



The Viewpoints

Newsletter of the Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America

No.27

Bimonthly

October, 1988

HAPPY VIJAYA DASHAMI

ANMA wishes peace, prosperity, and happiness
to the Nepalese community in North America

OPEN INVITATION TO CELEBRATE VIJAYA DASHAMI

ANMA will celebrate Vijaya Dashami in Bowling Green, Ohio on Saturday, October 22, 1988. Mohan and Vijaya Shrestha, and Nirakar and Pat Thakur will be the local hosts for this auspicious occasion. You are cordially invited to join us in the celebration.

The program for the day is as follows:

- 3:00 P.M. -- The celebration begins.
- 5:00 P.M. -- Puja, Dashara Sloka, Tika
- 7:00 P.M. -- Dinner
- 8:30 P.M. -- Cultural Program

Donation: \$10 per adult
Children (12 and under) free.

Please note that the celebration begins at 3:00 P.M. (The meeting hall will be available to us from 2:00 P.M.). A direction to the meeting hall is printed in the attached sheet.

For those of you who plan to stay overnight in Bowling Green, please make your reservations by calling the motels listed in the attached sheet.

If you plan to join us at the celebration, please return the following form or call The Shresthas or The Thakurs as soon as possible (The Shresthas: 419-352-5984; The Thakurs: 419-385-0543).

-----Cut along this line-----
Name _____ Telephone _____

How many in the party _____ (Adults _____ Children _____)

Please mail to: Mohan and Vijaya Shrestha, 625 Lafayette, Bowling Green,
Ohio 43402

ANMA RELIEF FUND

ANMA thanks the following individuals and families who have contributed to the ANMA Relief Fund in response to our request for donations to help the earthquake-stricken people of Nepal, as published in the Special Issue of "The Viewpoints" dated August 27, 1988.

Drs. Gita N. Vaidya and Teresita Go, Gladstone, Michigan	-- -- \$500
Dr. Dhana D. Shrestha, Bay City, Michigan	-- -- \$200
Dr. Jagdishwar Devkota, Columbia, Missouri	-- -- \$125
Dr. Dhan K. Chettri, Sri Sathya Sai Foundation of Mid America, Belleville, Illinois	-- -- \$100
Dibya Hada, President, America-Nepal Society of New York, Jamaica, New York	-- -- \$100
Dinesh and Indira Koirala, West Bloomfield, Michigan	-- -- \$100
Rajendra and Misa Shrestha, Orlando, Florida	-- -- \$100
Ashok and Prativa Pandey, Watertown, MA	-- -- \$100
Tilak B. Shrestha, Orlando, Florida	-- -- \$ 51
Bajarang L. Agrawal, Glendale, Arizona	-- -- \$ 50
Kanhaiya and Milly Das, Saginaw, Michigan	-- -- \$ 50
Ramesh Manma, Storrs, Connecticut	-- -- \$ 50
Prahlad and Bindu Pant, Cincinnati, Ohio	-- -- \$ 50
Ramesh Pant, Andover, MA	-- -- \$ 50
Geeta Rai, Santa Ana, California	-- -- \$ 50
Raj and Mahesh Rathi, Cincinnati, OH and Detroit, MI	-- -- \$ 50
Khim Sharma, Cincinnati, Ohio	-- -- \$ 50
Tshering W. Sherpa, Manchester, Indiana	-- -- \$ 50
Baburam Adhikari, Jacksonville, Florida	-- -- \$ 25
Gina and Mahesh Thakur, W. Henrietta, New York	-- -- \$ 25
Manoj Shahi, Cambridge, Mass.	-- -- \$ 15
Narayan Tamrakar, San Pedro, California	-- -- \$ 15

Total (as of October 8, 1988) -- \$1,906

We want all of you to know how much we appreciate your generosity in helping the people of Nepal. We will keep you informed of the relief activities in the future issues of "The Viewpoints".

We are still accepting donations. If you misplaced or missed our previous request, you may send your donations to the following address:

Jagdishwar Devkota
Treasurer, ANMA
3212 Shore Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

The latest earthquake-related news from Nepal is published in page 5 - 6.

Send Season's Greetings Through "The Viewpoints"

The next issue of "The Viewpoints" will be printed and mailed before Christmas. We encourage you to send greetings to your friends, relatives, and the Nepalese community in North America through "The Viewpoints".

Please place an advertisement in "The Viewpoints". Your contribution will go directly to "The Viewpoints Fund". Please contact Dr. Dinesh Koirala or Dr. Jagdishwar Devkota as soon as possible. The deadline for receiving advertisements, news, and articles for publication in the December, 1988 issue of "The Viewpoints" is November 15, 1988.

MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR SAINJU

The newly appointed Royal Nepalese Ambassador Dr. Mohan Man Sainju has presented his credential to the President of the United States on September 19, 1988. Recently, the Editor of "The Viewpoints", Dr. Prahlad D. Pant, received a cordial letter from Dr. Sainju. The letter is being reproduced below since it is of interest to all members of ANMA.

Dear Dr. Pant:

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the nice words of welcome in The Viewpoints, the newsletter of the Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America. I enjoyed reading the August issue #25 of The Viewpoints and hope the quality and the coverage will not only be maintained but would enhance in the months to come. My best wishes are with you all.

Also allow me to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to all the Nepalese residing in Midwest America on the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Dashami, 2045 B.S.

Last but not the least, let me assure you of a pleasant and mutually rewarding relationship between ANMA and the Royal Nepalese Embassy in the U.S.

Yours sincerely,

signed
(Dr. Mohan Man Sainju)

**Greetings To All Fellow Nepalese
in
America And All Over The World**

From: Devkota Family
in U.S.A.

Dr. Jagdishwar Devkota
Amal, Tarak, Dahlia, Suzanne,
Ishwar, Kamala, Lalitya, Additya,
Baivab, Bijaya,
Sambhu Acharya, Neru and Sahaja,
Bimal & family, Padam.

PLEASE SUPPORT "THE VIEWPOINTS"

"The Viewpoints" is a bimonthly newsletter of the Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA).

The December, 1988 issue of "The Viewpoints" will be printed and mailed before Christmas.

Would you be interested in sponsoring the December issue or sending greetings to your friends, relatives, or the Nepalese community through "The Viewpoints"?

Please complete the following information and return it to Dr. Dinesh Koirala or Dr. Jagdishwar Devkota no later than November 15, 1988. Your contribution will go directly to "The Viewpoints Fund".

Name	Interested in (check one)			
	Sponsoring	Sending greetings		
	\$50	1/4 Page (\$25)	1/2 page (\$50)	Full Page (\$100)

If sending greetings, please write your message below. (Attach a separate page, if necessary).

Please return the form no later than November 15, 1988 to one of the following:

Dr. Dinesh Koirala
7302 Birchwood Trail
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
Phone: 313-471-3029

Dr. Jagdishwar Devkota
3212 Shore Drive
Columbia, MO 65203
Phone: 314-443-2149

NEWS FROM NEPALThe August 21 Earthquake

Latest statistics about the earthquake casualties as disclosed by the Government are as follows: Dead: 713, Seriously injured: 238, and Injured: 363. (Rising Nepal, September 5).

By September 15, donations to the Central Earthquake Relief and Rehabilitation Fund established by His Majesty's Government of Nepal had reached the sum of Rs. 78.2 million. (Gorkhapatra, September 16). The United States Government donated Rs. 595,000 to the above-mentioned fund and Rs. 2.38 million to the Special Disaster Relief Fund established by the United Nations in response to His Majesty's Government's appeal for international relief assistance. In addition, the U.S. government provided some medical supplies and 650,000 square feet of heavy duty plastic sheeting for use in constructing emergency shelters. (Rising Nepal, August 28). The Canadian Government donated Rs 2.4 million to the Central Earthquake Relief and Rehabilitation Fund, and Rs 1.9 million to the U.N. Special Disaster Relief Fund. In addition, donations have been received from many foreign sources including the governments of Japan, Australia, India, Pakistan, Singapore, Bangladesh, Maldives, Bhutan, Finland, United Kingdom and Red Cross Societies of Netherlands, Spain, Britain, Canada, Finland, Australia and the United Nations Development Program. Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha has said that "any relief activity must be carried out with the approval of and in coordination with the District Natural Disaster Relief Committee so as to maintain law and order and avoid duplication and partiality. (Rising Nepal, September 6). Earlier, the Central

Happy Vijaya Dashami
To The Nepalese Community
In the U.S. and Canada

The Koirala Family

Dinesh, Indira

Reena, and Anup

West Bloomfield, Michigan

Disaster Relief Committee had announced that it had made arrangements through its district units for the payment of Rs 2,000 to each bereaved family and Rs 1,000 to each family which had been rendered homeless. It had also decided to supply 40 kg (64 pounds) of rice to each affected family. (Gorkhapatra, September 4).

Meanwhile, there were complaints that people who did not receive government approval were being prohibited from extending cooperation in the earthquake relief operations. Several students were reported to have been arrested and later released.

The Matribhumi Weekly (September 13) reported, "On September 8, the Department of Information took nine journalists on a tour of the earthquake-affected areas of Udayapur, Dharan, and Biratnagar. The journalists found that there had been bungling in the relief operations. In particular, the victims were not getting financial aid and supplies in the quantities promised by the Government.

