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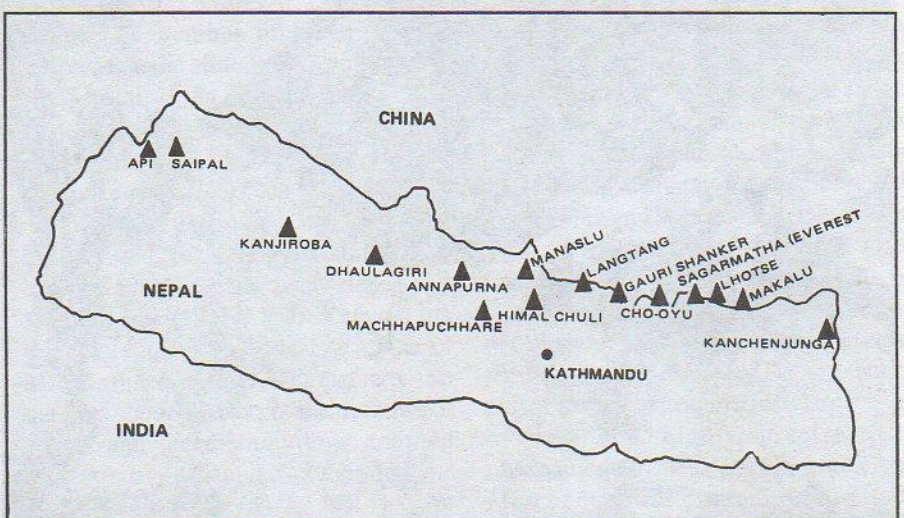
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Mt. Everest Gains Height

Buddhi Narayan Shrestha



Mountaineers and expeditionars might have a kind of lure to conquer the high mountains, still higher and the highest top of the world. But all the mountain climbers are not as Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary nor George Mallory and Andrew Irvine. In the same way, every expeditionist is not in the position of Ang Rita Sherpa and Appa Sherpa who have conquered the Everest ten times without and with oxygen. Neither all the mountain mongers will be as Babuchhirie Sherpa who stayed at the top of Everest for 21 hours nor the fast man as Kaji Sherpa who spent 20 hours and 24 minutes on the summit. Besides, there are some more examples that reached at the summit with the Nepali national dress and local Sherpa costume as well. In such a fashion, competition is going on among the expeditionars to be the youngest, even in feminine gender and disabled community. Mount Everest, the highest point of the earth is still gaining its height to challenge the mountaineers of different corners of the globe to break the previous records of their own nation and the world on duration, number of successful attempts and even to establish new records on new events and items further more.

Height Grows By Two Meters:

Everest, the world's tallest peak has grown by two meters as 8,850 meters since its altitude was fixed at 8,848 m in 1954. The Director of the Millennium Expedition to Everest, Dr. Bradford Washburn has presented this new measurement to the National Geographic Society Washington DC, during the 87th council meeting of American Alpine Club. Dr. Washburn had conducted an extensive and important surveying and research works for more than seven years on and around Everest. He claims that Everest is gaining its height every year and it is also moving steadily to north-east direction at a rate of 3 to 6 millimeter a year because of a geological activity, that is Indian sub-continent is being pushed underneath the Himalayas. With this result, one may know that the highest peak of the world is growing and moving with its vertical as well as horizontal motions.

The Nepalese people will be happy because Everest is the national pride for the Nepalese and it is located in Nepal. But a cautious Nepali feels pinching and embarrassing when the controversy of the height occurs in the foreign soil and often by unauthorized people. However they have not hesitated to confess that Everest is still the highest mountain in the world. On top of that, Director of the Millennium Expedition to Everest Dr. Washburn has settled and made an end of the height controversy at the tail end of the current Millennium. He has recently announced the new height after the final calculation and necessary corrections with processing of satellite data captured and recorded through the Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver. In this context, National Geographic has made a commitment that they will revise their future publication of maps and globes with the new elevation.



Survey of India Measurements:

If we have a look on the history of measurements of Everest's position and altitude, it was firstly determined 145 years ago by the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India as the highest peak of the earth. Observations were made from a distance of 176 kilometers to Everest during 1849-50 with a triangulation survey method to know the heights of various peaks of Himalayan range. By that time all those peaks were having no particular names, and the surveyors marked it with Roman figures and Peak-XV was allocated to the Everest. After the calculation of the surveyed data, they found the Peak-XV had the highest altitude with 8,840 meters (+- 3 meters) and it was announced in 1855 as the highest mountain in the world. This highest Peak-XV was found out by the effort of British period Surveyor General of India Col. Sir George Everest, Indian Surveyor Radha Nath Sikandar and Nepali Corporal Tej Bir Budhathokey.

The Royal Geographical Society, London named the Peak-XV as "*Mount Everest*" in 1865 in honour of the British Surveyor General to India, during whose leadership the survey of India was largely carried out. Laureate historian Baburam Aacharya named it as "*Sagarmatha*" in 1956 and the Nepalese people know it with this name. Generally the word 'sagar' denotes as heaven or sky and 'matha' as head. In Chinese language

it is known as "*Qomolangma*" which means the supremacy of the goddess in Tibetan legend.

Survey of India made further observation of Sagarmatha in 1880-83 and 1902 from the hills near Darjeeling, still 144 kilometer away. These yielded an altitude of 8,882 meters. And in 1953-56 another team brought a new survey work deeply into Nepal in connection with the preparation of 1 inch to a mile Topographical Mapping of the kingdom of Nepal by Survey of India. Vertical angles to Sagarmatha were observed from points that were not only much nearer to the peak than ever before, but also much higher as 4,505 meters above sea level. One of these stations was only 48 km from Sagarmatha. Corrections of geoid, deflection and refraction were made to find out the actual height. With all these calculations, Survey of India announced new altitude of Sagarmatha as 8,848 meter in 1954 and it was the officially accepted height. The result of this extra-ordinary work was published in detail in B.L. Gulatee's special publication "The Height of Mt. Everest."

Chinese Measurement:

China, the other neighbour of Nepal put a metallic survey beacon at the top of Sagarmatha in 1975 and observed it from 9 stations, all from north in Tibet. They also carried out sufficient astronomical and gravimetrical measurements for reliable determination. The final result of the determination of height was declared as 8,848.13 meter (+- 0.35 m), the same as Survey of India result of 1954 from the south. Nepal and rest of the world recognized this height as 8,848 meter as authentic and official.

Wallerstein's Measurement

In the mean time Prof. Dr. George Wallerstein, an astronomer at the University of Washington, Seattle stunned mountaineers and geologists on 7 March 1987 publishing in the magazine, New York Times that Mount Godwin Austin or Mount K-2 of Pakistan is taller than Sagarmatha by 11 meters. But he was much criticized by so many researchers and they were eager to know Dr. Wallerstein's surveying methodology, techniques and the equipment that were used during the survey.

Italian Measurements:

In the mean time a team of Milan University of Italy under the leadership of Prof. Ardito Desio made surveys on Mt. K-2 and Sagarmatha involving a new survey method, GPS in the summer of 1987. The main objective of this survey was to establish whether K-2 was in fact higher than Sagarmatha. After the completion of survey works, Italians published a report on 20 October 1988 mentioning that the orthometric height of Sagarmatha and K-2 have been resulted as 8,872 and 8,616 meters respectively. They confirmed that Sagarmatha is still 256 m higher than K-2. They also mentioned that they might formulate a programme in future to carry on more researches on Sagarmatha area.

