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2082: A Year Of Great Political Upheaval



Amarendra Yadav

The caretaker government under Sushila Karki successfully conducted the elections to the House of Representatives (HoR) on March 5, 2026. The resounding victory of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) in the polls pushed the established political parties into a corner.

The 2082 B.S. will go down in Nepal's history as the year of sweeping political transformation. The country witnessed a roaring Gen Z uprising that overthrew the KP Sharma Oli-led coalition government of Nepali Congress and CPN-UML. Scores of youths were killed in police suppression, while public and private property worth billions of rupees was destroyed. The caretaker government under Sushila Kakri successfully conducted the elections to the House of Representatives (HoR) on March 5, 2026. The resounding victory of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) in the polls pushed the established political parties into a corner.

The most remarkable event is the rise of Balendra Shah in Nepali politics. Shah, a rapper-turned politician, mopped the floor with Oli in the latter's constituency in Jhapa in the historic elections. Shah, who now leads a government with a near two-thirds majority, has taken drastic steps in the direction of establishing good governance, ensuring justice to the Gen Z movement's victims and achieving rapid economic growth.

The article chronicles important political, economic, and diplomatic developments in detail.

On April 16, the government formed a task force comprising three senior secretaries to formulate a detailed roadmap for the implementation of the recommendations submitted by the High-Level Economic Reform Advisory Commission led by former Finance Secretary Rameshwore Khanal.

On April 19, former Prime Minister and CPN-UML Chairman KP Sharma Oli, former Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba, and CPN (Maoist Centre) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' held a meeting at the PM's office in Baluwatar to create an environment for safeguarding the existing political system and the constitution of the federal democratic republic.

On April 21, inaugurating the 11th National Convention of the Nepal Progressive Professors' Association in Kirtipur, Oli urged the agitating teachers to return to classrooms and engage in dialogue without any delay. On the same day, former Education, Science and Technology minister Bidhya Bhattarai resigned from her post, differing with the government on how to resolve the demands of demonstrating teachers.

The community school teachers were protesting in Kathmandu, demanding that the government promulgate the School Education Act soon.

On April 29, the Lower House approved two key bills: the Bill to Amend and Integrate Customs-Related Law 2081 and the Bill to Amend Some Nepal Acts 2081.

On April 30, the Nepal Teachers' Federation suspended the month-long street protest of the school teachers by inking a nine-point agreement with the government. On the same day, Kham Bahadur Garbuja was appointed as the Minister of State for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation.

On May 2, President Ramchandra Paudel presented the government's policies and programmes for the fiscal year (2025/26).

Both Houses of the Federal Parliament endorsed the government's policy document for the fiscal year 2025/26 by a majority on May 11.

On May 16, the government organised Sagarmatha Sambad for the first time, kicking off with 350 participants from home and abroad and calling for global climate action. The Sambad concluded on May 18, issuing a 25-point Sagarmatha call for action. The government appointed Dr. Bishwo Nath (Bishwo) Poudel as the new governor of Nepal Rastra Bank. The Supreme Court, on May 23, rejected releasing Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) President Rabi Lamichhane from custody.





On Jestha 15 (May 30), the country marked Republic Day with fanfare. On the other hand, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Bishnu Prasad Paudel unveiled the budget of Rs. 1964.11 billion for the upcoming fiscal year 2025/26.

PM Oli, on June 1, virtually laid the foundation stone for 64 roads under the 'One Constituency, One Road' project of the Madhes Provincial Government in Janakpur.

On June 2, Oli, Deuba, and Prachanda failed to end the House deadlock through talks. The Prachanda-led party and the RSP had been demanding the former home minister's resignation over the visit visa scandal. The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) filed a corruption charge sheet against former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, Patanjali Yogpeeth, and Ayurveda Company Nepal, among others, on June 5.

On June 24, the Lower House approved the Appropriation Bill for the fiscal year 2025/26, along with key financial proposals. The government formed a high-level committee to study the visit visa scandal.

On June 30, the Lower House passed the Federal Civil Service Bill, 2080, fifteen months after its registration in the House.

At least nine people died and 19 others were missing as a massive flash flood hit Rasuwagadhi in Rasuwa district. The disaster caused severe damages to the Nepal-China border dry port and hydropower plants. The government formulated National Population Policy-2082 with an aim to balance fertility with population growth and integrate population concerns into all economic development aspects.

On July 23, the federal government declared Madhes Province a disaster-hit zone when prolonged drought in the region during monsoon depleted drinking water resources. Oli attended and addressed the inaugural session of the 3rd United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Awaza, Turkmenistan, on August 5.

On August 21, lawmakers in the Lower House strongly condemned the recent development between India and China to resume bilateral trade through the Lipulekh Pass, a territory claimed by Nepal. On August 22, the Lower House tabled the School Education Bill and Land Bill. On August 25, the government gave a seven-day ultimatum to the owners or operators of social media for registration and enlistment at the Information Ministry.

The delegation from the government visited China to participate in the 25th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit 2025 on August 29. They raised the issue of Lipulek during the bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on August 30. On September 1, Oli addressed the Sanghai Cooperation Organisation Plus Meeting in Tianjin, China, calling for global cooperation and a reimagined multilateral order amid growing global crises.

The three-day statute convention of CPN-UML kicked off on September 5 and removed the 70-year age limit for leadership, allowing UML chairman Oli to run for a third term as party chairman.

The youth-led protests, organised under the banner of GenZ Nepal, turned tragic, and 19 youths died and over 453 were injured in Kathmandu and Itahari on September 8. The next day, the government lifted the restriction on social media platforms which had been imposing restrictions since September 4.

On September 9, the entire nation descended into flames and turmoil as Gen-Z protests left state infrastructure in shambles, forcing Prime Minister Oli to resign amid urgent appeals from President Ramchandra Paudel and the Nepal Army.

The former Chief Justice Sushila Karki was appointed as the first woman interim prime minister of Nepal. She was chosen from a poll conducted on discord by the Gen-Z protesters because of her reputation as an impartial person with no involvement in corruption. Newly elected Prime Minister Sushila Karki took the oath of office and secrecy on September 12. President Paudel dissolved the Lower House as per the very first decision of the meeting held solely by newly appointed PM Karki. She was given the mandate to hold the election in the Lower House, slated for March 5.

