market delights, Doha reveals the heart of Qatar. Each visit leaves a lasting impression, making Doha a timeless and unforgettable destination.

For individuals interested in visiting Doha, there's a convenient daily flight operated by Himalaya Airlines from Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport to Doha's Hamad International Airport.

DOHA IS A FASCINATING MIX OF OLD AND

NEW. FROM ITS BUSTLING CITYSCAPE TO ITS TRADITIONAL MARKETS, FROM DELICIOUS LOCAL CUISINE TO INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS, DOHA HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE TO SEE AND DO.



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FISH CURRY



WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE SUCH A **PASSIONATE** AND **ENERGETIC** FAN BASE

- Gyanendra Malla

Gyanendra Malla, former captain of the Nepal national cricket team is currently the head coach of the Nepal A team. Malla made his senior debut against Namibia in 2006 & was part of Nepal's first T20 World Cup as well as ODI squad. He retired from international cricket in 2023, leaving a legacy as a key player in Nepal's cricket history. We recently caught up with Malla to discuss his cricketing journey and Nepali cricket. Excerpts :

It was a dream to be part of the first-ever World Cup qualifying team. I had never imagined we would be eligible for a World Cup when I first picked up my bat and later started playing with the team. Back then, it was all about survival and moving ahead accordingly. We weren't sure if we could win or even play in the ACC championship. Initially, we were only focused on improving our performances and finding ways to do well at the Asian level. So, qualifying and being part of a global event was not in our wildest dreams.

It was only in 2011 when we played our first World Cup global qualifiers and made it to the top seven of the qualifying rounds. That was when we realized we could beat the teams and qualify for the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh. Then

we started to believe that we could play in a top-tier competition, while people around us were still doubtful. However, it was something special, which I think marked the change in transition not only for cricket but for Nepali sports as a whole and the government.

After that, everyone had the willingness to invest in sports. As a player, it is a milestone and a proud moment as a Nepalese.

Qualifying for the World Cup will always remain a very special moment for me.

Talking about my retirement, acceptance was the biggest thing. So, when I made up my mind to retire, I had already accepted that my time had come to stop playing. I had never thought of playing again after I retired because I





believed it was time for others to lead the team forward, and I felt it was already in safe hands. For fun, of course, I love playing sometimes, but I have never thought about, and don't think about, doing so as a player for the national team. I am happy where I am now, and likewise, I am happy with where the current national team is now.

Now coming to our current squad, the team has the skills and hunger to win. Our goal was to qualify for the next World Cup in 2016, and there was a strong belief that the team was ready for it. However, an earthquake hit the country in 2015, disrupting our plans. Despite recent World Cup experience and a solid team with a few new players, we missed the qualification. In the previous World Cup qualifier in Oman, the team came close but ultimately did not qualify. Now, the breakthrough has finally been achieved in 2024.

THE CURRENT WORLD CUP QUALIFYING TEAM DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE PREVIOUS ONE. MAINLY, CRICKET HAS CHANGED A LOT FROM 2014 TO 2024 IN TERMS OF SKILL, COMMERCIAL ASPECTS, AND FAN BASE. DUE TO THESE CHANGES, I CAN PROUDLY SAY THAT ALMOST 30 MILLION NEPALI PEOPLE WATCH CRICKET. BEFORE 2014, ONLY A FEW PEOPLE COULD RELATE TO CRICKET, BUT THE FIRST WORLD CUP GREW THE NUMBER OF NEPALI FOLLOWERS, AND NOW THE SPORT HAS EVERYONE'S ATTENTION.

Currently, we have a much more skillful team. Similarly, the T20 format has changed and become more aggressive. Previously, a total score of 140-160 runs used to be good and could help you win matches. Though the 2024 World Cup has seen low scores due to field conditions, using the IPL as a benchmark, teams are easily scoring 230-240. Likewise, we have already seen teams scoring 100 runs in powerplays. The changes are ongoing, and our team is catching up.



Back in 2014, we didn't have ODI status, but now we do. Our current team has also gained significant exposure, which is good and something we fought for. Coming to 2024, the biggest achievement is that the entire 30 million population understands the game, which is the best part.

The teams before us laid the foundation, and we continued to build on it, making Nepali cricket what it is today. This gives me immense joy and makes me feel extremely proud to have been able to contribute my part.

In terms of development, we have reached every corner of the country with cricket, establishing ourselves as an ODI nation. We have retained our ODI status, played in the Asia Cup, and qualified for the T20 World Cup. Our on-field development is evident, and off the field, the CAN management is also evolving and growing. They are putting in significant effort, setting up an A-team, organizing under-19 games, conducting national tournaments, and enhancing the cricketing structure and revenue. Additionally, corporations are progressing, and most importantly, the government is showing strong support.

