TheHimalayan

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work — Thomas Edison

Smart lockdown

Although the government has been inoculating annit-COVID-19 vaccines for different age groups across the country, the infection and death rates have remained constant since the outbreak of the second wave of the coronavirus in the second week of April. On average, 25 people are duping of the virus every day, and the gap between the number of infections and the second wave for any and the gap has gone up to more than 31,000, with the fatality are remaining steady at 1.5 per cent, the major concern for the health authorities. The Ministry of Health and Population and World Health Organisation (WHO) have warned of a hird wave of the virus, or delta variant, which is anticipated to be more fatal than the second wave, and tirs likely to strike the country in mid-Spetember, when the entire country will be observing various festivals such as Teej and Janai Purnima. Should the third wave breaks out, it will kill more people than the second one did in three months compared to the first one that lasted for over one year.

Even if the hind wave breaks out, it is not possible to re-impose another nationwide lockdown or select nomic condition that has rendered millions of people jobless. Therefore, the COVID-19 Crisis Management Centre (CCMC), an apex government body formed to take decisions the eligible population

The government should accord the highest priority to rolling out vaccines to the eligible population of the proposal to categorise the condition of the hird wave breaks out, it is not possible to re-impose another decisions of the decisions of the second one decisions of the second one of the first ordinary various decisions of the decisions of the proposal t

availability of hospitals, doctors, ventilators and oth er medical supplements, death rate and other fac

availability of inospirilas, doctors, common availability of the common activities in the urban and nural areas. This smart lock-down without affecting the economic activities in the urban and nural areas. This smart lockdown will not creat unnecessary panic among the people with one comparatively safe, especially those who have at ready taken the first or second doses of vaccines. Are advantaged to the considered safe even if the infection rate continues to remain unchanged. The next CCMC meeting, chaired by the Prime Minister, will take a final call on the detailed modality of the smart lockdown. So far, at least 5 per cent of the total population, especially the elderly, has already taken the first and the second doses of the vaccines. However, COVID-19 cases are gradually surging in the eastern part of the country. Considering all these facts, the CCMC's proposal to introduce a smart lockdown can be justified. Still, the government should also find a way out of reopening the educational institutes as the prolonged lockdown as severely hampered the academic calendar.

Act responsibly

ACL responsiony

With a new coalition government under Premier
Wher Bahadur Deuho of the Nepali Congress at
the helm of affairs, it surprises no one that fresh appointments are being made to gove the properties of the
pointments are being made to gove the properties of the
pointments are being made to gove the properties of the
pointments are being made have been fruitally practised
since multi-party democracy was ushered in the
country in 1990. However, with about a dozen goverruments having assumed power in the past three
decades, such frequent appointments of heads do
little for the growth of institutions. It is against this
backforp that a delegation of five student unions
met the PM the other day demanding an end to the
culture of appointing university office bearers on the
basis on power sharing.

They were quite right in asserting that appointments be made through open competition based on
competency, efficiency and expertise. These criteria
apart, all appointments should be for a fixed period
so that the appointees have enough time to implement their plan of action. The politically-affiliates
student unions should, however, understand that
they are equally responsible for the frequent disturbances in the colleges and deteriorating quality of
education in the country.

education in the country

Deluge in Nepal and India

Need of micro initiatives

JIBA RAJ POKHAREL

News about sweeping floods both in Nepal and India has dominated newspaper headlines in both the countries. Floods and landslides have resulted in the demise of many innocent people in neighbouring India and Nepal so regularly every vear so regularly every year that they have been some-thing of a deja vu in either country.

If we take the case of In-

If we take the case of India in far off Maharashtra, 100 persons have already lost their lives due to the over pouring of rain to the tune of 594 millimeters over a few days of time. An equal number of people have perished in nearby Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in the deluge.