Three new ministers, Om Prakash Aryal, Rameshwore Khanal and Kul Man Ghising, took the oath a day after PM Karki resumed her office on September 14. On September 17, the government observed a day of national mourning to honour those who lost their lives during the Gen-Z protests.

The country marked Constitution Day on September 19. Addressing a function organised at Sheetal Niwas on the occasion of Constitution Day, President Paudel stated that the new government was formed on the basis of consensus, as there was no way to constitute a Council of Ministers following the Gen-Z movement.

Four new ministers, Anil Kumar Sinha, Mahabir Pun, Dr. Madan Pariyar, and Jagdish Kharel, took the oath of office and secrecy at the President's Office, Sheetal Niwas, on September 22. On September 24, President Paudel issued an ordinance amending the Voter Registration Act, 2073, paving the way for new voter enrolment ahead of the March 5 elections. The Election Commission announced the schedule for the March 5 elections on October 6. As per the schedule, the political parties intending to contest the elections had officially registered at the EC between November 17 and 26.

Torrential rainfall triggered floods and landslides across the country; heavy rains claimed around 50 lives in the first week of October. On October 9, the government declared Ilam a disaster emergency district for three months.

President Paudel urged political parties to focus their attention on the elections, addressing an all-party meeting attended by PM Karki and top party leaders at Sheetal Niwas on October 11. On October 17, Karki held discussions with foreign diplomats based in Kathmandu to brief them on the progress of election preparations, following the Election Commission's discussions with political parties.

President Paudel attended and addressed the 2nd World Summit for Social Development in Doha, Qatar, on November 4. On November 5, Prachanda led the formation of the Nepali Communist Party by merging 10 left parties. On November 16, the Home Ministry approved the Integrated Election Security Plan to ensure that the March 5 elections are held in a free, fair, and democratic manner.

On November 22, Nepali Congress decided to participate in the HoR polls scheduled for March 5. According to the EC, the nationwide voter registration campaign held from September 25 to November 21 added 837,094 new voters to the electoral roll. On November 27, President Paudel granted approval for the deployment of the Nepali Army targeting March 5 polls. The EC informed on November 29 that a total of 108 political parties officially registered with the election body to participate in the lower house elections.

The NC's second special general convention, held in Kathmandu on January 11, elected a new central working committee under the leadership of Gagan Thapa. The EC recognised the Thapa-led NC leadership, while the Deuba-led NC faction filed a writ against the EC ruling.

Well over three thousand candidates filed nominations for the 165 first-past-the-post (FPTP) seats on January 20. After the nominations, the NC, the UML, and the RSP announced Gagan Thapa, KP Sharma Oli, and Balendra Shah as their PM candidates.

The NC and the UML emerged victorious in the National Assembly elections held on January 25, with the NC securing nine seats, the UML eight and the Loktantrik Samajbadi Party-Nepal one seat.

The historic election of the House of Representatives (HoR) members concluded peacefully across the country on March 5. The election has delivered a dramatic political upheaval, with the four-year-old Rastriya Swatantra Party securing almost a two-thirds majority.

Former Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Balendra Shah, was chosen as the parliamentary party leader of the RSP after defeating former PM Oli in Jhapa-5. On March 27, President Paudel, in accordance with Article 76 (1) of the Nepal Constitution, appointed member of the House of Representatives, Balendra Shah, as the prime minister of Nepal. On the same day, Prime Minister Shah and his 15-member Cabinet were administered the oath of office and secrecy amid a ceremony at the President's office in Sheetal Niwas.

Regardless of the number of ups and downs, it is clear that the nation is now headed towards stability, with increasing optimism about development in all sectors and a promise of imminent changes.

(The author is a journalist at The Rising Nepal.)



The New Era Of Mobile Gaming



Bijay Gurung

I entered the gaming industry in 2005, during the pre–App Store era, when Nokia's dominance in mobile created a fertile environment for Finnish game companies to grow. I was fortunate to spend nearly a decade at Rovio, the creators of Angry Birds. The early global success of Finland's gaming industry—driven by companies like Rovio and Supercell—sparked the creation of hundreds of smaller studios and helped shape a thriving ecosystem.

The global gaming industry, driven by explosive growth in mobile, generates more revenue than the worldwide film and music industries combined. Mobile games in particular have now overtaken other platforms to become a behemoth worth over $100 billion. Today, 500–800 games are launched daily on the App Store and Google Play. The market continues to grow increasingly saturated with both games and apps. In 2025 alone, releases increased by 25 per cent compared with 2024. Games made up a larger share of those launches, rising from 63 per cent in 2024 to 72 per cent in 2025. Overall, more than 1.4 million apps and games were released across Google Play and the App Store in 2025.

However, only a small fraction—around 10 per cent—gain meaningful user attention. Many launches receive only a handful of installs, or none at all. This has made mobile gaming one of the most competitive industries in the world. Free-to-play titles dominate: they are free to download and play but generate revenue through in-app purchases and advertising.

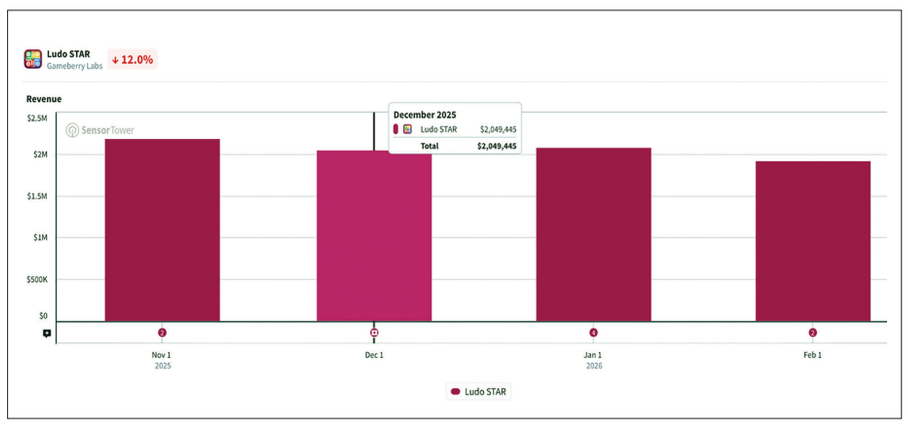
> The global gaming industry, driven by explosive growth in mobile, generates more revenue than the worldwide film and music industries combined.

