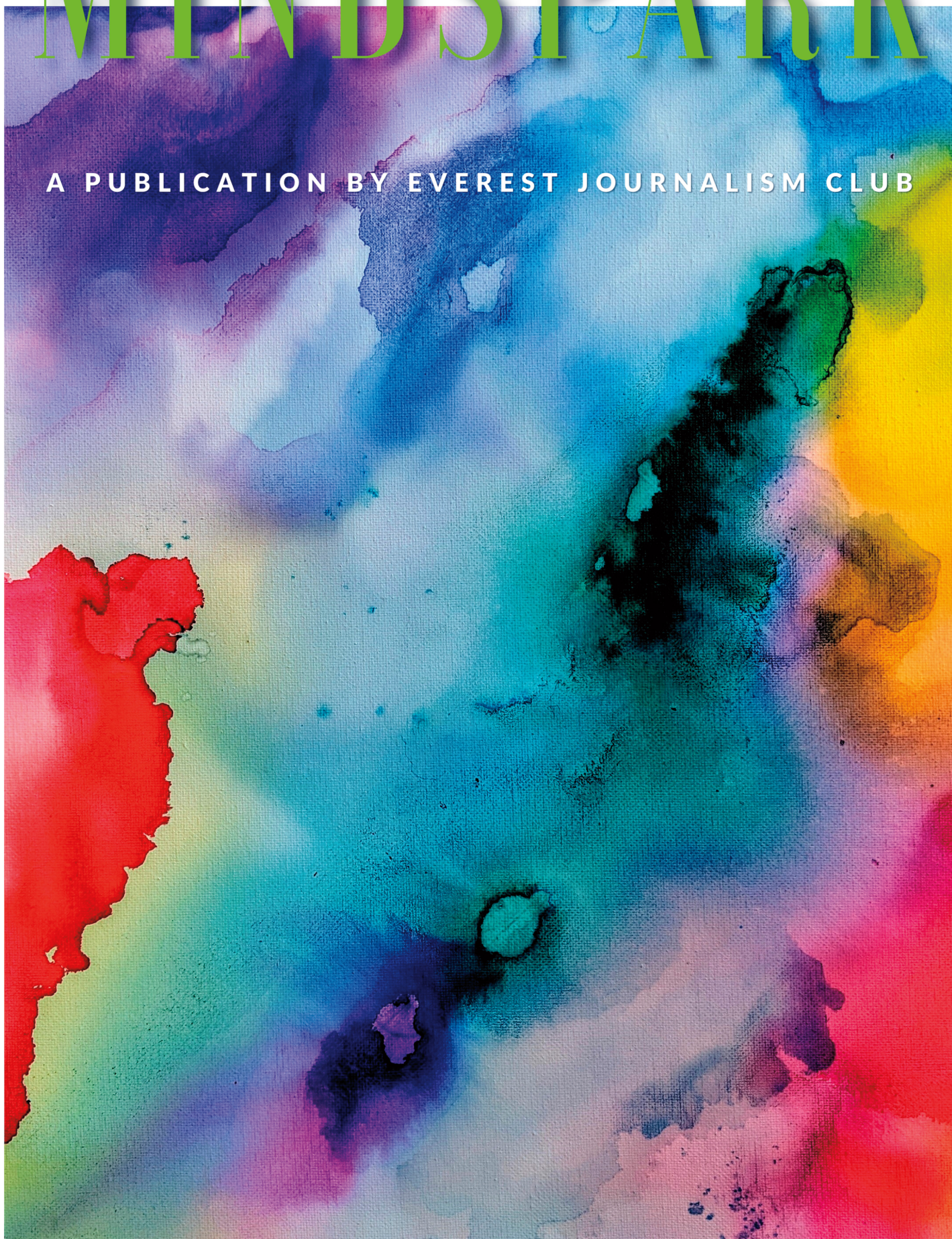


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SRI LANKA FACING A MASSIVE CRISIS

Aashna Hachhethu - IX "Buddha"



Image Credit: usip.org

How did Sri Lanka pretty much become a failed state?

Sri Lanka, an island situated in the Indian ocean was always famous for its rich biodiversity, a large cinnamon & tea export industry and stunning natural wonders. It was always known as the pearl of the Indian ocean as it has no shortage of beautiful and mesmerizing views and historical spots. Having a great GDP, this nation could be called as one of the most magnificent countries among the SAARC nations and all other nations worldwide. Unfortunately, this country fell under a huge debt and started to face immense economic problems that eventually led this country to go bankrupt.

Sri Lanka is undergoing its worst economic crisis in its post independence history. Its 22 million population is having to endure skyrocketing prices in each and every good provided by the government. They are in a state where it seems impossible to even purchase the basic needs in life. It was hard enough for Sri Lankans with all these economic problems as it were, when the nation started going through severe political problems as well. How did it happen? You see, Sri Lanka is a chronic net

importer as it has to buy most of its critical resources such as fuel and fertilizers. To buy these goods in the international market, it is forbidden to use sri lankan rupees therefore they need actual foreign currency i.e. US Dollars (USD). Sri Lanka is a country which completely depends on tourism for foreign currency. But over the last few years, there were a series of unfortunate events for Sri Lanka which ruined its economic standards.

Going back to 2015, there was a central bank bond scam which massively tarnished the credibility of the financial system. In 2016/17 there was a severe drought. In 2018 there was political instability and in 2019 there was the tragic and deadly Easter bombings. In 2020 and 2021 there was COVID. Because of the suicide bombings in 2019, as tourists didn't like risking death, it resulted in less and less tourists and this caused Sri Lanka to start running out of foreign currency. As if this was not enough, COVID related lockdowns and economic turmoil for more than two whole years and tourism, the main source of foreign currency, went flying away. This totally ravaged the tourism industry.

As the situation was getting out of hand, the government of Sri Lanka needed, most of all, to be frugal. However, seemingly out of their minds, they had a genius plan to stop buying fertilizers, which was one of the main expenditures of foreign currency. They thought this could help them to save on foreign currency for the country. They ordered every farmer to use organic fertilizers instead of chemical ones. What's the worst that could happen? Well, apart from getting the praises from the western vegans, everything that could go wrong went wrong.

The main reason for this crisis simply is that Sri Lanka borrowed too much money.

They came to a point where to even pay the interest on the country's massive foreign debt, they needed to borrow more money at a higher interest just to settle the interest. The

government started cutting taxes and printing record amounts of money which led to inflation that later rose to 58.9%. Sri Lankans are struggling to even live their lives as there is a huge scarcity of food, fuel, medicine, and every other basic need. They are facing daily power cuts and long lines for fuel. Schools have been closed and people have been asked to work from home to help conserve supplies. It went to such a level that they couldn't even manage the exam papers for the board examinees. Sri Lanka's economy fell to such a low point that president Rajapaksa had to declare a state of emergency and enforce curfew all over the island.