This scenario in Nepal is more distressing. Some 332 more distressing. Some 332

This scenario in Nepal is more distressing, Some 322 events of flood, landslide and heavy rainfall have occurred over a month, between June 11 and July 15, 2021, resulting in the departure to the heavenly abode of 28, 26 and 7 individuals, totaling 61 persons, to this disaster trinity. A fleeting glance at last year will reveal that a total of 478 people loss their precious of the control of t

India has poured in an stronomical amount of re-

disasters from occurring in India and Nepal. The con-struction of the Koshi Bar-rage is one glaring example

struction of the Koshi Bar-rage is one glaring example. Despite this, the number of flood events has been climbing up over the years. India and Nepal had agreed to build the Sapta Koshi high dam with the twin purposes of prevent-ing disasters and generat-ing the much-needed hy-dro power. However, this project has not made the desirable

However, this project has not made the desirable headway for fear of drowning several settlements on the river banks. Such macro projects have alarming environmental consequences, leading to the progress of such projects at a snails pace or not at all. In such situations, the micro, rather than the macro, indigenous practices can sometimes provide the much-needed solution. Chanakya, in fourth century BC, preached about the

what was called the Gad-dha khodo, or dig the ditch

programme, for recharging the ground water in India. Now it has been used feverishly for constructing the comfort rooms to give a filipip to the Swaccha Bharat campaign of India. Ponds not only reduce the likelihood of floods, but they also lessen the landslide risks due to the curtailment of the tremendous

ture and rise of humidity, which have been so irritatingly regular after floods and landslides in Nepal. More comforting is the taming of the pollution monster, which merrily follows the footprint of wildfires.

The presence of ponds contributes to the lush green landscape, confining

Micro, indigenous practices can sometimes provide the much-needed solution to preventing natural disasters. Chanakya, in 4th century BC, preached about the use of ponds in the cities to prevent flash floods, douse fires and the like. This practice was emulated in both India and Nepal in the digging of large ponds as seen in Jaipur, India or Janakpur in Nepal

speed by which the rain water gushes to the low-land from the mountain highlands. Consequently, the Three Gorges Dam of China has been relieved of sediments due to the presence of myriad ponds instream

upstream.

The presence of ponds also diminishes the likelihood of wildfires due to the decrease in the tempera-

the wild animals to the pethe wild animals to the periphery of the forests. Light-ning which otherwise would strike settlements, resulting in the deaths of many, gets diverted to the surrounding moist forests with tall trees.

The digging of such

with tall trees.

The digging of such ponds does not involve rocket science. It can be carried out by people with modest skills, like green

turfing and digging, giving them the much needed employment. The cost of one pond comes to well less than Rs 5,000.

ss tnan ks 5,000. The multi-headed disas The multi-headed disasters can be tamed with the digging of 0.5 per cent of the land area in the country from the mountains down to the Tarai, which comes to construction of about one square kilometers of ponds by each local government of Nepal. This is far less than the Almighty reating 70 per cent of May Tarain and the Almighty reating 70 per cent of May Tarain and Tara creating 70 per cent of wa-ter body and 30 per cent of land mass while scripting the mother earth. These ponds can be maintained

the mother earth. These ponds can be maintained every year by digging a few feet of accumulated sediments, which work as excellent fertiliser.

The sustainability of the ponds as a panacea to the disaster problems were first recognised by the Rotary Club of Thamel which initiated the digging of 10 ponds in Bahun Ihora, ward No. 3 of Bardibas Municipality in Mahottari district of Nepal in collaboration with the Nepal Centre for Disaster Management, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Forest Consumer Community Development and Promotion.

Further digging of 90 ponds is beginning soon this week in a bid to hit a

noble maiden century. The government has also allocated financial resourc-es for the digging of ponds in the mountains in the in the mountains in the budget this year, which needs to be mobilised soon instead of unnecessarily freezing it as it happens regularly in the country. But the government and non-government organisa-tions like the Rotary Club alone cannot accomplish such a Herculean task. All other institutions

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should join hands in this noble task to say good bye to uninvited guests like dis-asters forever.

to uninvited guests like dis-saters forever.

This initiative should also be supported by India in view of innumerable charitable activities it has launched in the past be-cause the storage of water in the hills leads to lesser floods and sedimentation flow to India.