Because of this intense competition, substantial marketing investment is required for success. By some estimates, up to 70 per cent of annual revenue can be spent on marketing. Major marketing channels include Meta (Instagram), Google (Search, Play, YouTube), Unity, Apple Search Ads, AppLovin, and others. Increasingly, the winners are not just the best game developers but the best marketers—those who can produce high-performing creatives, optimise distribution across channels, and outspend competitors. As a result, breaking into the top-grossing charts has become extremely difficult for new and smaller developers. Fewer than 0.05 per cent of new games reach the top 100 by revenue.

In recent years, many of the most successful new titles have come from Türkiye. Turkish studios now account for five of the top 20 highest-grossing games in the U.S., widely considered the benchmark market for global success. Royal Match, one of the leading titles, generated roughly $110 million in in-app purchase revenue in a single month, excluding advertising. Türkiye's rise has been rapid and largely concentrated in the match-3 casual puzzle genre.

Peak Games helped put the Turkish gaming industry on the global map, first with the $100 million sale of its card game assets to Zynga in 2017 and later with Zynga's full acquisition of the company for $1.8 billion in 2020. Gram Games' $250 million sale to Zynga further reinforced the perception that Turkish studios were not only successful operators but also prime acquisition targets.





This momentum fuelled a major investment wave in 2021–2022. Dream Games emerged as one of the fastest-rising Turkish unicorns, with its valuation approaching $5 billion. Most recently, Scopely (backed by the Saudi Public Investment Fund) acquired Loom Games—a studio only seven months old—at a valuation of around $1 billion. Its two founders graduated in 2020 and had just spent four to five years working on a modest startup before launching Loom Games in mid-2025.

All the routes trace back to Peak Games—one successful hit can generate multiple offshoots. Thus, Türkiye is now a top-tier export powerhouse despite a relatively modest domestic market, a weak currency, macroeconomic challenges, and limited PC/console footprint.

While Türkiye benefits from a population of nearly 90 million and a large base of young, well-educated, and highly ambitious talent, government support plays a pivotal role in fostering and accelerating the growth of the gaming industry.

Once a strong game concept is established and early performance metrics indicate scalability, a substantial marketing budget becomes essential to drive growth. Pixel Flow, as noted earlier (and illustrated below), is a clear example—scaling from zero revenue in September 2025 to nearly $20M by January 2026. This level of rapid expansion was made possible through strong government backing and support from key ecosystem partners.

Prior to 2010, Türkiye's startup ecosystem was driven by entirely bootstrapped startups, with no presence of venture capital (VC) firms or angel networks and only a single fund of funds, the Istanbul Venture Capital Initiative (iVCI), operating in the space.

A single breakout hit can revitalise the entire industry. The early success of Peak and Gram Games sparked a surge of investment activity in 2021–2022. Now, Türkiye remains one of the top destinations for VC investments in gaming. There are now at least 35 VC funds that invest in video game startups based out of Türkiye. Why does this matter for Nepal?

Nepal is at a stage similar to where Türkiye once began—young, tech-orientated, and producing around 15,000 IT graduates each year. With the right ecosystem, this talent pipeline could be channelled into high-growth digital sectors, particularly gaming.

The Turkish experience shows that gaming can emerge as an early "unicorn sector" because it relies more on software, creativity, and global distribution than on heavy infrastructure. Nepali developers could quickly participate through mobile game development, AR/VR, and outsourced game art and animation, building export-oriented digital products from day one. Importantly, Türkiye demonstrated how a single successful exit can catalyse dozens of new startups, accelerating ecosystem growth.

Diaspora networks are another parallel. Turkish founders and investors abroad played a major role in funding and mentoring new ventures. Nepal can leverage its global tech diaspora in a similar way—supporting cross-border studios, remote collaboration, and early-stage investment.

A key lesson is the importance of clustering. Türkiye's progress was driven by concentrated ecosystems linking universities, studios, venture capital, and accelerators. Nepal could replicate this through initiatives such as a Kathmandu-based game tech hub, university game labs, and public-private incubation programmes that connect talent with capital and markets.

Mobile-first development offers the most practical entry point for Nepali game studios. Mobile gaming reduces development costs while providing immediate global reach and scalable revenue opportunities.

By focusing on hybrid-casual titles, studios can blend locally and regionally appealing genres with strong monetisation design, creating games that are both culturally relevant and commercially viable.

Game including Ludo Star, developed by an Indian company, continues to make over 2 million USD in monthly revenue just from in-app transactions, growing steadily since its launch in 2017, reaching over 115 million USD in lifetime revenue with 50 per cent of the revenue coming from Saudi Arabia alone.

Another way to enter the mobile gaming industry is by becoming part of its value chain. One key area is Playable Ads—an essential component of mobile marketing creatives. These ads allow users to play a short, snack-sized version of a game directly within the advertisement itself.

Playable Ads have grown into a substantial industry of their own and are widely used by many of the largest game publishers. Working in this space can serve as a powerful entry point into the heart of mobile game development and marketing.

(Gurung is a Helsinki-based mobile gaming executive with over 20 years of experience in game publishing, partnerships, and business development.)

Tech Changing Food Culture



Supriya Khatiwada

Last Saturday afternoon, after a long lazy nap, I was too lazy to cook. With just a few taps on my phone, I ordered my favourite chowmein from a food app. Within minutes, a delivery rider arrived at my gate. You can order and enjoy a variety of foods from any restaurant if you're hungry or craving something. Such convenience has been possible because of the fast-growing technology.

Nepal did not have a structured method for ordering restaurant food for home or office delivery until 2010. People had to visit restaurants themselves or make phone calls; many restaurants did not offer food delivery services. For example, heavy traffic, limited transport, the absence of digital infrastructure, and the lack of a trustworthy delivery network made proper food access challenging for people with jobs or professions. Due to this gap, customers faced difficulties getting restaurant food efficiently, and restaurants had restricted ways to reach many customers. This situation created the need for a platform that could link restaurant customers and delivery facilities, which eventually led to the origin of Foodmandu in 2010, pioneering online food delivery in Nepal.

Foodmandu remains Nepal's leading food-delivery app, functioning in cities like Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Chitwan, with over 1,000 partner restaurants and hundreds of delivery riders. Foodmandu, which started as a small startup in 2010, has evolved into a technology-driven service that delivers food, groceries, and basic needs through its mobile app. In the present context, Foodmandu processes thousands of orders daily and continues developing services such as Foodmandu Fresh and One Mart, which deliver groceries and basic needs within minutes or hours. The company is also improving its digital payment systems and mobile app to make ordering faster and easier. At the same time, Foodmandu functions in an increasingly competitive environment, facing competitors such as Pathao Food and Bhoj Deals.