Image Credit: usip.org

During that time, political instability took over the country. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was being protested against by the Sri Lankans for totally corrupting the country. Rajapaksa and his family had a powerful grip on Sri Lankan politics as most of the members of this family were a part of the legal parliament. The country was drowning in nepotism. It was experiencing its worst crisis ever. People protested each and every day outside the president's residence which eventually led president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to run away from his own country.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled from the country on July 13, 2022. After relinquishing his post to Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe as the acting president, the then-president of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa, resigned on 14 July, 2022. On July 20, 2022, Wickremesinghe was elected as the ninth president by parliament in a secret ballot. But later, hundreds of protesters stormed into his office, calling for his

resignation. Wickremesinghe had told the country's military to do whatever is necessary to restore order after the protests in his office. People are determined to make their economy stable. They are protesting each and every day and trying their best to bring Sri Lanka back.

What will happen now?

Sri Lankans have to become reform-focused because without solid reforms, there is no other way out of this crisis. Sri Lanka's political and economic future is uncertain, but there are significant problems to tackle for whoever takes charge. We are sure that Sri Lanka can come out of this crisis only if they commit to a solid reform plan. We will always pray for Sri Lanka to end this crisis as soon as possible.

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BALEN SHAH'S EXPEDITION TO CONTROL POLLUTION

Nirvik Dhungana - X "Great Wall"



Image Credit: nepaltimes.com

Kathmandu Metropolitan City ranks one of the most polluted cities in the world and corresponding to the demands of the population, the status of it decreases every day. With the previously conducted election, Balen Shah, an independent politician, ran for the Mayor with the promise of minimizing the

damage and addressing the long term issues that has plagued Kathmandu and its often dirty politics.

In a podcast, Balen Shah gave some insight to his vision for a mechanism of sanitary environment. “Waste management is a concept that has yet to be fulfilled by each individual rather than the system of government. People protest for controlling the pollution but leave bags of rubbish unmanaged in their own residences,” commented Balen Shah.

Through research, about 1200 metric tons of waste is produced in Kathmandu Valley every single day and out of that frankly ridiculous amount, 600 tons just from within the Kathmandu Metropolitan City. During segregation of this garbage, 75% was found to be organic, 10% was recyclable plastics and glass and the rest inorganic unsalvageable waste.

According to Balen Shah, “We can use 75 % of unmanaged organic scraps to create manure. Forests, plants, can be supported from this. 10% of the litter can be reused and recycled. But some of the waste needs to be incinerated. And by incinerating, the volume of waste can be decreased from 50 % to 10 %. Similarly, hospital waste is to be managed within the hospital and no landfill should contain any hospital equipment.”

He estimated that in such incinerators, about 5 MW of electricity could be generated using the heat produced during the process. To build such plants, a budget from 2 to 4 Billion Nepalese Rupees would be sufficient. Furthermore, he proclaimed that the dirty metropolitan of Kathmandu would be clean in less than 3 years.

The current landfill site in Sisdol has been exhausted of its capacity, which has caused a burning problem for rubbish disposal. In substitution, a new landfill site in Banchare Danda, Nuwakot is initiated. But various issues arose when the local people violently acted for

disposing of the waste in Banchare. Although the local government convinced them through political acceptance, 174 previous agreements have failed that couldn't build the trust.

As per the present agreement, rubbish will be safely disposed of with chemicals to control the odor, no mixing of liquid substances. The 10 point agreement formed in June will be implemented from this point onwards. Though the landfill option is considered temporary, it should relieve Kathmandu of the burning problem for the time being.

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SCOTLAND BECOMES THE FIRST COUNTRY TO OFFER PERIOD PRODUCTS FREE

Sonsa Gautam- IX “Janak”



Image Credit: commons.wikimedia.org

Scottish parliament member Monica Lennon said, "We are proud of what we have achieved in Scotland. We are first but won't be the last." She spent years campaigning for free sanitary products and mentioned people who menstruate should never face the indignity of period poverty.

Scotland becomes the first country in the world to legally access free period products to the citizens. As per the resource, period products including tampons and sanitary pads, are now free of cost in Scotland to anyone who needs them. Starting this week, it will be implemented in Scotland.

Providing free access to period products is everyone's fundamental right. This has become a huge milestone for Scottish citizens. People will be able to get products through on their mobile's app called **PickupMyPeriod** to be able to find all the information.



Image Credit: indianexpress.com

According to the government's statement there are like more than 1000 different places where they can pick up period products freely. But unfortunately, people haven't got any data on their phones because not all of them have advanced smartphones of their own. Schools, colleges and institutions will also be mandated to make female hygiene products accessible for students. All these sanitary products will be available free of charge at nearly all public places including community centers, youth clubs and pharmacies.

It is massive for women, girls and for everyone who goes through such problems. It is a great progress for the Scottish government at international level. This new rule has been widely praised by politicians and women's rights groups in Scotland. Local authorities will be in charge of ensuring free products.

According to the United Nations population fund, being unable to properly manage menstruation can lead one's to a great risk of infection. If someone is unable to frequently change a tampon, a buildup of bacteria can lead to rare but dangerous toxic shock syndrome, which if progresses rapidly, can lead to death.

Therefore, providing access to free period products is fundamental to equality and dignity, and it also removes the financial burden to access them.

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CITIZENSHIP ACT: AMENDMENT AND CONTROVERSY

Dikshya Poudel - X "Pyramid"

"There are thousands of people who are deprived of citizenship certificates although their parents are citizens of Nepal. The lack of citizenship certificates was further depriving them of education and other facilities. I appeal to help create an environment to endorse the new bill and for headway to implement the law by formulating new laws," the Home Minister said.



Image Credit: english.onlinekhabar.com

Amendment to citizenship act 2006 was endorsed by the House of Representatives through the majority vote. Though it was

registered in Parliament back in August 2018, because of differences between political parties amendment wasn't possible.

Why was the amendment necessary in the citizenship act?

Amendment was necessary in order to make the citizenship act 2006 compatible with the constitution of Nepal. It was necessary for the implementation of constitutional provisions regarding citizenship. Due to political differences among parliamentary parties, although it was registered in the house of representatives in 1st session of federal parliament which was held in 2018, it was never presented for endorsement. However, on 9th July, the government withdrew the amendment bill and registered the new one which was endorsed by the lower house.

After it was sent for amendment, some of the major revisions that were made in the amendment bill were:

- Everyone born within Nepal's territory before April 12, 1990 can acquire citizenship by birth.
- A child born in Nepal to a Nepali woman whose father is unidentified can get citizenship by descent. However, for this, the mother must make a self-declaration that the father "cannot be identified" and she would be the one who is responsible if this info turns out to be wrong.
- Even non-resident Nepalis can acquire citizenship. But no political and administrative rights would be given to them. (This is only applicable to those NRN who reside out the South Asian region)
- A child can choose either the surname and address of his/her mother or father while acquiring citizenship.
- Citizenship is allowed to orphans. They would get citizenship based on the testimonials from the orphanage or respective local government.