After the publication of Italian report, Dr. Wallerstein made a press release that the batteries for his satellite radio receiver went dead before he could repeat the measurement to check its discrepancies, and no attempt was made to summit Mt. Sagarmatha to the same type of survey. He apologized that it was premature to be calling K-2 the world's highest mountain.

Again some news were circulated on national and international newspapers regarding the altitude of Mt. Sagarmatha as it has gone down by 2.03 m. It was said that the new height is determined by a team of Prof. Desio as it was measured during September 1992 with the help of satellite and laser technology both in Nepal and Tibet. The reliability of this surveying was +- 3 centimeters and there is no doubt Sagarmatha to be still the highest peak in the world and the second highest is Mt. K-2 as 8,611 m above the sea level. But the technical reason of getting down the altitude of Sagarmatha was not published for general public. However Prof. Desio had published a report in 1988 named "*Which is the highest mountain in the world?*" and it was mentioned that the rate of upliftment of Sagarmatha is much greater in comparison to K-2.

Prof. Giorgio Poretti, a prominent member of Desio's team referred that the altitude of Sagarmatha is 8.845.54 m, being 2.59 m lowered. He made this statement while presenting a paper "*How high are the highest peaks of the Himalayan chain?*" on 10 March 1999 during Third National Conference on Science and Technology conducted by Royal Nepal Academy for Science and Technology (RONAST). During his presentation, this scribe and an officer of Mines and Geology Department put querries about the facts of the decrease of height and the methodology adopted during survey. But he concluded his answer with the words, he was sorry to say that the height of Sagarmatha has gone down and it is not possible to explain all these things during this short presentation.

Washburn's Aerial Photography & Mapping:

Regarding the altitude of world's highest peak, it is relevant to mention Dr. Washburn's research work. He has been engaged in mapping, surveying, study and research of Mt. Sagarmatha area with the permission of Nepal. He took the vertical aerial photographs of Sagarmatha-Khumbu area on 22 December 1984 covering an area of 980 Square kilometers with the permission from both Nepal and China. China granted the formal permission on 20 November 1981 and from Nepal on 28 February 1984. He prepared excellent map of Sagarmatha area with photogrammetric technique. This map was published with the National Geographic Magazine in November 1988 issue. Eleven million subscribers of the magazine were able to read the new map. In the mean time Dr. Washburn presented the master copy of the map to His Majesty Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev on 3 October 1988 and the other copy to the Prime Minister next day. Besides, he provided 1,000 copies of map to Nepal Survey Department with no cost. The mountaineer and trekkers are using this map as well.

Washburn's Measurement:

After completing the aerial photography and mapping works, he started to study on the height of Sagarmatha. He measured the slope distance of Sagarmatha from Namche GPS station with Electronic Distance Measuring (EDM) equipment putting laser prism on the top. He did it with the collaboration of a Nepalese surveyor with the permission obtained on 12 May 1992. Besides, a team of surveyors of the department had carried out the observations of vertical and horizontal angles to Sagarmatha, Nuptse, Lhotse and Amadablam peaks from Namche points of Sagarmatha National Park area for Washburn. The team also provided the data of astronomical observations with temperature and barometric height to him.

In 1991 an experienced team under Prof. Dr. Roger Bilham of Geophysics Department of the University of Colorado, Boulder and working in close harmony with the Survey Department of Nepal, as well as China made a large series of new and highly precise GPS observations in Nepal, India and Tibet. Most of these observations were to study

the crustal deformation of Indian sub-continent and to expand and strengthen the geodetic network of Nepal survey department. Also it was to check the positions and altitudes of already established survey stations in Nepal and to relate them all back to Nepal's fundamental station at Nagarkot. However, Bilham's team also occupied at five brand new stations at Lukla, Namche, Syangboche, Pheriche and Kala Patthar. The following year when Bilham was in Kathmandu, the new Director General of Survey of Nepal expressed interest on measurements. So Bilham and Washburn were compelled to seek another Nepalese agency to continue the GPS observations with a view not to obstruct the speed of research and developmental activities in South Asian countries, with the pace of time.

So Bhumichitra Mapping Company carried out further GPS observations for Washburn at Namche, Syangboche, Lukla and Upper Rauje stations with the Theodolite observations and vertical of deflections during 1993-94. But with an appointment of another new head of department of Survey, measurements were re-started by Bilham's team with the collaboration of the department also in Sagarmatha area. In such a way, a new system of well-marked GPS survey points were established surrounding Mt. Sagarmatha formally related to one another. In continuation, GPS measurements were carried out in 1997 by the expeditionars on South Col. of Sagarmatha for Washburn. Finally, American expedition team leader Pete Athans, Crowse and five Sherpa mountaineers spent nearly two hours at the top to record the satellite data in the computerized GPS radio receiver on 5 May 1999 for Washburn. The receiver used time signals from United States NAVSTAR Satellites to calculate the exact co-ordinates of latitude, longitude and altitude of Sagarmatha.

Dr. Washburn has obtained the actual height of Mt. Sagarmatha after the study of the data received from global positioning system measurements with calculations and necessary corrections of geoid, deflection of vertical, refraction and gravitational measurements. He also studied and compared the new data to the old Survey of India, established by B.L. Gulatee. With the final computational result of all these data and study, Dr. Washburn declared the new altitude of Sagarmatha as 8,850 meters on 11 November 1999.

This new height is presented to and recognized by the National Geographic Society, a world-renowned institution of its own. It has made easy to accept formally the new height of Sagarmatha as 8,850 m to those individual, community, organization and nations of the world who have interest on the highest mountain of the globe.

Whether Nepal Has To Accept The New Height !

It is natural and usual for the Nepalese to be aware of the height of Mt. Sagarmatha because it is situated in Nepal. But there might be a quarry whether Nepal has to accept the new height or not! It seems to be an obligatory to adopt the new altitude also by Nepal because of the fact that the study/research was conducted with the permission of Nepal in one way and the Nepalese surveyors were included during the field survey in another sense. If the announcement of the new height of Sagarmatha might have taken place in Nepal and National Geographic at a time on the same day, it would have been much better in the Nepalese point of view. But it did not happen and it may be taken as an accident.

Is Nepal Capable to Measure The Height ?

There may be a next question, whether Nepalese technical experts are capable to conduct study/research by themselves to determine the authoritative and official altitude. In reply, there are technicians and experts in Nepal related to that subject. But it is a matter of government policy whether concerned departments should fix the priority to conduct such research and study programmes. The decision making authorities must be clear themselves, whether they must launch economic development projects to raise the purchasing power of the general people of Nepal or to initiate the research projects like this to measure and determine the height of Sagarmatha. But we don't have to forget that visitors from different parts of the world come to Nepal as mountaineers to climb Sagarmatha, as trekkers to trek to Khumbu area and as visitors to have a look on the panoramic view of the Himalayas, specially the Mt. Sagarmatha. Tourists come to Nepal also because of Sagarmatha that is located in this part of the world. It has helped indirectly to increase the financial capability of some sections of the Nepalese people and the government.