Bhoj Deals is an online food delivery app that creates a platform linking customers with restaurants—something that feels quite essential in today's context. The platform can encourage restaurants to maintain proper hygiene and food quality standards so that consumers can take safe and reliable food. As orders are placed via the app, Bhoj Deals maintains online records of restaurants, orders, and customer feedback. This allows customers to review food quality and report concerns, which encourages restaurants to continue better food safety and hygiene practices.

Bhoj Deals focuses on nearby delivery areas to ensure faster food delivery. Faster delivery ensures that customers receive fresh food and, importantly, reduces the likelihood of food spoilage or contamination. Bhoj aims to create a complete food experience through rewards and promotions. To maintain customer trust and satisfaction, restaurants on the platform must ensure safe food preparation and consistent quality. By helping restaurants manage their businesses online, Bhoj enables them to adopt organised ordering, packaging, and delivery practices that improve food handling and safety.

As eating late at night can create digestive issues, it is paramount to concentrate on preparing fresh and healthy food for the sake of customers.

Bhoklagyo prepares food using natural vegetables and fresh ingredients. They avoid using artificial flavour enhancers, such as MSG, which help maintain a healthier and safer food quality. The company uses very little oil in cooking, so meals are light and easier to digest at night. The Bhoklagyo team avoids using aluminium cookware to ensure food quality. They focus on preparing healthy and fresh food rather than stored or reheated food. It helps in maintaining food quality and, importantly, prevents contamination during delivery. They also prefer high-quality burger buns from professional bakers, ensuring the right ingredients meet high standards.





FoodMario allows individuals, mostly homemakers, to earn income by selling their food while maintaining traditional cooking styles. It ensures food safety through kitchen inspection, hygiene rules, monitoring cooks, and proper delivery methods. Only cooks whose kitchens meet the required criteria are accepted. Workers must follow hygiene and food quality standards while cooking food at FooMario. They regularly monitor home cooks to ensure hygiene and quality standards. It takes 1 to 1.25 hours to deliver food so that it reaches customers fresh and safe to eat. The company uses special containers to maintain temperature during the delivery.

The online food delivery had begun growing in other countries since the early 2000s.

Platforms like Grubhub in the United States and Swiggy and Zomato in India used websites and mobile apps to allow customers to order food easily from multiple restaurants. Observing these global developments, Nepali entrepreneur Manohar Adhikari also started Foodmandu. While working in the capital city, Adhikari experienced a daily problem, including limited food options and lack of decent food during busy workdays. He learned from the foreign online platforms and used digital technology to solve problems. Foodmandu's success inspires many other Nepalis, leading to the emergence of startups in the market and the creation of a competitive food-tech ecosystem.

> The food delivery companies have been promoting the usage of mobile phones, online transactions, and online services, thus boosting the e-commerce sector of Nepal.

Boj Deals combines food delivery and loyalty rewards. It focuses on customer promotions, discounts, and dining experiences. In view of people working night shifts, including health workers and students, Bhoklagyo introduced a late-night food delivery idea. The company focuses on supplying food during nighttime hours. All these food delivery platforms show how Nepali entrepreneurs have adapted global food technology ideas to local needs and changing lifestyles.

Food-order applications have, over time, revolutionised the way we consume and purchase food. This transformation is due to the fact that one no longer has to travel long distances just to buy food since they are able to order from different restaurants without leaving their homes or offices. The food delivery companies have been promoting the usage of mobile phones, online transactions, and online services, thus boosting the e-commerce sector of Nepal. These companies have created hundreds of employment opportunities.

(Khatiwada is pursuing bachelor's in media studies from Kathmandu University School of Arts.)

Nepali Films Thrive Despite Challenges



Renuka Dhakal



The year 2082 BS remained an eventful and commercially encouraging period for the Nepali film industry. This year, 56 films released in cinemas, reflecting steady growth in both production and audience interest.

The year opened with 'Bhuthan – The World's Happiest Man', which was released on April 25. Veteran actor Haribansha Acharya played the lead role in the film, directed by Binod Paudel. The film was expected to perform well, as it was the first Nepali film produced under Hollywood's SAG-AFTRA guidelines and featured the involvement of several Hollywood technicians. Despite the strong pre-release buzz and international-standard production framework, the film was unable to draw substantial local audiences, collecting only Rs. 2.2 million at the domestic box office.

Despite the extensive annual box-office data, several domestic productions delivered outstanding performances, generating substantial revenue.

However, the growing political turmoil, including the Gen Z-led protests of September 8 and 9, hit the Nepali film industry hard, which compelled several films to be withdrawn from cinemas. Similarly, no new Nepali films were released in theatres during the March 5 House of Representatives (HoR) general election.

Nevertheless, in spite of these political disruptions, the Nepali film industry recorded a commendable and overall satisfactory performance throughout the year.

> With strong storylines, compelling cinematography, skilled direction, sharp editing, and flawless presentation, Nepali films are successfully attracting audiences back to local cinemas.

Box office hits

This year, the Nepali film 'Paran', directed by Deepak Prasad Acharya, became the highest-grossing Nepali film at the domestic box office. According to the Cinepa report on box office collections published by the Film Development Board, Nepal, on April 6, 'Paran' earned Rs 177.68 million, with a total of 630,691 tickets sold.

The second highest-grossing film of the year is 'Aa Bata Aama', directed by Chandra Pant and starring Paul Shah in the lead role. The film has earned Rs. It has earned 131.38 million so far and is still screening in Nepali cinemas.

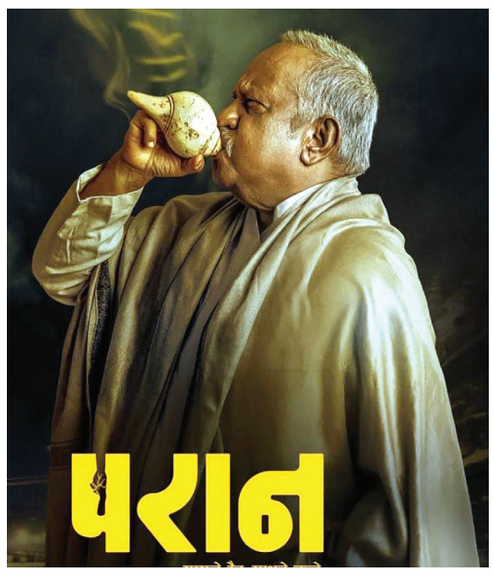
The adventurous drama film 'Jerry on Top', directed by Suyog Gurung and starring Anmol KC, Jasita Gurung, and Aachal Sharma, secured third place with earnings of Rs. 122.88 million. Unko Sweater, which grossed Rs. 114.19 million, holds the fourth position.