- The children of a Nepali mother born to a foreign father can obtain naturalized citizenship.

According to Article 12 of the constitution of Nepal, a person who obtains citizenship by descent would obtain a citizenship of Nepal with gender identity in the name of his/her mother or father.

It is considered that this amendment to citizenship has also promoted gender equality. Currently, the citizenship certificate holds the details of father, grandfather or husband. Nevertheless, the above revisions, shows the equal role of a mother's information in the process of making their child's citizenship. However, the new provisions have not come into implementation yet.

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SAUDI ARABIA AND LEBANON: A TALE OF TWO ECONOMIES

Alok Khadka - X "Great Wall"

"In the New Economy, Information, Education, and Motivation are everything."
-William J. Clinton



Image Credit: france24.com

The Saudi economy is booming while the Lebanese economy has collapsed, marking the

contrasting destiny of different skilled players in the Middle East.

Recently, the situation has been going well for Mohammed Bin Salman (MBS), the Saudi crown prince, deputy Prime Minister, and minister of defense of Saudi Arabia as well as the chairman of the Council of Economic Development Affairs and chairman of the Council of Political And Security Affairs. He got an opportunity to meet with the US President Joe Biden in Jeddah and then fought with the US President when he raised the case of Jamal Kashoggi. The crown prince questioned what Biden was doing about the murder of the Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. MBS claimed, "You can't impose your values on us by force. Remember Abu Ghraib? What have you done about Shireen Abu Akleh?"



Image Credit: shutterstock.com

Such an aggressive response from MBS is problematic in US-Saudi relations. It depicts that MBS has synthesized his potency within the nation. It shows how high oil prices have given much more economic bang. Now, MBS believes that Saudi Arabia can be independent and doesn't need US support as it did in the past.

Rising Oil Prices Boost Saudi Economy

London-based Capital Economics evaluated that Saudi Arabia's GDP might have grown by **10%** in the first quarter of 2022 due to high oil prices. The oil sector has been a bright future for the Gulf Countries like Saudi Arabia. Currently, the cost of oil is very high in the Global Market and Saudi Arabia is one of the

countries having the possibility of huge oil production.

Oil production rose from **10.36** mn BPD in April to **10.42** mn BPD in May, leading to a growth of **22.9%** y/y. The verdict by OPEC to raise its product shares by **50%** in July and August will provide a subsidiary invigorate to Saudi Production. If it is continued then the result of oil production in Saudi Arabia will reach a record at the apex level by the end of 2023. However, due to the then-low oil prices, the VAT tax rate tripled in 2020 to **15%**.

In March, Saudi Arabia granted **\$36** million to Lebanon with the mediation of King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center. That helped to establish strong diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Lebanon.

The Lebanese Economic Crisis

Since 2019, Lebanon has suffered from a complex economic and financial crisis due to increased political gridlock, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut Port explosions in August 2022, and now the global food and fuel crisis. The World Bank has emphasized that the ongoing political immobility is destroying the major pillars of Lebanon's post-civil war political economy. The crisis pressured Lebanon off from Gulf assistance and trade. Due to such conditions, Lebanese people, especially poor and middle-class people are suffering, leading to record levels of brain drain.

If the oil price continues to hike like this then the Condition of the Lebanese will be more worse than they already have. Not only that due to the hike in oil prices Lebanon has suffered but also other underdeveloped countries like Nepal have been suffering. This could lead to a great unbalance in nature leading to destruction.

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SURVIVING AS A TRAFFIC POLICE

Prestha Bhattarai - IX "Araniko"

"I would prefer as a friend, a good man ignorant, than one more clever who is evil too." -Author: Euripides



Image Credit: unops.org

Traffic police, who are regarded as peripheral to most police forces, participate in both authoritative intervention and symbolic justice. Perhaps alone of all the assignments, traffic police are full-service police.

The life of traffic police is not as easy as it seems. They risk their own lives standing in the middle of the road in order to save us from accidents. They help to control accidents, avoid traffic jams. So, we must respect them. Even with their efforts, they are insulted. They have to deal with many people who disrespect and insult them. Sometimes, they may give us tickets without our mistakes. Of course officers make mistakes on occasion—they're human beings. Or there might have been extenuating circumstances. But if you disagree about the violation, arguing the ticket on the spot in traffic can be dangerous for everyone.

What is the condition of traffic police in Nepal?

Standing in the middle of one of the busiest roads, they extend their left hand with the palm facing forward, while blowing the whistle along,

signaling the people waiting at both ends of the road to cross the road and helping the motorist who seemed to have lost his way. With only few traffic lights in the valley being functional, these traffic personnel manually manage the traffic the whole day; being exposed to hazardous levels of dust and vehicle emission on a daily basis. Around 1,000 personnel managing traffic in the valley are at a high risk of a variety of cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases due to the heavy concentration of pollutants.

Bounded by the strict disciplinary codes of the police department, they choose to work for 10 hours daily under such adverse conditions without complaining. As a result, 50 traffic police personnel fall ill daily due to hazardous dust on the demolished but yet to be reconstructed roads.

How can we solve the problems faced by traffic police?

The efforts given below can be made by the department to solve the problems faced by traffic police:

1. Make the road sand free, all the roadside footpath should be sand free. No stagnant water, all drainage should work properly
2. Clean the roads daily early in the morning using automated cleaning vehicles. Mark the road signs and white lines and zebra crossing properly.
3. Install High resolution cameras at all junctions to capture the erring vehicles and violators.
4. Penalize the vehicles based on the registration plate numbers.

So, we should always respect traffic police because their life is very difficult. We should talk politely to them and follow all the traffic laws.

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MAGNA CARTA

Aditya Raj Raut - IX “Janak”

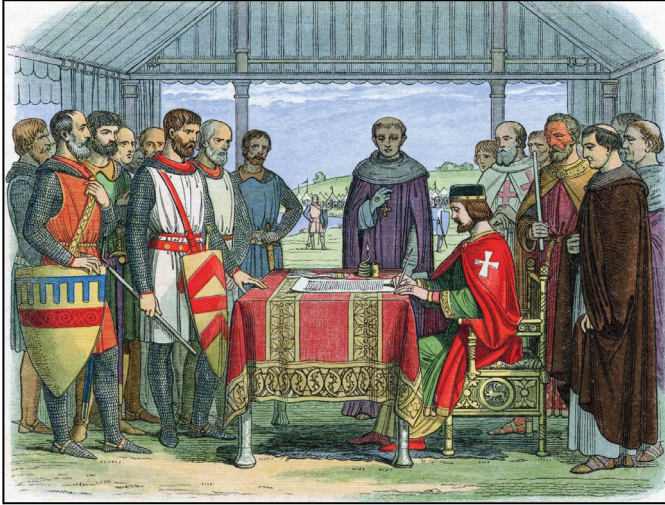


Image Credit: Encyclopedia Britannica

Magna Carta, the **English Great Charter** which was the first written law of Britain, guarantees the rights and freedom of individuals. Magna Carta has contributed a lot to modern England and to the modern world. Magna Carta represented the concepts of ‘No taxation without representation’ and ‘People’s Liberty and Rights’ to the world.