So far as the study and research on the altitude of Sagarmatha by the Nepalese themselves are concerned, it is related to different organizations of Nepal. This is a multi-disciplinary research work and it has close concern with the Department of Surveys, Mines and Geology, Hydrology, RONAST, National Science & Technology Council, International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal Surveyor Society, Nepal Geological Association, and Nepal Engineering Association, so many as to name it. It could have been beneficial in the national point of view, if there is an integrated Nepalese group to study on all aspects of Sagarmatha, including the height, glaciology and geology. If it could be happened, the Nepalese integrated group could fix official height of Mt. Sagarmatha, foreign agency would not venture to utter its altitude, whatever and however they think. Some of the foreign organizations and individual used to make propaganda and often as sometimes the height of Sagarmatha has gone down and in the mean time, the other institution publishes that the altitude has grown up. But the work to determine the height of Sagarmatha by the Nepalese themselves, is related as everybody's work and everybody's work is regarded as nobody's work in Nepal. However determination of the height of Sagarmatha is based on scientific research. It is a subject matter to be proved by science, after the collection of data, its processing, analysis and generalization. There is no point to be depressed if someone says, the altitude of Sagarmatha has gone down. In the same way it's not necessary to be overwhelmingly joyous, if it has really gained its height in some extent. But if scientific fact and mathematical calculations prove it, it has to be realized and accepted accordingly by all whether it is gaining or loosing its height. Sagarmatha is not an object to loose hundreds of meters of altitude overnight, nor it's a fussy thing to swell up in a season.

Scientists believe that Himalaya was formed millions of years ago due to continental drift and collision of Indian plate with Euro-Asian Tibetan plateau. Current of viscous rocks plunges deep into earth's mantle, dragging India and southern Tibet towards each other and both of them northward. The result is that each year India approaches Tibet by two centimeters, causing the intervening rocks

to be squeezed horizontally and upward. The Himalayas was the result of this collision and this process is still continued. With this effect, the altitude of the Himalayan young fold mountains, including Mt. Sagarmatha is rising.

Nepal Could Announce Revised Altitude Next Time In New Millennium:

Whatever it is but the most important thing is that Nepalese scientists and technical experts must start such type of research and study works with their own. Research institution should be established in the Nepalese soil either with their own resources or with the assistance of friendly countries. Research and development ultimately help for the upliftment of the nation. The findings of the result of scientific research work must be published at first in Nepal because the peak of Mt. Sagarmatha is located into the kingdom of Nepal and ours is the land of Sagarmatha. But we will be in a discomfort circumstance, if we could neither determine the final result of the height of Sagarmatha by ourselves nor accept and adopt the new result announced by other countries of the world. However if we are silent for many days, people may feel that 'silence is the acceptance.'

For the time being, it seems to be more likely to accept the latest and new height by Nepal as well, provided we are satisfied and convinced with the technology and methodology used by the researcher. As the scientist of the world believe that mountain building process of the Himalayan range is being continued and Sagarmatha is gaining its height and it is being pushed slightly to the north-eastern direction. Let us hope, may the Nepalese experts announce still new and revised height of Sagarmatha next time formally and officially from the Nepalese soil in the the new Millennium.

Sport Himalaya Year- 2001

A proposal for "Sport Himalaya Year- 2001" has been submitted to HMG with an objective to promote tourism through sports, encourage sports through tourism, boost the Nepalese morale and develop the country through sport tourism.

The year 2001 has been chosen because it provides one year of time for preparation as 2000 is too early and 2002 too late states a press release by Karna Shakya. The event is proposed to cash in on the spirit of VNY '98, SAF and SAARC before they cool down. The press release also states that the focus is on sports because it is a highly paying business and provides worldwide publicity. The plan has also kept in mind the growing demand for adventure sports in exotic countries.

Sport Himalaya 2001 will promote the value of traditional and ethnic games as well as conduct local, national, regional and international conventional sport tournaments and develop new products of adventure and extreme sports in Nepal. To cash in the global spirit of nature conservation, the norms of Eco-tourism will be adopted and the sub theme "Impact less Explore more" has also been incorporated.

Caravan to boost Nepal

The recently released film Caravan directed by famous French Director Eric Valli could expose Nepalese cinema in the international market and could promote tourism to Nepal by attracting the outside world.

"This film could be the beginning of Nepal's exposure to the international film market. After watching the film, people will be curious to see the majestic mountains and the spectacular scenes," Executive Producer Jean de Tregomain told the press at a function recently.

'Caravan a joint venture of Nepal, France, England, Germany and Switzerland was made at a cost of 6 million USD. The film is shot entirely in Dolpa, one of the remote districts of north-west Nepal. It is the fruit of a friendship that was struck between Valli and Thilen Lhondup (Tinle), the protagonist, nearly twenty years ago when Ville was shooting. "Honey Hunter" for which he was awarded the 'Gorkha Dakshinbahu.'

The film in Dolpali with English subtitles has a simple story line. It is a story about Tinale, an old chieftain who at his sons unexplained death while leading the Caravans back from Tibet resumes leading. The Caravans to prevent any other family from assuming power.

The film captures the poignancy of life and its hardship in Dolpa. It is the story of the people who lead caravans of Yaks to Tibet to bring salt and exchange it for other goods. The film captures the traditional life of people in the Himalayas and the conflict within different groups, deep ignorance of the outside world and superstition and their own ways of interpreting the system of things. The film depicts the struggle for power, a fight between the old order and the new generation.

The film is rich in cinematography which captures the panoramic images, music and human struggle of man against nature in the rugged mountains.

The film entirely shot in Nepal with all Nepalese characters and in the regional dialect is already attracting huge crowds in Switzerland where it has been released and at the Toronto film festival. Caravan is also proposed for Oscar nomination for cinematography and if nominated could be the first movie which will depict Nepal in the history of the Oscar Awards.

Trans Himalaya 2000

Trans Himalaya 2000, an international adventure sports event, is to be held in Nepal in April-May 2000.

The competitive event, the first of its kind to be held in this country, is being organised by Raid Gauloises, a French company, in collaboration with the Nepalese government. Sevently teams from the countries all over the world, with five contestants including at least one woman each, will participate in the mega outdoor sports event of the new millennium lasting from six to ten days.

The event will be kicked off in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and will end in the Terai plains in the historical town in Janakpur of Nepal. The event is expected to promote the image of Nepal as an attractive tourism destination in the international arena.

Prominent television companies of the world will broadcast the event. Over 50 foreign sport journalists will cover the competition in the field. The satellite transmission signals of the event will be picked up by different national and international TV networks, private cable networks, news agencies and internet sites, according to the organisers.

It is the tenth in the series of the adventure sports event organised every year by Raid Gauloises since 1989. The 2000 event will spend one day and one night in Tibet and the rest of the time will be spent in Nepal. The participants will have to cross the set distance exercising various modes of adventure on the way and the skill in navigation.

Highlighting the significance of the event, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Bijay Kumar Gachchhadar said. 'The event is definitely going to contribute towards our endeavours in promoting international tourism. We appreciate Raid Gauloises Organisation for this international event in the beginning of the new millennium.