In Dharan the British Colonel of the British Gurkha Camp complained: "The Regional Relief Team did not accept the supplies offered by us, nor did it permit us to distribute the supplies ourselves." The Assistant Home Minister who is also Chief of the Regional Relief Team based in Biratnagar, explained, "Some shovels, picks, and blankets had been offered, but we returned them on the ground that they must be distributed through the government."

Mother Teresa arrived in Kathmandu on August 25 with approximately 200 kg of relief supplies for the earthquake victims. However, she was unable to visit Dharan, since no helicopter was available and she was not fit enough to travel by road. Nor was she allowed to visit Bhaktapur, on the ground that the situation there was not normal. (Nepali, August 29). Her petition for a royal audience was also said to have been ignored. (Dainik Siddartha, August 31).

Former National Panchayat Member Murdered

On August 26, the National Panchayat was informed that Karna Prasad Hyoju, a former member of the National Panchayat, had been attacked by a crowd while distributing relief supplies to earthquake victims in Bhaktapur on August 25. Hyoju was rushed to Bir Hospital in Kathmandu where he died. (Gorkhapatra, August 27)

On September 6, the Minister of State for Home disclosed that National Panchayat member Govind Duwal, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Bhaktapur Town Panchayat, and several other persons had been taken into custody. Four officers including the Chief District Officer and Deputy Superintendent of Police had been suspended. (Rising Nepal, September 7)

The government subsequently dissolved the Bhaktapur Town Panchayat and formed a 19-member committee headed by Dinesh Shrestha to discharge its functions. (Gorkhapatra, September 9).

State of the Economy

On September 5, the Finance Minister, Bharat Bahadur Pradhan, made an attempt to explain why according to the 1988 World Bank Development Report Nepal's position had been shown to have dropped from the seventh to the second among the poorest nations of the world. He said, "Between 1985 and 1986, Nepal's per capita income dropped from 160 dollars to 150 dollars. The World Bank report is based on the 1986 figure. But since then the economy has been moving in the right direction, thanks to the Structural Adjustment Program and other measures." The Finance Minister gave assurance that the 1990 report of the World Bank would present a more improved picture. (Rising Nepal, September 6).

China Arms to Nepal

Nepal has for the first time officially admitted it has purchased arms from China.

Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha told the Rastriya Panchayat last week that necessary defense equipment and instruments for improving the efficiency of the Royal Nepal Army had been coming from "friendly countries."

"Light anti-aircraft equipment of general use was procured this year from China as in the past," he said. "The development of a sense of security among the people is the primary concern for each nation, and the necessary work for strengthening the defense forces is going on as suggested by the Rastriya Panchayat members." (India Abroad, New York, September 16)

Other News From Nepal

----- On August 14, Bhim Prasad Gauchan was expelled from membership of the Rastriya Panchayat. Recently the Central Regional Court had sentenced Gauchan to imprisonment for 12 years on the charge of conspiring to assassinate Padma Thakurathi. (Gorkhapatra, August 15).

----- National Panchayat Member Umesh Jung Thapa called off his hungerstrike on August 12 after receiving a royal audience. He had started the hungerstrike on July 31 demanding higher salaries for low-grade employees. (Samaj, August 14)

----- The Government raised the pay-scales of government employees by 23.5 percent at the lowest level and 25.8 percent at the highest level. A peon would thus get Rs 640 a month and a Special Class Officer Rs. 3,985. (Gorkhapatra, July 18)

In Other News

A tripartite agreement on the northeastern hill resort of Darjeeling, India was signed in Calcutta on August 22 by the West Bengal Government, the Gurkha National Liberation Front, and the Central Government of India. The agreement facilitates the formation of an autonomous hill council that will control tourism, the mainstay of the hill economy, education, agriculture, transport, and small industry. GNLFF Leader Subash Ghising has said that he is satisfied with the powers devolved to the proposed council.

There are 600,000 Nepalese-speaking people in Darjeeling, constituting 95 percent of the inhabitants. The agreement ends a 30-month bloody uprising for an independent Gurkha homeland. The first election to the hill council would be held by December 15. (From India Abroad, New York, September 9).

Nepalese Associations: Where Are We Going?

(Part 7)

More than a year ago, "The Viewpoints" initiated a "debate" on the organization, structure, and activities of Nepalese associations in the United States. Consequently, Nepalese culture emerged as an additional item for the "debate".

"The Viewpoints" will continue to provide a common forum for free expression of ideas on important topics concerning the Nepalese community in this continent. Please contact the Editor if you wish to receive a copy of the previous articles in this series.