The overall history of Magna Carta starts like this:

At the time of **King Richard I** as the king of England, he had gone to France. In 1199 he was fatally wounded while attacking the castle of the vicomte of Limoges, who had refused to hand over a hoard of gold to Richard. After the death of King Richard I on **1199 April 6**, Richard’s younger brother **King John II** got the throne. Soon after getting into power, he began to show his despotic and arbitrary nature. Anything he used to do, which was anti democratic, he used to prove that it's democratic, it is with the law and people’s interest. He was trying to interfere in every work carried by the people and the nation, which mustn’t have been done.

King John was not being a positive ruler, due to which people of England appeared to dislike him. People were even losing their right to

govern themselves and facing difficulties to conduct their tasks. The Church, which is autonomous, he even tried to get authority over it and take advantage of it. And these activities made the father of the church; **Pope Innocent III** angry and detest. Then a controversy between the King and Pope started. The controversy distured the relationship among them. Later in 1205, Pope Innocent III wanted to appoint **Stephen Langton** as the Archbishop of the **Canterbury Church**. But the King disagreed with the Pope's decision. The Pope became irritated with the king, and wanted to take revenge from him. So, in 1209 Pope sacked the king from the membership of the church. He even stopped the facilities and advantages the king used to get from the church. After that, people came over and supported the Pope. People raised their voice against the King, and finally the king accepted his fault.

Again in **1212**, King John began to misuse his power, he started to demand a lot of money from people as tax. The tax system formed by him was inappropriate and unstable. He brought cruel punishment system and violated the rights of people. People were getting annoyed, so in **1213**, a group of barons and landowners as the representatives of people went to Stephen Langton and explained all about the autocratic rule of King John.

The group demanded for their rights, for their freedom and all these stuff were picked in a draft which was called ‘**Articles of Barons**’. With the demand of barons, Stephen Langton drafted the demand letter; Articles of Barons and it was submitted to the king. But King John refused to approve the demands. Due to which again a huge collision occurred between barons and people on one side and the king on the other side.

In **1214**, King John II attacked France with his strong army but his army was dreadfully defeated. Then King John began to feel weak and alone because his army was badly defeated, people of England were not supporting him and

even nobles and barons were against him. Later in **1215**, barons and people nominated **Robert Fitz Walter** as their governor to rebel against the king. And with the help of Robert Fitz Walter, London was attacked and the king was captured. Then the king was forced to sign the Article of barons. The article clearly described; there is nothing more powerful than law, even the king/ruler has to go through the law and work under it. Every generation of the king's family has to follow the law. The barons terrified the king, "We will start a civil war if you again refuse to accept the article."

Finally, after discussing with his barons, nobles and people, King John signed the article of barons in **1215 June 12** which was known worldwide as the **Declaration of Magna Carta**. The declaration provided:

1. Rights and freedom to the people of England
2. No one can break the law, even the king and person of high class has to work under the law.
3. Ban on the injudicious tax system.
4. Prohibition on the unfair and cruel punishment system.

After the declaration of Magna Carta and accepting all the terms and conditions, still King John tried to make the declaration inactive. But in **1216 October 18** King John II passed away.

After the death of King John II, his son **Henry III** got the role of the king. King Henry III revised the Magna Carta three times (1216, 1217 and 1225) and finally with full approval the **Final Magna Carta** was declared. And this declaration of Magna Carta was based on the principle '**No taxation without representation**'. Even according to the Magna Carta, the king is not allowed to form the law and tax system on his own. It should be formed through the people's representatives, by a parliament focusing on people's needs and conditions.

The constitutions of many countries, declaration of human rights and amendment of many legal laws are inspired by the liberty and freedom of Magna Carta. Four clauses of Magna Carta are still valid today- 1, 13, 39 and 40. Magna Carta has given a huge contribution to the present time.

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PEOPLE ARE USING THE TERM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WRONG

Sabindra Khadka - X "Tajmahal"

Introduction

The latest buzzword right now is the term "sustainable development". Not a day passes by when we don't hear mention of the term sustainable development. It appears as though a product won't sell in the market if it misses the word sustainable and a project won't get funding if it misses sustainable in its title. Sustainable development has become the favorite keyword for a civilization facing its doom due to climate change, the term has been overused so much so that it has nearly lost its original meaning. A term that coins long term development with wise utilization of resources and quality of life now resonates, as just a marketing campaign for the masses.

History

The first seeds for the emergence of sustainable development were sown in 1972 A.D in the Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm which was one of the first conferences that was honestly committed in discussing environmental issues. The conference also led to the formation of the United Nations Environment program (UNEP) that gave one of the first definitions of sustainable development : " *To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring,*

informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations”.



Image Credit: telegraphindia.com

Likewise, creation of the World Commission on Environment and Development, later known as the Brundtland Commission (named after its chairwoman Gro Harlem Brundtland) provided the world the most notable definition of sustainable development yet, “*sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*”

Further development occurred in the concept as a result of UNECD, the rio declaration and the kyoto protocols, the term had now expanded not only to environmental conservation but to find a long term solution for inclusive long term development based on sustainable resources which doesn't compromise present's needs, similarly the concept also expects equal participation from every part and community of the globe .

The Misinterpretation

People have wrongly interpreted the meaning of sustainable development, the concept that was actually formulated by various organizations working in the field of environmental conservation was actually quite different from what we're hearing today. The concept is presented to us as the final and ultimate step to stop a climate change

apocalypse, but in reality it's not that. It is just a mere concept that is vague in itself and doesn't contain any concrete guidelines which people or countries can follow to stop the threat of climate change.

Taking this misinterpretation to account, companies , countries and even media outlets have tried to fool us by marketing the concept as the only way for lessening the effect of climate change. Climate change is a very serious and sensitive topic and taking a straightforward decision is very hard for any organization, hence we have not been able to find any practical and quick solution to it but twisting the answer for every question to sustainable development isn't right either.

Even if the concept of sustainable development was clear and it contained every little detail of the steps to be taken, it'll still not be just to present it as the one stop solution to every environment related problem as just one answer wouldn't be capable enough to solve the problems of many. Each problem is surrounded by aspects that are unique to it and each problem requires a different answer. So, just one global concept, that too vague, cannot in any way provide us a straightforward answer to climate change.

Conclusion

Thus to escape from this reality and mask everyone from truth, we all have been fed the same pill : Sustainable development will save us from climate change l. The concept that was actually created in order to just present a suggestion for a threat of climate change has now been counterfeited to include a straightforward answer to climate change.