Natural Tourism Products of Nepal

- Hari Prasad Shrestha

One of the most important and crucial part of tourism is the tourism product. Thus, for the successful development of tourism properly in the country, it is necessary to give adequate attention towards tourism products. It is the products which motivates tourists to visit and see certain things in certain destination. The attractions are those elements in the tourist product which determine the choice of tourist to visit one destination rather than another (Singh, Vol. II, 1994: 99). There may be different types of products for the tourists like site attractions, built attractions, event attractions etc. . Site attractions are those where the place itself is the major inducement to the tourists to visit such as Niagara Falls, the Swiss Alps, the Himalayas etc., Built attractions are those which are made by the effort of man such as Disney Land of USA, Pyramids of Egypt, Taj Mahal of India, the Great Wall of China, the Eiffel Tower of France and so on and the event attractions are those where the event staged is a larger factor in the tourists' choice than the site e.g. the Olympic Games, Fashion Shows or Exhibitions (Singh, Vol II. 1994: 99). Since interest and tastes of tourists vary, they might choose from a wide range of attractions available at various destinations all over the world (Bhatia, 1994: 39). Peter (1969) has given an inventory of the various products which are of significance. Peter has classified the attractions in five categories, as shown in the following table :

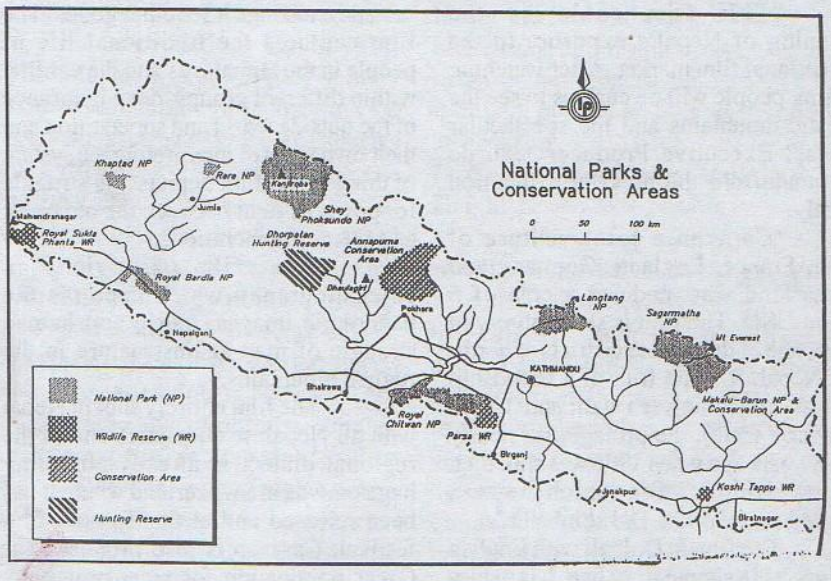


Table No 1

Peter's Inventory of Tourist Products (Attractions)

1 Cultural	Sites and areas of archaeological interest; Historical buildings and monuments; Places of historical significance; Muse ums, Modern culture; Political and educational institutions; Religious institutions.
2 Traditions	National festivals; Arts and handicrafts; Music; Folk lore; Native life and customs.
3 Scenic	National Parks; Wildlife; Flora and fauna; Beach resorts; Mountain resorts.
4 Entertainment	Participation and viewing sports; Amuse ment and recreation parks; Zoos and Oceonariums; Cinemas and theatres; Night life, Cuisine.
5 Other attractions	Climate; Health resorts or spas; Unique attractions not available elsewhere.

There are so many products which attract tourists. One of the most prominent tourism products is natural resources which potentially is the biggest attraction motivating tourists to go to a particular destination. Generally, eachcountry of the world possesses varying natural attractions. Natural attractions resulting from climatic, physical and ecologial features are more prominent and widespread in Nepal. Natural beauties of Nepal are unique in kind than those of other countries in the world. Some of the natural wealths which attract the tourists are discussed hereunder.

Ecological Resources

Nepal is rich in ecological resources. Ecologically, Nepal is divided into three regions, (a) The Mountain Region (b) The Hill Region (c) The Terai or Plain Region, running east to west and all those regions have their own touristic attraction and products which are capable of alluring visitors of different taste and segments.

The Mountain or Himalaya

The Mountains are the main focal point for the foreign visitors. Nepal, which is famous as a country of Himalayas in the world has many high, beautiful and attractive mountains. The Mountain region lies at an altitude varying from 4877 meters to 8848 meters above the sea level. The world's highest peak Mt. Everest *(Sagarmatha)* 8848 meter high, is situated in this Mountain region of Nepal. Out of thirty-one mountain peaks over 7600 meters, twenty-two lie in Nepal. Furthermore, among the fourteen snow-topped mountains over 8000 meters in height in the world, eight are located in Nepal (DOT, 1991: 5).

Table No 2

14 Highest Peaks in the World

S. No.	Name of Mountain	Height in Mtr.	Range	Location	Country
1	Everest	8848	Mahalangur	Sagarmatha Zone	Nepal
2	Karakoram(K2)	8760	Great Kara Koram	Baltoro Mustagh	Pakistan
3	Kanchenjunga	8586	Kumbhakarna	Mechi Zone	Nepal
4	Lhotse	8516	Mahalangur	Sagarmatha	Nepal
5	Makalu	8463	Mahalangur	Koshi Zone	Nepal
6	Cho-Oyu	8201	Mahalangur	Sagarmatha	Nepal
7	Dhaulagiri	8167	Annapurna	Dhaulagiri Zone	Nepal
8	Manaslu	8163	Annapurna	Gandaki Zone	Nepal
9	Nanga Parbat	8125	Punjab Himalaya	Himanchal Kashmir	India
10	Annapurna	8091	Annapurna	Gandaki Zone	Nepal
11	Gasher Brum I	8068	Great Kara Koram	Baltoro Mustgh	Pakistan
12	Broad Peak	8047	Great Kara Koram	Baltoro Mustgh	Pakistan
13	Gasher Brum II	8035	Great Kara Koram	Baltoro Mustgh	Pakistan
14	Shisha Pangma	8013			China

Source: The World Almanac 1999 and Department of Tourism, HMG/Nepal.

The mountains of Nepal are the main source of

attraction for many tourists, trekkers and mountaineers. Apart from the height , Nepal possesses some of the most beautiful peaks in the world viz. Machhapuchhre, Ama Dablam etc., Alongwith, the glaciers, falls, lakes and topography make the natural scenario exotic, gorgeous and enchanting. Alongwith the high mountains, the hilly middle region too presents unique topography, enchanting views with their landscape, gorges, natural vegetations and valleys. Nepal's topography provides opportunities for sightseeing, trekking and mountaineering and Nepal is a world leader in the latter. Such attractions are generally preferred by top end visitors and, hence, Nepal possesses potentialities for attracting high spending visitors.

River System

Nepal is rich in river systems and water resources is an important natural resource of the country. There are many rivers, lakes and ponds in Nepal. The rivers of Nepal run in north-south direction corresponding to the southward slope of the geographical layout of the country. Nepal has three main river systems, namely, the Koshi river in the east, the Gandaki river in the central and the Karnali in the west. Among them, Koshi is the greatest river and the Karnali is the longest. Besides, there are also some other important rivers like, Mechi, Bagmati, Kamala, Rapti and Babai, etc., (DOT, 1991: 9).

Nepal has many majestic lakes which are considered highly important from the touristic view point and religious perspective as well. The famous lakes located in the high Himalayas are Rara Tal in Mugu, Phoksundo Tal in Dolpa, Tilicho in Manang, Gosain Kunda in Rasuwa etc., The Phewatal, Rupatal and Begnastal in Pokhara, Khaptad Tal in Doti, Satyavati Tal in Palpa and Surma Sarowar in Bajhang are also equally famous lakes located in mid hills while Bis Hazari Tal in Chitwan and Barakune Tal in Dang represents the better known lakes of the Terai region.

There are many glaciers, rivers of snow, in the Himalayan region of Nepal. Khumbu is the biggest glacier while Langtang is the longest one. Khumbu, Langtang, Kanchanjanga, Yalung, Nupchu, Dhaulagiri, Lamtang etc., are better known glaciers of country.