For the first time in the sports history of Nepal, projects related to sports have been included in the projects of national pride, which are three cricket stadiums. This is a positive sign of cricket's growth and government support. The ICC also supports various aspects, and we have a team composed entirely of native players. The game is growing, and I see good developments happening.

Regarding the strengths and challenges of the current squad, the way we are currently playing is impressive. The team spirit and unity are very strong, and we are proving ourselves as a top associate nation. However, a major challenge is the lack of exposure to playing conditions abroad. Playing and winning against big teams abroad has been a weakness so far. We need to improve in these areas. The more international exposure the players get, the stronger and more cohesive the team will become.

The development of bench strength, the growth of the under-19 team, and the A squad will provide the necessary exposure to playing conditions abroad, particularly in the UK, US, Canada, or even Australia.



HOWEVER, I WOULD REQUEST THEM TO HAVE PATIENCE IN TERMS OF RESULTS. WE SHOULD LET THE TEAM GROW AND MOTIVATE THEM, IF NOT, PASS CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS RATHER THAN BEING CRITICAL. PLAYERS PLAY FOR THE NATION, REPRESENTING EACH NEPALESE, AND THEY TOO ARE MORE DISAPPOINTED WITH BAD RESULTS. THE ONLY MOTIVATION FACTOR FOR THEM IS YOUR HOPE AND LOVE. SO, PLEASE KEEP SUPPORTING THE TEAM AND, IF POSSIBLE, LET'S CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPORT WITH ALL OUR LITTLE EFFORTS.

Sending players to play season-long cricket individually in these countries will help them learn their responsibilities and build their character. We can keep track of U19 player's performance to ensure they are included as crucial team members rather than just fillers.

Talking about our fan following, we are blessed to have such a passionate and energetic fan base. They are amazing, and wherever we go and play, we are backed. Their presence gives us a homely atmosphere no matter where we play. Meanwhile, the number has grown immensely in the recent years. Their passionate support for the national team shows that the whole nation stands for the country. I want to thank them from the core of my heart for the effort they bring in to motivate the team. A lot of our fans travelled to the US to support the team, covering huge distances, which shows their dedication towards the team. Besides, they are also willing to provide all kinds of support for the development of cricket.



Image Source: CAN

Celestial Insights

UNVEILING THE ASTROLOGICAL SYMPHONY FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024!"



Aries

March 21st - April 19th

These months, the cosmos boosts your energy and enthusiasm for professional success. Focus on your goals as opportunities for advancement and recognition arise. Whether aiming for a promotion, starting a new project, or making a significant impact, the stars are on your side.



Taurus

April 20th - May 20th

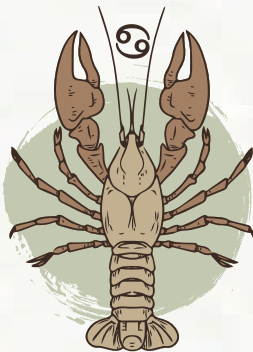
These months, the cosmos urges you to focus on relationships and communication. Prioritize meaningful interactions and open-hearted connections. Strengthen existing bonds, form new ones, and express appreciation for those who bring you joy.



Gemini

May 21st - June 20th

These months ignite your imagination, encouraging you to pursue your passions. Tap into your creative potential and explore new avenues for self-expression. Embrace opportunities for personal and professional growth, trusting the stars to guide you to success.



Cancer

June 21st - July 22nd

These months, prioritize self-care and activities that bring you peace and joy. Spend time with loved ones, practice mindfulness, and engage in creative pursuits. Listen to your inner voice and seek support from friends and family when needed.



Leo

July 23rd - August 22nd

In these months, seize growth opportunities and make bold decisions that align with your aspirations. Whether pursuing a new career, a creative project, or personal development, trust your abilities and believe in your potential to succeed.



Virgo

August 23rd - September 22nd

Focus on self-improvement and personal growth this month. Set intentions and pursue your dreams with passion. Whether developing new skills, improving health, or cultivating relationships, trust the stars to guide you toward success.



Libra

September 23rd - October 22nd

In these months, assess your priorities and adjust as needed. Whether in relationships, career, or personal well-being, trust the stars to guide you toward inner peace and fulfilment.



Scorpio

October 23rd - November 21st

In these months, check your finances and adjust for security. Save, pay off debt, or invest wisely. Trust your instincts and seek advice when needed.



Sagittarius

November 22nd - December 21st

In these months, be excited about new experiences and growth opportunities. Whether it's travelling, trying a new hobby, or expanding your horizons, trust the stars to guide you towards exciting adventures.