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PANDORA PAPERS; EXPOSING THE SUPREME

Aabha Khatiwada- X "Great Wall"

The contemporary society is filled with corruption and illicit activities with its rates increasing every day. The Pandora papers leak revealed an exceedingly large number of elites and their indulgence in buying real estate, yachts, paintings, arts, and holding other companies, anonymously.



Image Credit: contracorrente.red

What exactly are the Pandora papers?

Pandora paper is a data archive revealed by The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). The leak not only includes political leaders but also business tycoons, billionaires, criminals, celebrities, current and former world leaders, and even the members of the royal family. Individuals counted on the top of the societal chain use tax havens to hide their financial activities. Tax havens are such nations or independent areas where taxes are levied at a low rate.

The 330 political figures and 150 Forbes-listed billionaires have bagged a number of assets keeping their identities a secret. According to OECD (organization for economic cooperation and development), a total of \$11.3 trillion is held "offshore" (to base a business or part of a business in a different country, usually due to

fewer tax rates). As the secrecy and anonymity the offshore system provides, difficulty arises in differentiating the income related to tax evasion and how much of it is registered with the government. The Bahamas, South Dakota, British Virgin Islands, and Belize are currently the most used areas for offshore acts.

In an interview, Gerard Ryle, the director of ICIJ reported that the Pandora papers investigation could be said as the world's largest journalistic collaboration, where 600 journalists from 150 media outlets in 117 countries searched through 12 million different documents from 14 different service providers. Furthermore, he adds that the Pandora paper mostly demonstrates that those individuals who could end the corruption and the offshore system are benefiting from it. Thus there is no incentive for them to end it.

After the shake from the Panama papers in 2016, the Pandora papers investigation helps us run through the perspective on the operation of power and money in the 21st century which links all the names involved in the leak. Similarly, the data that the Pandora paper discloses puts the transparency of democracy and rule of law into question on the basis on which our societies are built.

The consequences after the revelation of this document clearly shows this as one of the largest leaks in history.

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[ICIJ](#)

SYNCHRONICITY

Nhujala Maiya Amatya - X "Pyramid"

"It's just a coincidence".

Ever felt that moment, when you are thinking of someone or somebody and then you saw them or saw something connected to them if yes then that's what is synchronicity.

Synchronicity is an incident that has spiritual significance that asks us to momentarily dampen ourselves. It is simply a meaningful coincidence having no cause. An analytical psychologist Carl Jung first introduced the idea about synchronicity.

We sometimes call synchronicity as God's wink when God wants to let us know if something good is going to occur. Having synchronicity is healthy and even necessary. It is a sign that we are going to have something good or changeable in our near future. What if we say that the things we see are connected and sometimes not just a coincidence. While talking about the geographical history of the earth about 100 millions years ago we had only one continent called "Pangea".

The German meteorologist Alfred Wegener first presented the concept of Pangea along with the first comprehensive theory of continental drift, the idea that continents of the Earth move slowly away from each other.

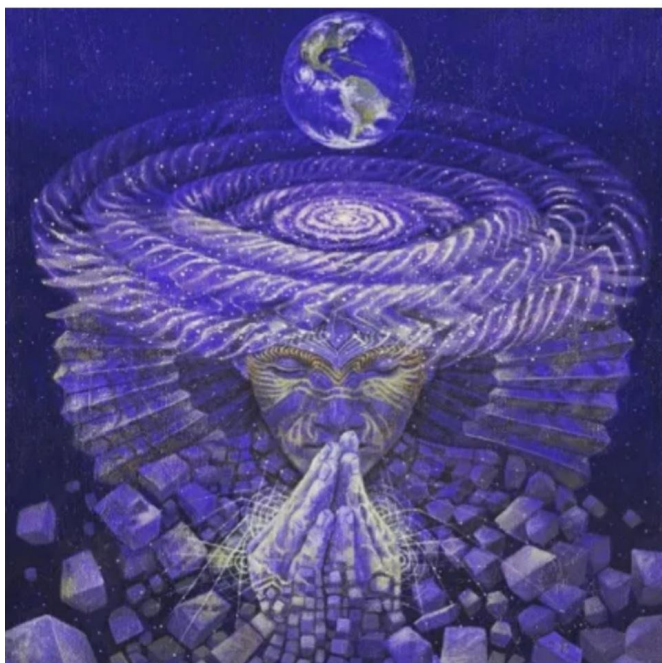


Image Credit: thesyncmovie.com

Many pieces of evidence supported this theory, for example: continents fitting together like puzzles scattering of ancient Fossil rocks or mountains. This all evidence seems to be just like a coincidence but it was a synchronicity. If Alfred Wegener didn't take it seriously would

he not be able to propound this theory. This shows that whatever seems **just like a coincidence** is not it might be a sign about something great.



Image Credit: en.wikipedia.org

"When you are on the right path the universe winks and nods at you from time to time to let you know". Much research has been done on the topic of synchronicity till date. When we experience one we have the meaningful coincidences which mysteriously occur in life.

We see different signs when the incident happens like we see repetitive numbers 111,222,999 or having a perfect timing in some events or running over a thing or a person from time to time and many other signs are seen. Synchronicity takes place like a vibrational beacon that transmits a divine message or coded sign back to you indirecting that you are in an alignment or a right path." Next time you say it's just a coincidence think about it one more time. Maybe a change is waiting for you.

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WHAT IS DYSLEXIA?

Roshi Khadka - X "Great Wall"

In simplest terms, dyslexia is one of the common learning difficulties which generally includes trouble in spelling, pronouncing and reading. For example, people with dyslexia spell

'fren' for 'friend' and have to break down the word like 'information' to 'in-for-ma-tion' while reading. It is a phonological processing problem and has nothing to do with intelligence.

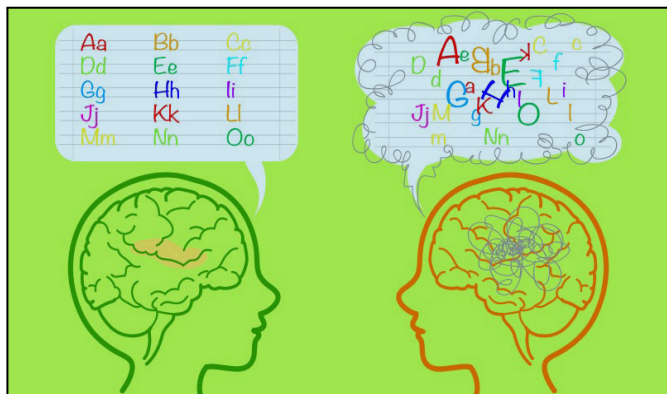


Image Credit: haleyshope.com

Even the smartest persons on earth like Albert Einstein, Leonardo Da Vinci, Stephen Hawking, Pablo Picasso etc were dyslexic. Dyslexia tends to run in families. That means if one of the parents has dyslexia, the child has chances to have dyslexia too. Similarly, if one's sibling has dyslexia, the other sibling might also be dyslexic.