In a country like Nepal, river rafting, journeying on the river on rubber boats, is one of the best ways to explore a typical cross section of the country's natural as well as ethno-cultural heritage. A variety of cultural activities can be witnessed being performed along the river. The adjoining slopes of the river often harbour dense vegetation's interesting wildlife. Several varieties of fishes also abound in the Nepalese rivers (DOT, 1998). These are some of the major attractions for nature loving trekkers and mountaineers.

Flora and Fauna

Forest is another major natural resource which has tremendous potential to attract many people of world. Flora and fauna both are rich and varied in Nepalese forests due to altitudinal and climatic variance. Extreme bio-diversity is noticed and vegetation types range from alpine to tropical nature making Nepal extremely rich in biological and genetic resources indicating its potentiality as a major tourist attraction.

The geographic, climatic and vegetational diversity of Nepal has made it the home of many species of mammals and birds. There are many beautiful and rare wildlife and birds available in different places of the country. Many species of wildlife that roam in the low land forest include tigers, leopards, bears, deer, wild elephants, wild buffaloes, one horned rhinoceros, etc., while muskdeer, snowleopard, red pandas, Himalayan black bear, jackals, langurs and notable animals in the high land Himalayas.

Table No. 3
National Parks, Wildlife Reserves and Conservation Areas of Nepal

S.N.	Name	Area (Sq. Km.)	Established	Location
1	Royal Chitwan National Park	932	1973	Inner Terai
2	Royal Bardia National Park	968	1988	Eastern Terai
3	Sagarmatha National Park	1148	1976	Eastern Himalayas
4	Langtang National Park	1710	1976	Central Himalayas
5	Shey Phoksundo National Park	3555	1984	Western Nepal
6	Rara National Park	106	1976	Western Himalayas
7	Khaptad National Park	225	1984	Far-western Hills
8	Makalu-Barun National Park	1500	1991	Eastern Himalys
9	Royal Sukla Wildlife Reserve	155	1976	Far-western Terai
10	Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve	175	1976	Eastern Terai
11	Parsa Wildlife Reserve	499	1984	Central Terai
12	Shivapuri Watershed and Wildlife Reserve	144	1976	Central Hills
13	Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve	1325	1988	Western Himalayas
14	Annapurna Conservation Area	2660	1986	Western Himalayas
15	Makalu-Barun Conservation Area	830	1991	Eastern Himalayas

Source: Department of National Parks, , and Wildlife Conservation HMG/N

Moreover, Nepal is a sanctuary of numerous species of birds, insects, fishes, reptiles and amphibians. Nepal has 170 species of mammals, among them thirty species are large mammals, 859 species of birds, 180 species of fishes, 56 species reptiles (40 snakes and 16 lizards) and 34 species amphibians. There are 600 species of butterflies available in Nepal. The Danphey bird (Inpeyanus Lopophorous) is regarded as the country's national bird and the cow is the sacred national animal. In fact, considering these all, Nepal has long been famous as a paradise of naturalists. His Majesty's Government of Nepal has launched different conservation programmes to preserve the wildlife and forests. There are 8 National Parks, 4 Wildlife Reserves, 1 Hunting Reserve, 2 Conservation Sanctuaries are already established in the Kingdom,
(Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, 1996).

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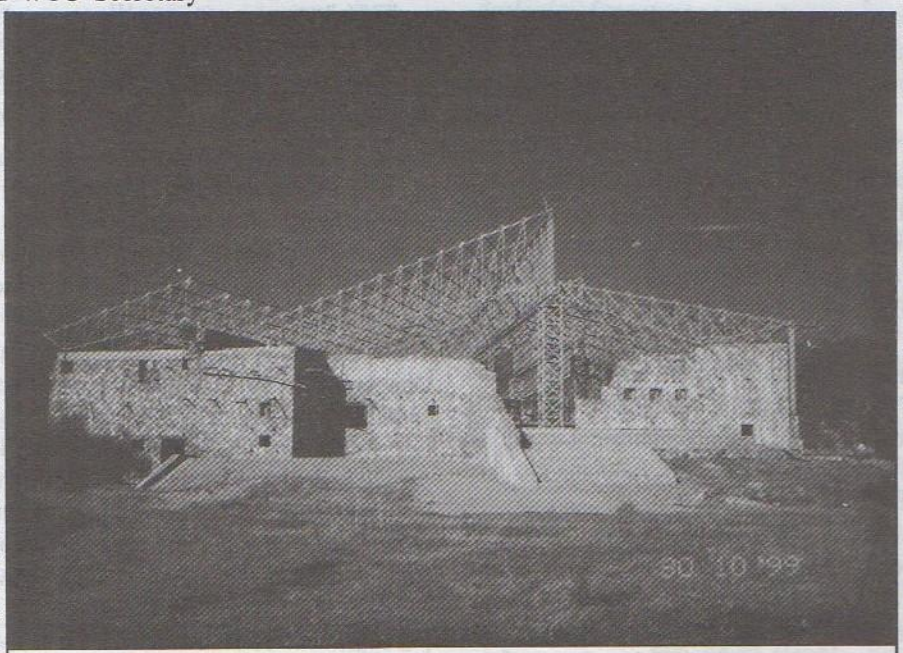
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Hot Tourism Trends for 21st Century

The tops of the highest mountains, the depths of the oceans and the ends of the earth are predicted by the World Tourism Organization to be the trendiest destinations for holiday makers in the next millennium.

The Ministerial Conference on Oceans and New Tourism Dimensions, organized by the World Tourism Organization in connection with the Expo 98 world's fair in Lisbon, identified travel trends and destinations that will benefit from a tourism industry that is predicted to grow from 612 million international arrivals in 1997 to more than one billion tourists by the year 2010 and 1.6 billion by 2020.

Opened by Former Portuguese President Mario Soares, who serves as president of the International Commission for the Oceans, and WTO Secretary-General Francesco Frangialli, the conference was attended by representatives of 80 countries, including 55 tourism ministers. "While tourism growth in the next decades will be impressive, we know that not all destinations will progress at the same pace," said Mr. Frangialli. "The idea of the conference is to spotlight certain products which are emerging today and which will dominate the market tomorrow, such as: nature and ecotourism products, cruises, water sports, and tourism in the polar regions, the deserts and the great tropical forests."



International Mountain Museum under construction in Pokhara

Conclusions of WTO's study *Tourism: 2020 Vision* were presented by Deputy Secretary-General Dawid de Villiers, who analyzed five broad areas where innovative tourist products are expected to emerge in upcoming decades.

Adventure Tourism: As the world becomes increasingly explored and there are fewer *new* destinations left for tourists to discover, the trend will be to travel to high places, under water, and to the ends of the earth.

Mountain High: It is already possible to book organized treks to scale the world's highest peaks and this is an adventure trend set to expand in the upcoming decades.

Ocean Deep: Since 1985, 46 tourist submarines have entered into service and in 1996 more than 2 million passengers took rides in them, generating nearly US$147 million in revenues for operators. The trend is towards transparent submarines that give tourists a good underwater view, for example, the submarine that is expected to start operating in the North Atlantic in August to visit the wreckage of the Titanic.

Ends of the Earth: Antarctica is set to become the next frontier for tourism. Last year, 10,000 tourists visited the icy peninsula, paying between US$9-16,000 for the experience. Australia is considering turning two of its three Antarctica research centres into summer bases for adventure tourists. Britain, New Zealand and Russia already allow tourists to visit, but only by ship.