Rounding out the top five is Jaari 2, which brought in Rs 62.42 million gross. As a sequel to a previously successful film, the movie managed to retain audience interest and performed strongly in the domestic market.

This year, Balidan, directed by Santosh Sen and acted by Samir Bhatt, was expected to perform strongly at the box office. However, it ended up earning Rs. 51.05 million, becoming the sixth highest-grossing film of the year.

Moreover, 'Mohar', starring Paul Shah, Niti Shah and Benisha Hamal, earned Rs. 50.90 million, followed by Haribahadur Ko Jutta, featuring Hari Bansha Acharya in the lead role, which secured Rs. 47.14 million.

The comedy film 'Magne Raja' earned Rs. 46.94 million, while 'Maitighar', featuring Dhiraj Magar and Upasana Singh Thakuri in the lead roles, completed the top 10 with earnings of Rs. 41.63 million at the Nepali box office. Since 'Aa Bata Aama' and 'Hami Teen Bhai' are still running in Nepali cinemas, their earnings may continue to rise.





Revenue collection

According to the box office report, Nepali films released between April 14, 2025, and April 1, 2026, generated Rs. 1.084 billion in box office revenue, while the number of cinemagoers who watched Nepali films stood at 3,781,544.

Likewise, the international films collected are worth Rs 1.115 billion, with 3,322,757 tickets sold. The data further show that 458,778 more moviegoers visited cinema halls to watch foreign films this year. Combining both local and foreign films, a total of Rs. This year, the cinema sector generated a total business of Rs. 2.199 billion, indicating a positive outlook for further investment.

Several international films also performed well in Nepali cinemas. Among the top five foreign releases, the South Indian film 'Kantara: A Legend, Chapter 1' collected Rs. 123.53 million gross. It was closely followed by 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' with Rs. 122.51 million.

Likewise, Bollywood love story 'Saiyara' collected Rs. 101.41 million, while 'Dhurandhar 2' earned Rs. 105.08 million. Meanwhile, the Hollywood film 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' collected Rs. 66.84 million gross in the Nepali cinema market.

In terms of audience attendance, however, Nepali films are ahead. Around 3.78 million tickets were sold for Nepali films, compared to 3.32 million tickets for international films.

Compared with last year, when 61 Nepali films were released in cinemas, films such as 'Purna Bahadurko Sarangi', '12 Gaun', 'Chhakka Panja 5', 'Boksi Ko Ghar', 'Anjila' and 'Pujar Sarki' stood out as commercially successful productions.

Among them, 'Purna Bahadurko Sarangi' set a milestone by becoming the first Nepali film to earn approximately Rs. 500 million in the domestic market and around Rs. 250 million abroad, bringing its total earnings to around Rs. 750 million worldwide.

According to box-office data, last year Nepal's film market grossed over Rs. 2.6 billion, combining both domestic and foreign films. Of this, Nepali films earned Rs 1.8 billion, while 83 foreign films made Rs. 895.8 million.

Productions and distributions

New productions, theatres, and distributors are emerging this year, signalling the expansion of the Nepali film industry.

Alongside film production, this year 230 films were registered with the board for production, while 94 films received censor recommendations.

Likewise, eight new cinema halls were registered across the country, bringing the total number of operational halls to 172.

Furthermore, the distribution sector also saw notable activity this year. According to the Board's details, nine new distributors were registered, taking the total number of distributors to 44.

This year, another remarkable achievement occurred as the Nepal government announced Asoj 15 of the Nepali calendar as National Film Day. With a history of 60 years in the Nepali cinema sector, Asoj 15 was chosen as National Film Day to mark the release date of the first Nepali movie produced in Nepal, 'Aama' (Mother).

In terms of actors, this year veteran performers such as Nir Shah and Hari Bansha Acharya took the limelight in the Nepali film industry.

Nir Shah played the lead role in 'Paran', which emerged as the highest-grossing Nepali film of the year. The film topped the yearly box office and became the fourth highest-grossing film in Nepali film history. After 'Purna Bahadur Ko Sarangi', 'Kabaddi 4: The Final Match', and '12 Gaun', 'Paran' secured the fourth spot in the all-time Nepali box office rankings, according to official reports.

Another veteran actor, Hari Bansha Acharya, stood out and shone in the film industry throughout the year. He played lead roles in two films.

The year began with 'Bhuthan – The World's Happiest Man', in which he starred in the lead, and he also played the main role in Haribahadur Ko Jutta.

Likewise, this year proved fortunate for actor Paul Shah. After spending two years in prison over rape allegations, he was unable to revive his career last year. However, this year, his two films performed well at the box office. Through 'Mohar' and 'Aa Bata Aama', he re-established himself in the Nepali film industry, as both films achieved outstanding commercial success.

This year was also favourable for Anmol KC, as his film 'Jerry on Top' performed well at the box office, and his acting was widely praised by young audiences.

Likewise, other actors, including Bipin Karki, Pradeep Khadka, Najir Husen, Saugat Malla, and Dayahang Rai, also made significant headlines due to their performances in films.

After an eight-year hiatus, superstar Rajesh Hamal returned to the screen with the Nepali action thriller 'Narasimha Avatar', but the much-anticipated comeback failed to reclaim his former glory. The film earned only Rs. 18.25 million.

Female actors

In terms of female actors, this year women made a remarkable impact in the Nepali film industry. Actresses such as Miruna Magar, Jasita Gurung, Aachal Sharma, Upasana Singh Thakuri, Barsha Siwakoti, Keki Adhikari, Surakshya Panta, and Niti Shah played major roles, gaining attention from both audiences and critics.

The performance of Jasita Gurung in 'Jerry on Top' played a significant role in the film's success. She impressed audiences and even film critics with her powerful acting. Many said that her performance was the backbone of the film's success.

Likewise, Miruna Magar's acting in 'Unko Sweater' also impressed the audience. As in previous years, Magar once again captivated viewers with her powerful performance.