Dyslexia is caused due to the effect on Broca's area of inferior frontal gyrus of our brain. We all may know that our brain is divided into two hemispheres; Right brain and Left brain. Left brain plays its crucial role in analytical thoughts, language, science, logic, math etc. In a similar way, the right brain is responsible for creativity, holistic thought, music, art, intuition etc. Dyslexic people rely more on their right brain and frontal lobe. So, when they try to read a word, the messages take a longer trip in the brain and are delayed on the frontal lobe.

Signs and symptoms of dyslexia are different in different age groups. Children of age 5-12 might be confused over 'b' and 'd', misspelling easy words, difficulty in remembering nursery rhymes etc. The signs and symptoms seen in teens and adults are: slow reading, skipping small words while reading aloud, having trouble remembering small abbreviations even those used in social media like 'idk' for 'I don't

know', struggling to understand jokes and puns etc.

Dyslexic people, especially children should be given emotional and mental support. They should be taught about the ways that can help them in reading and writing. They can use audiobooks for completing their assignments, they can type instead of writing and they can play different kinds of decoding games to enhance their decoding skill.

Lastly, those with dyslexia should not be considered unintellectual. Being dyslexic just means that things work differently for them. They are not abnormal and they can be as smart as those without dyslexia.

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JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE (JWST)

Anukaran Gaire - IX "Janak"

The James Webb Space Telescope is a space telescope that is designed mainly to conduct infrared astronomy. It's by far the largest optical telescope ever made in the area. It includes high infrared decision and sensitivity which allow it to view items too early and remote. It's far anticipated that it will enable a wide variety of studies throughout the fields of astronomy and cosmology like the commentary on the formation of the primary galaxies and the primary stars, and designated atmospheric characterization of doubtlessly liveable exoplanets.

NASA led JWST's development and collaborated with the ECU space agency and the Canadian space business enterprise. The telescope is known after the administrator of NASA from 1961 to 1968 James E. Webb who even worked in the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo packages. The JWST was launched on

an Ariane five rocket from Kourou, French Guiana on 25 December 2021.

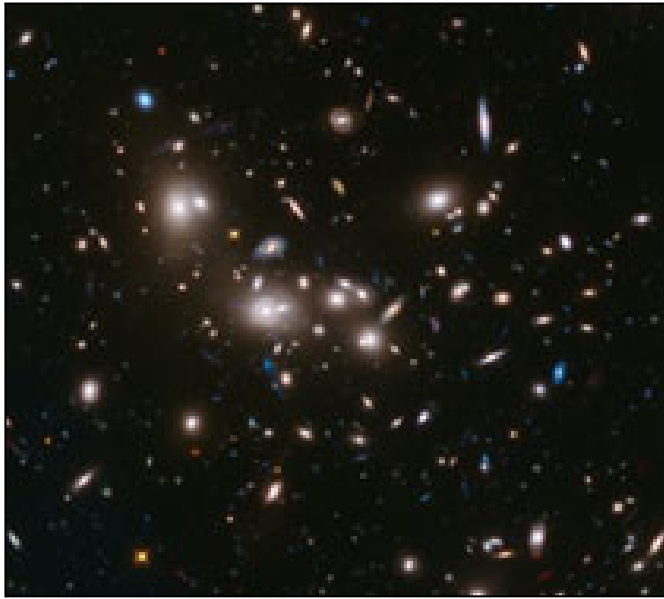


Image Credit: nasa.gov

Its number one mirror is a product of mirror segments 18 hexagonal of gold-plated beryllium and forms a 6.5-meter-diameter (21 feet) replicate.

Telescopes on the ground must look through the atmosphere which is opaque in many infrared bands and even where the atmosphere is transparent, many of the chemical compounds, such as H₂O, CO₂, and NH₃ cause complications in analysis.

From the Sun, JWST can observe any object at an angle of more than 85° in the Solar System and It has an obvious angular rate of motion of fewer than 0.03 arcseconds per second.

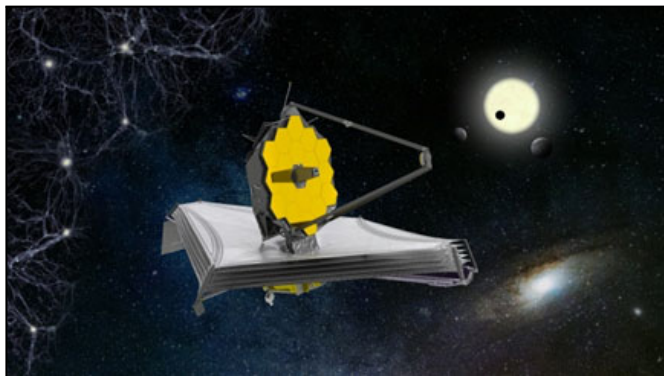


Image Credit: esa.int

It works in a halo orbit, circling a point in space called the Sun-Earth L2 Lagrange point, which is approximately 1,500,000 km beyond Earth's orbit around the Sun. It consists of a large sun

shield that blocks light and heat from different celestial bodies, and its position near the Sun-Earth L2 keeps all bodies on the same side of the spacecraft at all times.

The James Webb Space Telescope has been one of the most expensive NASA projects which required more than 24 years of building and launching and ultimately cost \$9.7 billion.

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WE ARE KILLING THE RAINFOREST, OUR PLANETS LUNGS

Purnika Joshi - IX “Janak”

Climate change and deforestation are two deeply interlinked subjects. One cannot be simply solved by addressing the opposite. Deforestation is the cause of climate change whereas climate change is the byproduct of deforestation. Half of the world's forest is already disappearing and we humans are the cause of it. The rate of destruction of forests is increasing exponentially, whether it is for supporting the industries or to support the increasing population. The destruction of the world's forest is one of the largest sources of carbon pollution in our atmosphere.

We are aware of rainforests being a major tourist attraction. Simply put, Rainforest is an area of tall, mostly evergreen trees that has a high amount of rainfall. These are not just there to be admired for their pretty faces, rather an important aspect to the health of the planet. Despite being the oldest ecosystem of earth, it also helps to maintain the water cycle and the climate of the earth.

Rainforests take in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen that we depend on for our survival. Therefore, they are known to be the lungs of our planet. The raw materials for machines and industries are obtained from the rainforests.

Wood, species, vanilla, cocoa, nuts and various fruit bearing plants can be obtained from rainforests.

We humans are destroying these rainforests in the name of today's development, neglecting its consequences to the future generation. Rainforests covered more than 15% of the globe's surface before the beginning of deforestation. Now, they cover less than 3% of our planet.



Image Credit: coreybradshaw.files.wordpress.com

We are killing these forests for the extraction of oils, mining minerals, commercial agriculture, hydroelectricity projects, collection of fuel woods and infrastructural development. Wars, fires, pollution and hunting are other human activities that are the side effects of development causing the extinction of rainforests. Increasing population expects more land to possess their shelter and invites deforestation progressively.