Cruises: The cruise sector is growing at a phenomenal rate. Some 7 million people took a cruise in 1997 and that number is expected to increase to 9 million by the year 2000. To keep pace with forecast demand, 42 cruise vessels are currently under construction and the ships keep getting larger—one vessels currently in the planning stages is an eight-storey, 250,000 tonne ship to accommodate 6,200 passengers.

Ecotourism: This type of trip contains a nature component and provides an economic incentive for the preservation and conservation of the environment. Ecotourism ranges from small highly-focused study tours to large volumes of resort tourists who make a day trip to a nature reserve during their holidays. Income generated from this type of tourism can be used in part to finance projects that protect the natural resources for future generations.

Cultural Tourism: There is especially strong growth in cultural tourism to Europe, the Middle East and Asia from virtually all regions of the world. This type of trip includes a wide range of travellers, from small educational groups to day trips to cultural sites by mass market holiday makers. Good management of cultural sites and visitor flows is a major challenge of the 21st century.

Themes: Thematic tourism is where a special interest overrides the usual holiday motivators, such as climate. Theme parks will be an increasingly popular vacation choice and several new ones are currently in the planning stages around the world.

While the number of people travelling will boom in the 21st century, WTO is also predicting that the amount of leisure time that people can spend travelling for pleasure will decrease, especially in the major generating markets.

According to the World Tourism Organization Business Council study *Changes in Leisure Time: The Impact on Tourism*, presented at the conference by Colin Clark of Horwath International, travellers of the 21st century will be "poor in time and rich in money". As a result, they will look for products that offer "maximum thrills in minimum time". This trend will boost products such as theme parks and also the cruise industry, since people can visit several destinations in one brief trip.

Short break and weekend trips will be enjoyed more frequently, while the main vacation of the year is likely to get shorter for many people. For others the need for release from increasing job pressures will create the desire for complete relaxation without decisions or taxing activities, a trend that bodes well for further growth of all-inclusive resorts, according to the study by WTO.

Mount Mera

The highest trekking peak of the Himalayas may be smaller than its more famous neighbours, but it's still big on adventure

BY NATHAN TAYLOR WARD

As the last of our group reached the summit of Mount Mera, the storm that had been brewing up all morning suddenly got serious. The wind whipped over the snow, threatening to blow us off the narrow ridge and into the void. Then a huge bank of grey cloud swallowed up the mountain. The temperature plummeted to- 30degC, and the wind chill factor kicked in.

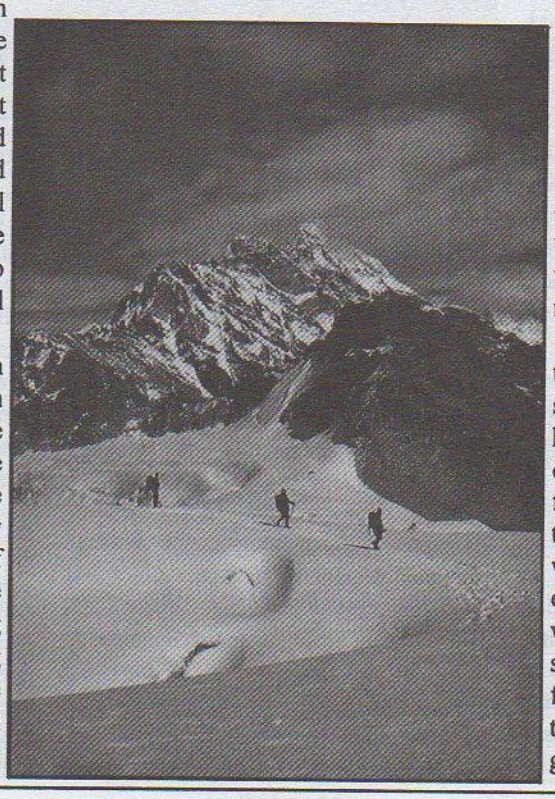
We immediately gave up all hope of seeing Mera's famous view of the Khumbu Range, and quickly turned to commence our descent. Earlier that morning we had started our push to the summit in the golden light of a clear dawn; now we were groping our way in a virtual whiteout. The entire landscape had disappeared behind an opaque wall of greyish-white cloud; swirling snow obliterated all our tracks within minutes, and the only way to follow the trail was to probe carefully ahead with our ice axes.

Mount Mera, 6654m, is the highest of all the eighteen mountains in Nepal that have been designated as trekking peaks. Mera is no easy stroll- it's higher than Denali, the tallest peak in North America, and Kilimanjaro, the tallest peak in Africa- but it is also not a difficult climb. Any reasonably fit person, under good guidance, should be able to reach the summit. The wild card is the weather. Although the real dangers are often minimal, adverse weather conditions can turn the climb into a serious physical and mental challenge.

Mera stands on the southern fringe of the famous Khumbu section of the Himalaya in eastern Nepal-close to Mount Everest, and to one of the most popular trekking areas in the the whole country. But until recently, few climbers or trekkers had ever heard of Mount Mera, let alone taken any of the trails that lead to it. For one thing getting there from the main trekking areas isn't easy-you have to traverse some high, demanding passes-and secondly, the valleys around the peak are very sparsely settled so any trekking group has to be completely self-sufficient. The mountain has many charms though, including spectacular views of the Khumbu range and the chance to conquer a genuine, high Himalayan peak. In recent years, an increasing number of adventurous trekkers have added Mera to their itineraries. Our group planned to climb the mountain as part of a longer trek that would take us through the remote Hinku and Honku valleys- which are adjacent to the peak-and over the technically-demanding Mingbo Pass. The trek would then draw to a close with an easy walk back along the Khumbu Trail that leads to Everest Base Camp, popular with many of the visitors who come to this part of Nepal.

Lukla to the top

We commenced our trek from the village of Lukla which, despite its diminutive size, is world-renowned in climbing and trekking circles as one of the major gateways to the Everest region. Our route from Lukla to Mount Mera took us through beautiful Himalayan valleys and across two high passes: the Zatrwa and the Mera. In the early stages the trail would uphill through forests of rhododendron and alpine meadows strewn with wildflowers. We hiked slowly, taking time to adjust to the altitude before heading over the 4600m-high Zatrwa Pass. After that, we dropped down into the Hinku Valley, re-flowing Hinku River upstream to its source, which is just below Mera Pass. Here we put on our plastic boots and crampons for the first time, then trudged up through the snow to cross the pass and camp on the other side. As we crested the pass we caught our first glimpse of the route we'd be taking to the top of the mountain itself: a gradual, snow-covered slope leading Mera Glacier to the highest of the three peaks that make up the summit. The first to conquer Mount Mera using this route were J O M Roberts and Sen Tenzing, who summited on May 20, 1953. It's still the most popular way up the mountain, and as we looked up, we could see several climbers approaching the summit ridge under the cloudless blue sky.



The good weather held through most of the next day as we established a high camp at 5900m. But that evening, the weather gods sent us an ominous message: clouds rolled in and obscured the mountain. Sleep never comes easily at this altitude, and with this new development we lay awake wondering if it would be clear in the morning.

At lam we heard the group next to us head out, their crampons squeaking in the frozen snow. It must have been very cold hiking in the dead of night because several of them were forced to turn back. They returned to the camp at around 5am, just as we were setting off. We climbed slowly, enjoying that magic time of the dawn when the sky begins to glow, the light sharpens, vague landforms come into focus, and the orange sun breaks over the peaks to bathe the mountains in glowing light.