This activity will also en-hance the unparalleled people-to-people relations existing between the two countries, which otherwise get unfortunetely eclipsed at the solution of the con-traction of the con-pages of the con-pages of the con-pages of the con-pages of the con-bentiage of the con-bentiage of the con-bentiage of the con-pages of the con-pages of the con-bentiage of the con-pages of the con-bentiage of the con-bentiage of the con-pages of the con-bentiage of the con-bentiage of the con-pages of the con-pages of the con-traction of

Chancellor, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology

· THT 10 YEARS AGO Finance minister, secy

guilty of leaking budget

Himalayan News Service

·TOPICS

Writing, a never-ending journey

SHIVA NEUPANE

The craft of writing develop The craft of writing develops L with our ritualistic writing habit. As a writer, I have never stuck to any rule book for en-hancing my linguistic caliber. When I was a schoolboy, I used to think that I had to follow writing skills could be devel-oped. As a young boy I hap-pened to be the victim of confu-sion for the most part. However, the process of enlightenment slowly came when I truly be-

the process of enigntenment slowly came when I truly believed in what I was doing.

In the past, every time I went through a newspaper, I would go back to see the marvellous etymological structures of the sentences. I used to question myself why I couldn't write like

Bond markets

IONATHAN GROSVENOR

Mailst the pandemic has rocked populations was and health systems, it has also prompted unprecedented economic challenges and strains on financial systems, particularly in the developing world. Fortunately, central banks and finance ministries were prepared for remote working, having embraced vigorous business continuity plans, even though such arrangements were generally anticipated for short-term interruptions only.

The initial shock of the pandemic manifested in a flight to quality from investors, which eventually spilled over into a flight to cash as liquidity concerns grew. This meant that investors sold their emerging markets bonds and equities as they scrambled for safe-haven assets and even for hard cash as the worst fears materalized. For eign exchange rates are a reliable barometer of investigation of the seven the second of the seven that they are also the seven that they are also they are also the seven that they are also they

· BLOG SURF

them. I was envious of people who had great writing skills. The mounting intellectual lealousy ushered me onto the

jealousy ushered me onto the writing journey.

I started reading many articles written by extraordinary columnists of various newspapers, such as the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and the list goes on. I was, however, worried that reading only those articles published by a few media outlets would limit my infinite possibility of understanding the process in which

my innite possibility of under-standing the process in which writing takes place. To my mind, the process of writing begins with passion, commitment, perseverance, in-spiration and dedication. Writ-ing can be formed much in the same way that an ocean is

formed from the tributaries, rivers and creeks of the world. A person who wants to become a writer must have many qualities and interests. These can be acquired by being in an environment where a reading culture is prevalent. For example, a person can go to a library to pick up a book of his liking.

One thing that tickles my fancy is the quote by legendary author Stephen King: "Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a

separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work."
Well, some colleagues underestimate their classmates, thinking that they are a dunce with no reading or writing skills. In my view, we should not be making fun of people even if

FOOD SECURITY

they do not have the skills you have. School life might not nec-essarily project the potential that one has in life.

that one has in life.
We have seen many exam-ples of people who were once considered to be dim-witted in school becoming phenomenal successes in the later phase of life. One of the nicest things of becoming successful in one's writing career is that a person can hone his or her writing skills without having to acquire a university degree.
We have seen many authors

We have seen many authors in the world who have achieved great success in their life at an early age. In a nutshell, a true writer puts a hell lot of efforts to become one. The practice of writing should be incessant and persistent.

Himalayan News Service
Kathmandu, July 31, 2011

Aparliamentary probe panel has found
Mohan Adhikari and Finance Secretary
Krishna Hari Baskota guilty in the leakage of fiscal budget. The seven-member
panel, headed by Nepali Congress Chief
Whip Laxman Prasad Ghimire, today
submitted its report to Constituent AsHowever, details of the report are yet to
be made public as it could not be presented at udday's session due to NC's ongoing obstruction of the House. "Political
and administrative heads of the Finance
Ministry were found responsible for the
leakage," a member of the panel said on
condition of anonymity. The report has
not suggested any action against the
guilty. The panel member added: "Finnance ministers in UK and Kenya had resigned after the budget contents leaked.
So, resignation of Adhikari on moral
ground can be the remedy." The entire
contents of the budget were leaked one
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dither through the entire try's website or
the persons involved in drafting the
the budget. "The contents were uploaded on
the ministry's website for two hours on
July 14. Although it was not open to public, a person having good knowledge of
computers could access the document,"
the report said. Finance Secretary Baskota took moral responsibility for the incident, while Minister Adhikari told the
committee that he would speak on it only
after the full report comes out.