Another factor for destruction of rainforests is agri-business where a huge amount of land is emptied out for livestock and crops. The owners of these businesses choose rainforest due to its soil fertility and fresh nutritious grasses. Rainforests are usually open access resources or common property for all. Under open access, no business or group has full use of rainforest resources but everyone enjoys access to the resources. People have a mentality of 'If I don't get it, someone else will' and they drain the forests within a snap of a finger.

We have heard about fires occurring in the Amazon forest that turned more than 10000

square kilometers of it into ashes. As the rate of demolition of rainforests increases, the chance of slowing or reversing climate change becomes slimmer. These are to be preserved for our own good. If they are wiped out, the global weather patterns will become much more unstable and extreme. Rainforests are a major part of the earth to maintain its health. We should spread awareness around the globe and take action before it is too late.

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THE ENDANGERED AND THEIR PROTECTION

Shoham Pradhananga - IX "Araniko"

How did life emerge?

It is said that the earth has been around for about a handful of times, 4.5 billion years to be exact. Within the enormous life span of 4.5 billion years, it seems that life took its form around about 4 billion years ago. This fact can be considered true and accurate as a shocking discovery was made in 2013, published in the journal "Astrobiology".

When a set of fossils consisting of microbial mat was discovered in Australia. Even more recently, Scientists in the journal "Nature" reported, to have discovered microfossils in Canada that are said to be 3.77 billion and 4.29 billion years old. This fact is astonishing as it has been predicted that the signs of life were only found as early as 4 billion years ago.

Bacterias, the earliest beings to have ever existed on earth. The earliest bacterias were most likely cyanobacterias that were prokaryotic and autotrophic in nutrition.

Later on, these primitive forms of life evolved into what we see and are today. It is believed that there are a total of 8.7 million species that have been recorded. This is just a fair estimation as the numbers can inflate

significantly. Every now and then, thousands of new species are discovered every year. On average, the earth holds 3-100 million species for us to discover and record in our journals. If we compare this to the 8.7 million members of this biodiversity of today, 86% of land and 91% of marine species are still yet to be uncovered.



Image Credit: futurelearn.com

The extinct and ones to come.

Mother Earth, a home to all, a place for everyone. Seems to be grappling to keep its children under safety and comfort. The primary reason? Us humans. For decades past the industrial revolution, mankind has been giving mother nature her worst. All of these degradations, pollution, invitations to new species under a local ecosystem and fatal diseases. All these issues have created a handful of drawbacks. One of the main complications issued by these actions is extinction.

According to “WWF”, species such as Javan rhino, Amur leopard, Sunda island tiger, Mountain gorillas, Tapanuli orangutans and many more are at the brink of extinction and the list goes on. As recently as 2021, species of Ivory Billed woodpecker, Splendid Poison frog, Smooth handfish, Lake kanao freshwater fish and others have faced the terrible fate due to human interference.

Are we the true problem?

It may seem that we may have caused all of these extinctions but it is the only fraction of the big picture. Even before our existence, extinctions used to happen on a large scale due to natural calamities. Even before all these degradations, species used to go extinct. For instance, during the 19 hundreds, due to spreading of a plague amongst the rats. Two

species of rodents namely - *Rattus macleari* (Maclear's rat) and *Rattus nativitatis* (Bulldog rat) went extinct, never to be seen again. This tragic event is now called “*Rat Endemic to Christmas island*”.

Preventions and Actions taken internationally.

Animals, Wild or Domestic, have always been a part of our lives. So, it is and always will be our responsibility to protect them. In order to accomplish this thoughtful task, we humans have made some policies. During the 17 century, the first known animal legislation was fabricated in 1635. This was passed by Ireland, located in Europe. This legislation was passed, and restricted acts against cattles. As it reads, “*An act against plowing by the tail, and pulling the wool off living sheeps.*”

Similarly, “*The Animal Welfare Act*” 1966 was passed by the parliament of the USA under the presence of *President Lyndon B Jhonson*. This act is taken as the primary federal animal protection law under the USA. Likewise, In 1960

“*Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*” was passed by the parliament of India, being the country's first policy against infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals.

All of these policies and achievements were carried out by nations internationally. Then, what has been Nepal doing all along? Well, Nepal has been able to build a strong grasp over nature and its protection. “*National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*” 1937 A.D (2029 B.S) was enacted by *King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev* himself. During his regime, DNPWC (Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation) was established in 1980 A.D (2037 B.S). At the present time, Nepal contains 12 national parks, 1 wildlife reserve, 1 hunting reserve, 6 conservation areas and 13 buffer zones. All these areas are protected and regulated by the policies. This area hosts protection for species such as *Sus salvanius*, *Ciconia nigra*, *Panthera tigris* and many more.

Nepal has even been able to be an example for other countries as well. The tiger population has increased by 190% since the 2010 “St.Petersburg International Summit.” The summit was held to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of the big cats and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues around the world. Nepal is the first country to publish the survey reports in 2022. Thus, accomplishing the desired task.

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WATER POLLUTION AND MARINE ANIMALS

Amish Dahal - IX “Araniko”

“Dear people with no souls, stop throwing garbage into water”.

Well, one of the main issues of today's world is “marine pollution”. It is rampant in all of globe. Marine pollution is the combination of all the trashes and chemicals that comes from land sources and are washed or blown to sea or any other water resources. It is one of the growing problem of current world.

What are the causes of marine pollution?

Thinking about the causes, it's simply we human beings. We humans, called superior animals, are the main problem to these innocent marine creatures. The garbage we throw, the plastics and chemicals we dispose of, and sewage we mix has resulted in the destruction of the habitat of those gentle creatures. We humans are destroying others' lives to fulfill our need. The main problem is plastic. It is reported that the weight of all the plastic in the world's ocean will weigh more than the fishes in the ocean if the pollution is growing rapidly as now.

What can be the effects?

There is a massive effect of marine pollution on both humans and aquatic life. The garbage and the chemicals thrown has been the main problem for the destruction of aquatic life. And from my point of view, if the pollution continues rapidly as now, it is sure that aquatic life will move into extension and our future generations would be searching for the pictures of those creatures!

Beside this, talking about the plastics, it is the main cause of the pollution and its effect. Plastics we throw are found in the fish itself. Turtles and other marine animals and especially sea birds, mistake plastic as food. It is not digestible of course but it gives animals the sensation of being full so the animals then starve to death.



Image Credit: worldwildlife.org

I heard that, in 2019 a juvenile beaked whale that washed ashore in the Philippines was found to have died from having eaten 100 pounds of plastic bags. So, this issue should be taken seriously by all of us. 1000 marine animals die every year from encountering plastics and chemicals mixed onto water resources.

What can be the solutions?