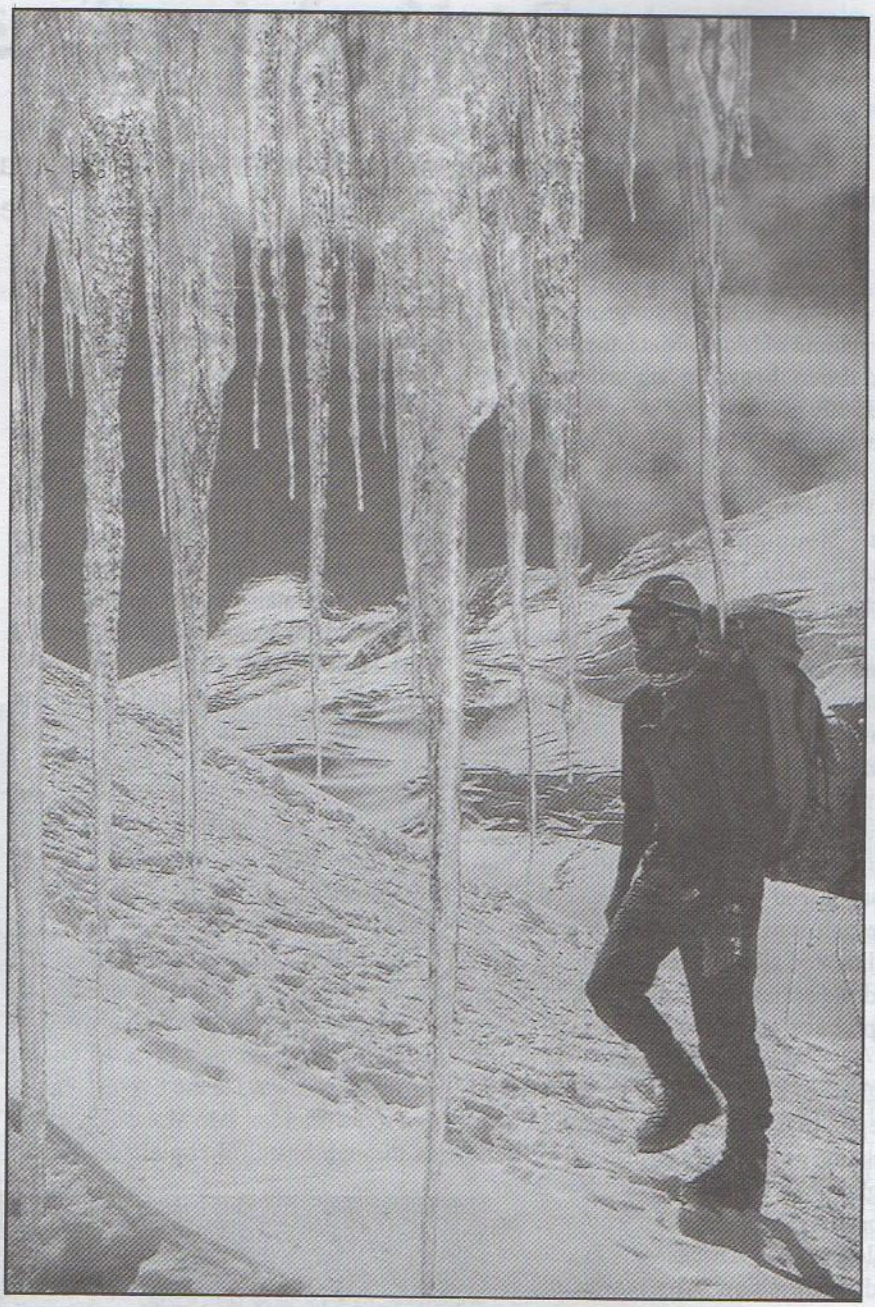
The same light also revealed a line of grey clouds snaking its way through the valleys below. Soon the clouds obscured much of the surrounding landscape, including the magnificent views of Everest, Lhotse, Ama Dhablam and Makalu, which we had seen stretched across the skyline to the north of us. The onset of clouds can radically change the gameplan on a mountain: the world goes away, life is reduced to merely stepping and breathing, and if you're lucky enough not to be leading the party, all you can do is step into the footprints ahead of you. Our group managed to step and breathe their way to the top, but the foul weather that blew in while we were on the summit thwarted the efforts of many trekkers behind us.

The shadow of a storm

From Mera we hiked down into the remote Honku Valley, where we were greeted by a moonscape of red and black rocks, fractured peaks and loose piles of glacial moraine. By now we had left the other groups behind and were entering a part of Nepal where trekkers seldom venture.

There is a good reason why the Honku is not part of the tourist trail- there's no easy way out. At the top of the valley, trekkers face a choice of three passes: the Mingbo (5817m), the Amphu Labtse (5780m) or the West Col (6135m), all of which present significant technical challenges. Our guide, Skip Horner, who first came here in the early 1970s, said the valley looked much the same as it had then. On that trip his group had to use machetes to hack a trail through the brush in the lower part of the valley. Today the main trail is still little more than a faint path.

We planned to cross the Mingbo La by hiking up a crevasse-strewn glacier, then rappelling 150m down a steep, fluted snow chute. We camped at the bottom of the glacier below the pass and got ready for a 3am start: we knew we would have only 12 hours of daylight in which to get 23 porters, 13 kitchen staff and 10 trekkers up 200 vertical metres, then down the rappel and through the icefield on the other side. Every moment was going to count. But at 3am, we woke to find a deposit of 10cm of fresh snow covering our camp. The snow was still falling, so we decided to wait a couple of hours for the conditions to improve. There was a very good reason for the caution: during



the 1995 trekking season a freak storm dumped 2m of snow on this area in less than 24 hours, and many trekkers and local people died in the subsequent avalanches. As the snow continued to fall through the day, we worried that this could be a similar storm. We sat in our tents playing cards, tension rising as we waited to see what would happen.

To our great relief, the next day we woke to find clear skies overhead. Eager to take advantage of the possibly short-lived improvement in the weather, we scrambled for our boots and crampons and headed up towards the Mingbo Pass.

The final few hundred metres up to the pass were amazing. On our right, the southwest face of Everest towered over the ridge. Even with the naked eye, you could clearly see the usual South Col route to the summit. Directly in front of us, Ama Dhablam- which many believe is the most beautiful mountain in the world-soared high over the Mingbo Pass. Despite our best efforts, we fell behind schedule- it took 15 hours to get over the pass- so that the last three hours were spent carefully traversing a heavily-crevassed icefied in the dark, with only the dim glow of the stars and our headlamps to light the way.

The next day we dropped down through the Ama Dhablam base camp and onto the tea-house-and-apple-pie backpacker trail of the Khumbu Valley. With the storms and wind-chill a distant memory, the pleasant amble down through the villages and green vegetation of the lower altitudes brought our Himalayan adventure to a gentle end.

Himalayas are our heritage

- Pravigya Regmi

Skillfully carved and beautified hundreds of thousand years ago, the Great Himalayas was erected in a geological era by the inthrust of Indian plate into the great Asian landmass and decorated for ever by the unique ecology of the world. This valuable piece sustained myriad of lives providing shelter to live, flowing crystal clear water to drink. Furthermore, the great civilizations of Indus, Brahmaputra and Ganges culminated on its lap.

A quick event of 40 years has messed such pristine natural part of the world by littering. Pollution in the Himalayas has been basically generated by expedition, trekking and camping activities of trekkers. Every year more than 400,000 people around the world visit Nepal. Each year, about 900 mountaineers, mostly from Europe, Japan and the US, visit Nepal to climb expedition peaks and about 40,000 other visitors climb the lower mountain trekking peaks (NY Times, Dec. 16, 1994).