Dahal committed to five-point deal

Himalayan News Service Kathmandu, July 31, 2011

Amid uncertainty over reshuffling of the Cabinet, press conferences called Ain Cabinet, press conferences called by Maoist Chairman Pushpa Ramal Dahal and Prime Minister Ihala Nath Khalal in the span of two hours may not have been a mere coincidence. Sources claimed that Prime Minister Khanal and Dahal had forged an understanding to organise the press conferences—Dahal to express commitment to peace, constitution and implementation of five-point deal and Khanal about the reshuffle. Addressing the mess, meet at narty headdressing the press meet at party head-quarters in Paris Danda, Dahal said his party would begin discussion with other parties to implement the five-point agreement and formation of a consensus agreement and formation of a consensus government as some of the new ministers were moducted. He reiterated that the reshuffle was rehimble that the reshuffle was rehimble to the properties of the reshuffle was rehimble to the properties of the reshuffle was rehimble to the properties of the reshuffle was rehimble to the reshuffle was rehimble to the reshuffle that the reshuffle was rehimble to the rehimble that the reshuffle was rehimble to reiterate party's committeent to peace, constitution and five-point deal. He, however, said the party would take a concrete decision if PM failed to induct new ministers by Monday; adding that withdrawal of party's support could be one option. Janardan Sharma said his party would take concrete steps on the peace process.

·LETTERS

Advice and Olympics

I could not believe my eyes when I read this sage advice to Nepal from his lawmaker "Nepal advised to turn down an offer to co-chair UML" ('IHT, July 29, Page I). My instant reaction was that an alien spirit might have possessed the lawmaker who advised Madhav Kumar Nepal to back a rival camp so who advised Madhav Kumar Nepal to back a rival camp so that its president would live the rest of the 18 months comfortably as the prime minister. I had to read the news several times to believe what I read. Although not an apt example, it is just like Labour lawmakers asking their leader to support a Tory prime minister to consolidate the latter's position. Nothing could be ridiculous than



this in politics. This advice this in politics. This advice could have been put by an al-ien in a Nepali mouth. Whatev-er, Nepal will become a pendu-lum. The Red Cross Society has warned Nepal has yet to vacci-nate 1.4 million people "Red Cross calls for vaccination sup-port to the most vulnerable"

(THT, July 30, Page 2). Does Nepal not know the vaccina Nepal not know the vaccina-tion status? Does it need a re-minder? What about 300 mil-lion destitute in the neigh-bourhood? Nobody seems to worry about them. Meanwhile Nepal must prepare for the 3020 Olympics earnestly. An

to-year-ou tan fund i mbasa, the fountain of 2011 Arab spring, has created history by winning the gold in a swimany with the state of t Manohar Shrestha

Third wave

Nowadays, the COVID-19 graph is soaring, and people are worried about the future. The government has relaxed the prohibitory orders to ease daily life. With the relaxation of

have been free as they do not care about the health proto-cols. Vaccine rollout has been slow to cover the entire coun-try, especially in the rural area where the new variant of the virus has also been reported. virus has also been reported. Some of the villages are reported to have sealed their localities to prevent the virus from spreading in other villages. The Ministry of Health and Population has warned of a third wave, which is expected to be more lethal than the second wave. Then, why doesn't the government think of a stern lockdown and making vargovernment think of a stern lockdown and making vac-cines available to all who are eligible for it? The governmen must procure vaccines to brea the chain of the third wave of the virus instead of spreading fear in the media. Vaccine roll-

the prohibitory orders, people have been free as they do not

out in the country is so in-tractable. I got a single shot of the Vero cell vaccine, but I have not received the vaccine regis-tration card yet. How can we say that the first vaccine drive was properly managed? The government is still dillydallying proposed in the part of the country of the country of the government is still dillydallying the manifest of the country of the cou government is still (dillydallying in procuring vaccines from dif-ferent nations. It is largely de-pending on donations, which is taking time to arrive. People are also getting confused about whether it is safe to get the first jab of Vero Cell and the second jab of Covishield. The Health Ministry should make it clear.

Letters to this column should be addressed to Letters Clo Edit Page Editor, The Himalayan Times, Post Box 11651, APCA House, Baidya Khana Road, Kathmandu, Nepal email: edit@thehimalayantimes.com, Fax 0977-1-4771959