Both causes and solutions to this problem are we humans. Firstly, various preventive measures should be taken. Throwing garbages, mixing sewage and industrial products should be banned. All of us should work together to clean the water resources. Plastics, the life taker should be banned and use of organic products should be prioritized. In my opinion,

cleanliness campaigns should be organized around the sea, oceans and rivers. Government should take action on it strictly. Everyone should be aware of it.

BEING A POLYGLOT

Bishesh Shrestha - IX “Janak”



Image Credit: gethow.org

A person who can use more than three languages and can normally use them in conversation can be called a polyglot. Learning a language is not just about communicating with people, it's about sharpening your brain. Learning multiple languages at any age develops your brain and for better concentration.

Being a polyglot helps to increase your sensibility and it helps to sharpen your ears. Being a polyglot helps to improve your business opportunities. You will be easily able to communicate with business partners and you won't be limited to doing your business in only one place. Being a polyglot also helps to improve your travel opportunities. If you are a traveler and a polyglot, then you will be the first one to understand the native language of the place and it benefits you to enjoy the trip.

How can you become a polyglot?

1. Learning only one language at a time.
2. Time management :- We must learn time management while learning a new language. It allows you to learn regularly and effectively. You can also incorporate language learning into your daily routine

3. Regular practice is very important and efficient while learning a new language. The more you practice in your targeted language, the better you learn.
4. Study each language the right way
5. There are more efficient methods to learn a language quickly and efficiently. If your study methods and attitude aren't good enough to learn a language, then it will be very difficult to learn several languages.
6. Being clear about why you want to be a polyglot.

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ESPORTS, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUTH

Aayasha Bhattarai - VII “Bhrikuti”

Competitive video gaming has become a million-dollar industry. The rise of esports is indisputable; gaming culture has become the new pop culture. Esports is gaining popularity in the public eye. It is an industry built with passion and dedication. Esports is the perfect opportunity for someone passionate about adopting a gaming career.

Esports allows capitalizing on a favorite hobby. So, Most youths are choosing esports as a career option. Many esports tournaments are being held daily. It can provide a fantastic opportunity for youth to participate and engage with their peers in brand new ways that highlights teamwork. Because of the rapid growth of esports, they have a fantastic opportunity for career options. Professional gaming is not the only career option in esports; there are many other options like an esports event manager, esports observer, production manager and many more.

Anyone who starts playing esports can get something out of it. It gives opportunities to connect with people worldwide and be friends

with them. Youths can learn and grow through esports by joining gaming communities worldwide.



Image Credit: pinterest.com

Many youths get sponsored by esports companies. Winning an esports championship is easy, money and fame. More significant competitions have millions of dollars as cash prizes. It provides a platform for youths to show their talent.

Kyle 'Bugha' Giersdorf, 16, won the \$3 million grand prize at the Fortnite World Cup solo final in New York City, which is the "largest-ever payout for a single player in an esports tournament."

Most people have a huge misconception about esports. They think of esports as a bad hobby. The most common misconception about gaming is that you are just sitting around doing nothing, wasting your life when you could be doing some other hobby that's more productive. On the contrary, gamers, ironically, are usually the doers of society, held back by the limitations of what we cannot do. Most adults think that video games are the tool of demons to corrupt the mind. They believe that games will rot your brain and that you can't make a career out of video games. They also think it will give us violent tendencies, and we will learn nothing from them. So, parents don't allow their children to pursue gaming careers, and that's why many youths cannot adapt to a gaming career.

Esports provides a luxurious lifestyle. Most competitive players are provided with a boot camp. Team S8UL is one of India's most

successful teams in the eSports scenario. S8UL Bootcamp is one of the richest eSports facilities. Lastly, esports allows people to show their passion and talent.

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EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SPEAKING

Riya Suwal - IX "Janak"

Some time ago, I went up to the stage to present 'the theory of the parallel universe'. The anchor announced my name out loud and hundreds of people put their hands together to welcome me on the stage. As I was given the mic I stopped breathing for a moment, my vision went blurry and my words were slurring. I wanted to hurriedly finish my speech and leave the stage, because before they realized I drew a picture of me being a laughing stock in my mind.

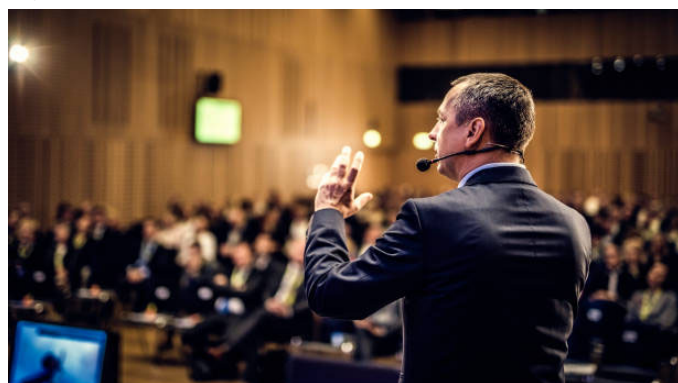


Image Credit: istockphoto.com

The feeling of fear made my speech sound imprecise. Nobody knew what I was talking about, in fact, they were even unsure about what the topic of my presentation was."

The topic I was presenting on and the content written inside it was engaging. Still, because of the lack of my confidence to speak in front of everybody, no one acknowledged those facts and they also didn't acknowledge my skills.

Thinking of that time I regret if I had developed public speaking skills back then my words would have been counted as significant ones.

- Watch and learn from others
- Believe in yourself and consider your mistakes

What is public speaking?

Public speaking can be referred to as the skill to be able to speak in front of a huge mass of people. This skill is one of the most important skills to succeed in any sector, which might include business, medical, arts, law, or other options. Public speaking skill is a must, to find success for the present generation.

I hope this page of words encourages you to develop public speaking skills and believe in your words. Not all individuals share a common way to solve problems. Experiment with yourself to pave your way to beautiful destinations and cross the limits.

Why do we need to develop this skill?

Public speaking is a necessary skill that everyone eventually needs to develop. Because with the development of this skill we can influence the public or make the slightest change in anyone's mind. When we can speak in front of the masses we can share positive ideas which lead to positive change in society. You can motivate or influence someone to work harder and help them feel the best feeling of their life, which is the feeling of success.

Not only for the welfare of society but this skill is also equally important in your own personal and professional development. The development of this skill is the development of quality within ourselves to present our ideas in front of others. Concerning the skill with professional development, it helps to make a better team with good coordination as we are skilled enough to share the plans. In the same way, we can also attract many people as we learn to speak in front of the mass.

How do we develop this skill?

Though essential, many of us lack this skill. Everyone has their way to develop a skill. The following things can be practiced by ourselves in the beginning to improve our speaking:

- Rehearse speaking inside the four walls
- Write the content on a piece of paper beforehand
- Try to participate in as many programs and presentations arranged, even the ones arranged within the classes