Capricorn

December 22nd - January 19th

In these months, express gratitude to loved ones and strengthen bonds through meaningful interactions. Spend quality time with family and reconnect with old friends. For romantic relationships, let the stars illuminate your path to greater intimacy and love.



Aquarius

January 20th - February 18th

In these months try to nourish your body, mind, and spirit with joyful activities. Practice mindfulness, be creative, or enjoy nature. Listen to your inner voice and honour your needs.



Pisces

February 19th - March 20th

In these months explore new ways to express yourself and pursue artistic passions with enthusiasm. Whether painting, writing, or dancing, trust the stars to guide you toward inspiration and fulfilment. Let your creativity flow and embrace the journey ahead.

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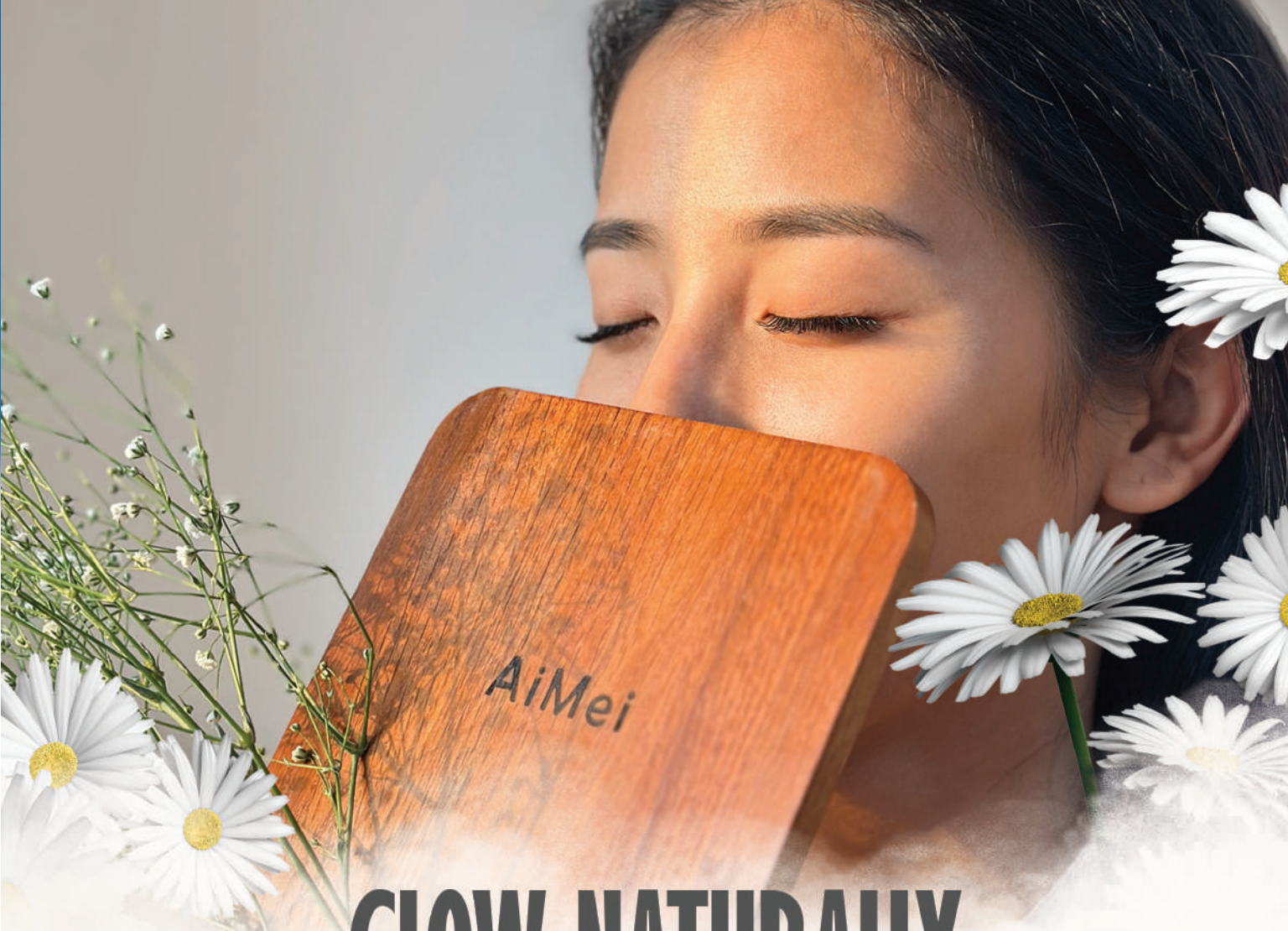


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