We invite you to send your views on these topics for publication in the December, 1988 issue of "The Viewpoints". Please send your responses to the Editor by November 15, 1988.

Editor

Dr. Jagdishwar Devkota's Views:

Brain-Drained or Brain-Trained?

It is quite a natural instinct to long for a progressive environment over the unfavorable one, to prosper oneself and one's posterities. Can this

instinct be called unnatural and preventable? As dictated by individual circumstances, every one must seek better living and opportunity and move diligently towards its fulfillment which we call "prosperity". Is it a waste, drain, or selfishness? The monotonous slogan of "brain drain" is an old fashioned and morse jargon. Let us leave it behind and refashion it as "brain train". Are we successful in training our brain? This is a big question mark and we have to rethink in terms of recent mobilization of bright and promising young people.

It is a centuries old phenomenon of influx of people of all walks of profession to this country, initially from Europe, then followed dominantly by Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In developing countries only program that has succeeded is the education which is in disproportion to the industrial and economic growth. Due to this disparity, the educated people migrate to the land of freedom and opportunity. Nepal is no exception. Even in ancient days our forefathers went to various countries in search of better earning and education. They brought wealth and contributed to the betterment of the family and in turn to the country. Several of them did not return, so did not contribute anything. A simple mathematics of plus and minus always prevailed.

The difference between the old and new trend is the level of education and skill. At present the bright and successful ones have left the country. If a person forgets his country of birth and its plight and confines himself in a cloak of selfishness, then it is a real loss and drain from the country. In turn, if he remembers his or her past and tries to help his fellow countrymen, relatives or others, he has fulfilled his obligation and has trained his brain. How many of us have forgotten and many of us have trained our brain for the betterment of our motherland? You owe to yourself to think in a positive way and train your brain to look back.

You do not have to be in the country to serve or to show your patriotism. You do not have to touch to express your love; it can be done far from seven seas and thousands of air miles.

Perhaps most of us have been helping our country directly or indirectly, consciously or unconsciously. To enumerate a few points:

1. Economical Growth: Somehow, over the years we might be contributing in the economic growth of the country. This can be done in several ways: (a) sending gifts, money and any substantial valuables to your relatives or friends; (b) by helping to educate your relatives etc; (c) by your visit to the country and spending the hard currencies. Even a positive attitude and concern may contribute in the betterment of the nation.

2. Helping At Times Of Great Needs: Recently we had a natural disaster. It needs a lot of help of every type to bring back the disrupted life of the people. Who should help? Every penny counts if we have enough to count. We have to train our brain to open our generosity for the sake of the unfortunate ones. We must come out of the cloak of selfishness and help whatever we can. If every Nepali contributes a small amount, it can make a great impact. Dear fellow Nepalese, forget not your country, especially when there is a call for your help and attention.

3. Sponsoring Scholarship: We could contribute a small amount for this purpose and start scholarships in Nepalese schools and universities. A small amount

here can be translated to a big one over there. Why not we be active in this direction?

4. Visiting Professorship: Here and there, we have several talented and skillful Nepalese; they can act as visiting professors or consultants.

5. Cultural Visits: A group of top notch Nepalese artists may visit U.S.A. under the sponsorship of Nepalese in America. Not only this will be a goodwill or cultural dissemination but can turn into a profitable venture.

6. Human Rights Issue: U.S.A. is a champion of human rights. Any undue violation of human rights can be brought into the limelight and tried to correct the problems. A combination of peace loving country with good human rights can serve as a model country for the embattled world.

7. Political Influence: It is possible to serve the country better from overseas. Several Nepalese are politically and economically influential in this country. They can convince their elected officials to help Nepal in different ways. Perhaps a group of us should start working in this direction.

8. Guidance Tour of Nepal and so on.

Perhaps some of you may discard it as unrealistic or waste of time. But we must think in this line. If you have other ideas and want to start working, let me know.

At times we have to be a dreamer. Some of you had never dreamed of coming to this country and creating your influence. Had you ever in your wildest dream? Let me know your reactions in "The Viewpoints". Let me know how much you have trained your "brain".

Jagdishwar Devkota, M.D.
Columbia, MO

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The Viewpoints

"The Viewpoints" is published bimonthly by the Association of the Nepalese in Midwest America. The Editorial Committee consists of:

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1005 S. Elmwood, Oak Park, Illinois 60304
Telephone: 312-383-7761

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If your address has changed, or if you like to have your name listed in the Directory of Nepalese in the U.S., please inform us of your address by mailing this form to ANMA, c/o Sharda Thapa, 655 W. Irving Park #4215, Chicago, Il. 60613

Name -----

New Address-----

New telephone -----

If undelivered, please return to:
Jagdishwar Devkota
3212 Shore Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