This year, female direction was represented by director Samundra Bhatta, who helmed the film Gunyo Cholo: The Dress, addressing transgender issues in cinema. Although the film earned Rs. 6.75 million at the box office, it received critical acclaim, with Bhatta's work widely praised. Likewise, the Nepali film industry welcomed another female director, Ekta Poudel, who made her directorial debut with the film 'Harsha'. She also penned the story for the film.

Overall, the year highlighted that female actors and filmmakers are now securing lead roles and recognition on par with their male counterparts.

Overall, the Nepali film industry in 2082BS demonstrated resilience, creativity, and steady growth despite political disruptions and high expectations.

Furthermore, this year, films that focus on social themes and deeply convey emotions have largely attracted audiences to the theatres rather than other genres' films.

Likewise, the combination of innovative storytelling, rising talent, and growing audience engagement promises an exciting year for Nepali cinema.

Most importantly, the long-held narrative that the younger generation does not watch Nepali films has gradually begun to change. People from all age groups are now increasingly enjoying Nepali films over foreign productions, showing a clear shift in audience preference.

This also demonstrates that the youth no longer ignore Nepali cinema. With strong storylines, compelling cinematography, skilled direction, sharp editing, and flawless presentation, Nepali films are successfully attracting audiences back to local cinemas.

(The author is a journalist at The Rising Nepal.)

FUTURE WATCH

(Based on birth names)

From April 10th to 16th, 2026
- D. N. Lohani

ARIES — Work completed after additional expenses will cause satisfaction. Philanthropic activities will increase expenses. The period till Tuesday is better. Expenditure level will rise on Wednesday and Thursday. Study related investment will turn productive.

GEMINI — It is not an appropriate time to start an important obligation. Two concluding days are better. Trade and profession both will turn profitable. You will retain progress in the intellectual sector. The study will take a progressive course.

LEO — The problem is about to end. Problems from the past will gradually be removed. Business-related travel can occur. Family will help you penetrate challenges. Health disorder is predicted.

LIBRA — Initially a stomach disorder is likely to increase expenses. Take your steps cautiously. Patience will be key to success. Business can slow down. Prayer of Narayan will help.

SAGITTARIUS — Expenditure level will rise, especially for educational purposes. Opposite sex will provide good support. Marital development will take a progressive course. Job will continue as usual.

CAPRICORN — Initially, the expenditure level will rise. Expenditure surpassing income will cause some concern. Business-related income can reduce. Family will also increase expenses. Religious sentiment can decline. Relatives will cooperate.

TAURUS — Prevailing fear is likely to defer your progress. Children are likely to increase expenses. The technical line can slow down. Philanthropic obligation is likely to keep you busy.

CANCER — Initially you will observe signs of improvement, but it may not last long. You may have to tackle numerous obstacles on Monday and Tuesday. A profession will yield some return. The conclusion is better.

VIRGO — Good cause will increase expenses. Elder-related expenses can rise. Tension can prevail within oneself. Work-related expenses can rise. Metaphysics will attract you. Prayer of the sun will help.

SCORPIO — Work will move toward completion. Expenditure will incur more than your expectation. Land-related deals can face obstacles. Health condition will improve. Business will turn profitable.

AQUARIUS — Celebrations and pleasant meetings with interesting ones will take place. Expenditure will rise for recreational causes as well as auspicious events. Trade and profession both will turn profitable.

PISCES — Fear and confusion can reside within oneself, especially related to financial status. Increasing cost will cause concern. Friends will cooperate. Business can slow down. Prayer or Darshan of Bhairab will help.

Biska Jatra Of Bhaktapur



Tejeswor Babu Gongah

With the advent of the spring season, the people of Bhaktapur begin preparations for the famous festival of Biska. It is the second major festival of this ancient city after the Dashain. The celebration lasts for eight nights and ten days. This year, the festival begins on April 10. A huge crowd gathers to celebrate the annual event, sometimes so large that it turns violent, occasionally resulting in the deaths of revellers. The administration mobilises police in large numbers to avert such unwanted incidents.

Mystic ideas

Biska, the name of the festival, suggests demolishment. In Nepal Bhasa, 'Bi' means serpents, while 'Shyaka' represents demolishing – in other words, putting an end to, i.e., killing. The question remains: how and why were snakes brought to an end? A piece of hearsay related to this festival goes like this: An energetic young girl of royal blood in the Malla dynasty was to be guarded by a youth from each household. However, he would never return home alive, which became a miserable fate for his family. This tragic pattern continued for quite a long time.

Once in the outskirts of Bhaktapur city, a prince from an adjoining principality lost his way while hunting. With no better option, he sought shelter in a humble hut. In the night, the hunter awoke after hearing disturbing noises. Wondering whether he had caused any inconvenience to the owner of the hut, he approached the host. The family explained that it was their son's turn to guard the daughter of the king, and there was no chance of his returning alive. Hearing the news, the young hunter offered to take the boy's place and went to guard the princess.

At midnight, the energetic princess sneezed. Two tiny little creatures emerged from her nostrils. In the blink of the eye, those tiny creatures turned into poisonous serpents. The brave youth swiftly seized them by the neck and killed them. The next morning, courtiers arrived as usual, expecting to carry away the guard's body. But to their surprise, they found the princess and the youth happily conversing. Later, the two were married. This is one of the popular stories associated with the Biska Jatra. My mom, grandparents and others used to tell us this tale during the festival when we were young.

Symbols are the predominant forms of life and its journey forward. We need to understand profoundly, meticulously and sincerely. Devotion and dedication lead to expected outcomes in all ways and by all means. Such dedication approach is how I have made myself capable of reading the pages of books by diligent authors.

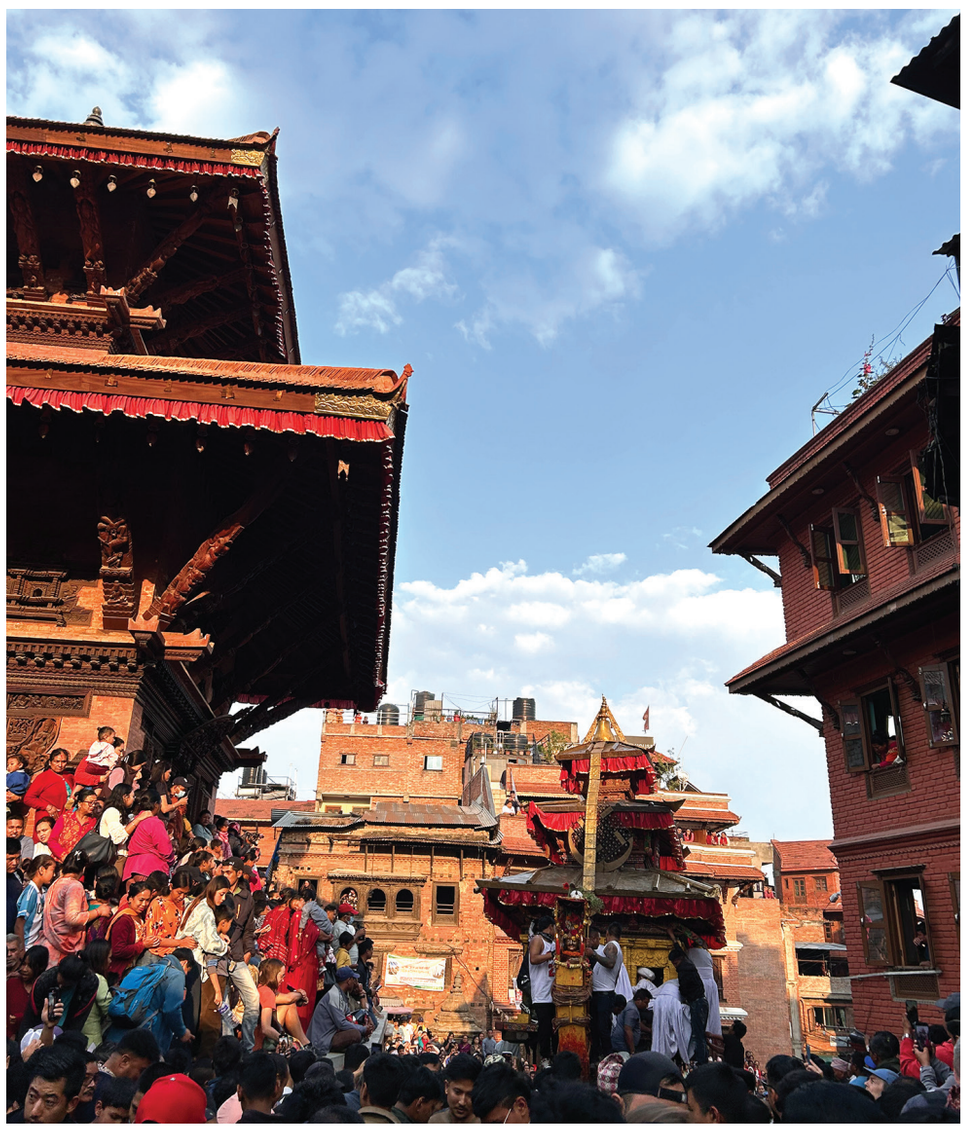
Professional painters portray triple eyes on the wheels of gigantic wooden Bhairab and Bhadrakali chariots. They have learned, earned, and maintained these skills until now. The land-grant system established and maintained by the Malla rulers supports and backs their hereditary professionalism. Land grants were the basic building blocks of the then-agrarian period. The system remained quiet for many centuries.

Religion cannot be delimited within the framework of worshipping images, icons and visiting shrines – idols and statues made or carved or embossed upon the metallic plates. Divinity is omnipotent and omnipresent. They always reside within human conscience. Divinity is everlasting and imperishable. Ideas prevail forever. I am focused on what I am trying to achieve, in tune with the Biska Jatra that occurs during the spring season.

Conjugality has remained the predominant feature of creative action and interaction. That's what we mean by creative force prevailing with Mother Nature.

Ancestral heritage

Human beings have learned and earned quite a lot from nature. For that reason, we have referred to nature as Mother Nature. It has for all ages been addressed as mother nature. She is the perennial source of creation. Every creative



force, regardless of any other factors, originates from within nature. There are living creatures in the waters, in the air, in the greenery, in the jungles, and in the darkness of the night. It's rampant in every nook and corner of nature. Nature has imbibed all possible phenomena for sensitive living beings on earth. Nothing is exempted from it. Science, technologies, man's traits – every bit of object has deep roots. Why should one need to doubt and cast disagreement and suspicion upon the habitual fact. Biska Jatra is an essential part of this sensitive matter.

Symbolism plays a vital and major role in the objects of Jatra and festivals. The chariots, carvings, triple-tiered roofs, the images/idols of Bhairab and Bhadrakali, the linga (yosin), every object of the Jatra used and applied on the occasion are quite a few symbols. The seasons of the year themselves represent habitual phenomena of nature. Whenever and wherever natural phenomena are shaken, gigantic upheavals occur. No one can remain exempted from that. Natural calamities are embedded in the womb of our planet. Volcanic eruptions, giant floods, landslides, and soil erosions are quite a few examples of natural calamities. There remains unforeseen, unexperienced havoc and calamities in the womb of the earth. However, we pray there will be no misfortune. There's no certainty; it may or may not happen.

During the process of pulling the Bhairab and Bhadrakali chariots, youth sing the monotonous melodies. Each and every participant gets tired of losing their physical strength and stamina. The whole bunch of mass gets relaxed and regains physical strength.

A couple of minutes of singing is gainful for reviving physical stamina. It's a magical treatment and trick.

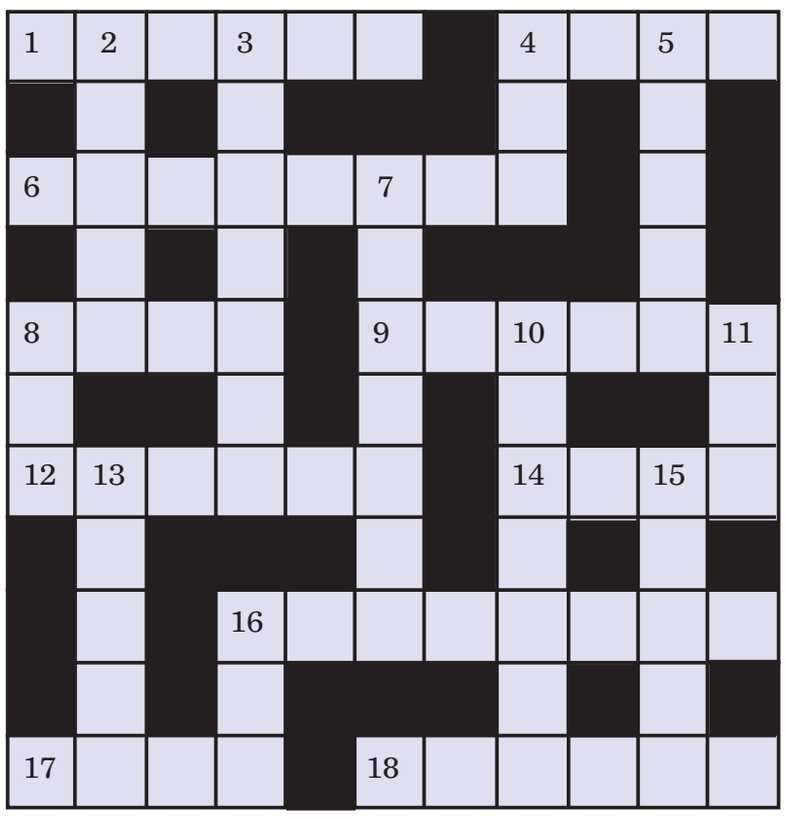
The central idea behind the fifty-five-foot-long yosin—the wooden pole—is quite mysterious. The gigantic pole is symbolically phallic in nature.

Raising a pole represents mating between the earth and the firmament – the sky, in other words, as I conceive it. This phenomenon is because the Bisyakaya / Biska festival is observed in the mid-spring season.

It is only natural to celebrate a pole-raising festival during this season. The mid-spring season is overwhelmingly influential in arousing sexual temperaments. However obscure they may be, habitual facts and temperamental emotions intertwine. Meticulous handling will be necessary for many other events, regardless of their nature.

(The author is a senior literateur.)

TRN CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO. 1876



Last date of entry:
April 15, 2026

Win a prize of Rs. 600. In case there are more than one correct entry the prize will be split into three sums of Rs. 200 each. The winner will be selected by a lucky draw. Only cuttings (not photo copy) that include the Crossword Puzzle no. will be accepted.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Across

1. To take someone by force
4. A payment for labour
6. A wet ground that sinks when walked on
8. The true self in Hindu philosophy
9. The land allowed to lie idle
12. A famous person
14. A lack of sensation
16. The longest or shortest day of the year
17. A tax paid to government
18. To remove something

Down

2. To make something less strong
3. To improve the quality
4. Extreme sadness
5. Vigorous and enthusiastic enjoyment
7. Someone without a religion
8. To give someone pain
10. who behaves in silly or dangerous ways
11. A complex system of interconnected elements
13. Strange and frightening
15. A gel-like slippery fluid
16. Someone who secretly collects information

Solutions to TRN Crossword Puzzle No. 1875

ACROSS: 1. ADRIFT 4. ACHE 6. PERSUADE 8. SMOG 9. SCARCE 12. PISTON 14. SCUM 16. BACKLASH 17. REIN 18. PLENTY

DOWN: 2. DREAM 3. INSIGHT 4. AGE 5. HAVOC 7. ARSENIC 8. SAP 10. ABSOLVE 11. ELM 13. IMBUE 15. UPSET 16. BAN

LUCKY WINNER

Radheshyam Shrestha, Bhimsensthan, Kathmandu
Sunil Sharma Bhattarai, Yetkha, Kathmandu
Singh Dongol Rabindra, Bhotye Bahal, Kathmandu

CREATIVE CORNER

No More Gravity!



Manyata Sharma

"Nooo, my shoe! Ahhh!" If you're wondering how I got here, let's rewind to the start of the day.

"Ahh no, I'm going to be late for school," said Amelia. It was 7:30, and school started at 8:00. "Amelia, dear, come look at the news," said Amelia's mom. "Mom, how can you watch the news at a time like this!" said Amelia. "Hello, people of Townsville. We are announcing that there will be no gravity for 3 hours, and we aren't responsible for any injuries; good luck and stay safe!" the government announced.

It was Friday, and they had half a day at school because it was about to be spring break. Amelia's half-day school would last 3 hours. Amelia knew she had to be extra careful today.

"Honey, come on, we're going to be late for school!" said Amelia's mom. "No way this is happening, this is all just a joke," Amelia said to herself. The three-hour journey began as soon as they entered the car, and their vehicle soared into the sky, becoming ensnared in air traffic. "Just when I thought this day couldn't get worse!" said Amelia.

Once they finally arrived at school 2 hours late, her clothes suddenly began to fly away, but luckily Amelia had some tape in her bag to secure them. "Huh, what's that line for?" Amelia thought. She looked a little further and realised it was picture day! Almost an hour later, it was Amelia's turn." "Ok, smile for the picture," said the photographer in an overly chipper voice.

Suddenly, gravity was restored while Amelia floated in the air like a balloon. However, she didn't notice that her shoe was untied, and when she fell down, the shoe bounced off her foot and hit the poor photographer in the face! "Nooo, my shoe Ahhhh!" said Amelia. Once her horrible day was over, she plopped onto her bed face down and started crying for 30 minutes straight because her parents bought her a brand new expensive, sparkly outfit and new stylish shoes for picture day, but she suffered due to lack of gravity for three hours.

After Amelia was done crying, she learnt an important lesson: that nature is perfectly balanced, and if it ever got disbalanced, life would be just as chaotic and horrible as her day was. Due to this lesson, Amelia decided that she would never take nature for granted and always be careful to preserve components of mother nature.

Grade: IV, St Mary's Catholic School, Texas, USA



Dipanshi Basnet, Grade: V, Gyankunj H. S. School



Subhan Bidari, Grade: IV, Annapurna Vidya Sadan, Kathmandu



Sankalpa Ghimire, Grade: VIII, Reliance Public School, Kathmandu



Parina Acharya, Grade: VIII, Budhanilkantha School, Kathmandu

QUIZ OF THE WEEK 42

Questions	Answers
1. What is 25% of 100?	.....
2. What is the minimum age specified in the Constitution of Nepal to become the President?	.....
3. When did US President Donald Trump announce a full and partial travel ban on citizens of 12 countries, effective?	.....
4. Who is considered the first poet of the Nepali language?	.....
5. How many schedules is the current constitution of Nepal divided into?	.....

LUCKY WINNER

Mahendra Ku Nath, Mulpani, Kathmandu