Pollution at the Mount Everest was first publicized by Barry G. Bishop, who after a successful climb labeled it as "the highest junkyard in the world" (Propopasal by Nepal Mountaineering Association as a part of Clean Himalya Campaign, 1993, pp 1). Robert A. Hutchison has done detailed cataloguing of trash in his book, "In the Tracks of the Yeti", who calls it a major ecological scandal and says further that it is a galling tale disrespect by the climbing fratennity, of arrogant disregard for nature by men an women who evidently believe their personal conquest are more important than preserving the integrity of a unique natural site (NMA, 1993).

Garbage accumulating on the Himalayas includes climbing equipment, foods, plastics, tins, aluminum cans, glass, clothes, papes, tents and dead bedies (Sports Illus 1993, Vol 29, pp 12). Such trash are scattered everywhere at different camp levels. Hutchison (1991) estimates the garbage left by the expedition teams well over 50 tons, with about 500kgs on average by every team.

The problem can be defined by two ways. Firstly, the trekkers as the culprits for the garbage disposal. The Sports Illus, (1991, Nov. 29) writes, "Much has happened to the Mount Everest in the forty years since Sir Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide. Tenzing Norgey, first scaled it, almost all of it bad. Climbing the 29,208 foot peak has become common place--more than half of the 500 people to reach the top have done it in the last five years and so, sadly littering- Environmentalists estimate that 50 tons of rubbish are scattered across the Everest, some of it predictable (tents, oxygen bottle) some of it unpredictable (baseball bats, frisbees), some of it downright macabre (dozens of corpse preserved by the cold)."

Focus, (Fall 1991, pp 35) writes, "virtually no matter where you dig, you discover either a pile of buried trash or previously used toilet". McConallet al (1991) says," it was frightening to discover as much as medical waste we did. This included everything from bloody bundages to syringes with needles still attached, to vials of unlabeled injectible medication."

Secondly, the inadequate Nepali environmental policy can be taken as the major reason for the problem. There emerged a little hops of protection of Himalayas when the Ministry of Tourism in 1992 made the first effort to cut back expeditions, rising the fee for Everest up to US$ 50,000 and sharply restricting the number of climbes (NY Times, Dec 16, 1994), however, the questions of protecting other Himalayas and midland Mahabharat mountains remain as it is. We must stop continued environmental degradation and preserve our bewitching landscape for ethical, spiritual, educational and esthetic values. Himalayas are our hertiage! It is our responsibility to protect the Himalayas from such anthropogenic disasters.

For Babu, snow & mountains are passions

For 33-year old Babu Chhiri Sherpa snow and mountains are passions. He already has two world-records to his credit, but seems his hunger for world-records is far from satisfied. "Provided help and encouragement from the government, I am willing to attempt for other records," he said. However, he did not elaborate the kind of assistance he expected from the government, nor he elaborated on kinds of world-records he is planning for future.

Nepal Mountaineering Association felicitated him for his achievements in mountaineering on Jan. 7, 2000. In his career spanning six years, that started in 1993, Babu has two world-records to his credit, both created at the Mt. Sagarmatha.

In the first week of May 1999, Babu set a world record by spending the longest time of 21 hours atop Mt. Sagarmatha, one hour beyond his initial target. He summitted the world's tallest peak on May 6 and descended the next morning despite medical claims that it would be impossible for a human to spend more than an hour at a height of 8,848 metres without supplementary oxygen. In his nine climbs to the mountain, five times from Nepalese side and four times from the Chinese side, Babu has never used supplementary oxygen.

His another world-record happened earlier in the decade. In 1995 spring, he ascended the mountain twice within two weeks from the Chinese side of Everest's North Ridge.

Babu Chhiri is only a climb short from the records set by Ang Rita Sherpa and Apa Sherpa with their 10 times successful assaults to the Roof of the World. He also became the only mountaineer in the world to assault Mt. Sagarmatha from Nepalese side twice within a single month in last May.

In return from his record setting bid last May, Babu had denied his interest in becoming the summiteer to scale Mt. Everest for the most time. Though, he had hinted that he wanted to attempt to break the record set by another Nepalese mountaineer Kaji Sherpa. Kaji Sherpa scaled the world's highest peak in 20 hours and 24 minutes in late 1998 becoming the mountaineer to reach the top in shortest time.

Felicitating Babu Chhiri Sherpa in a programme organised by NMA recently. Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Bijay Kumar Gachchhadar with "full conviction, commitment and determination" pledged that the main agenda for his tenure is to develop tourism in the country. He also said that the skills and bravery displayed by Nepalese in the mountains had acquainted Nepal to the world community. ❑

Mt. EVEREST : Undying Charm

- Samidh Shrestha

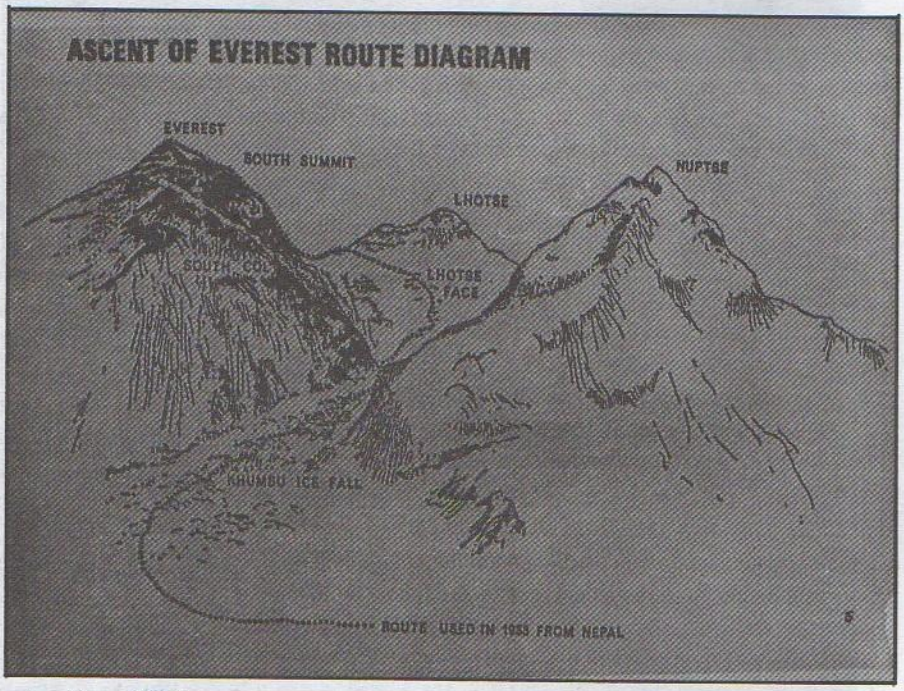
Nepal, a country of diversity in unity, is very well known for its culture, people, tradition, natural beauty, and most importantly the mountains. The Himalayas in the north of the country is the youngest and the highest mountain system in the world. It extends for over 2,400 km. As the majority of its central section lies in Nepal, it is also called the Nepal Himalaya. It is the home of more than 250 peaks that exceed 6,000 meters. Of the 31 Himalayan peaks that exceed 7,600 meters, 22 lie in the Nepal Himalaya, and out of 14 giants of the world that exceed 8,000 meters, 8 are in Nepal.

Great Contribution

Mountaineering first brought Nepal to attention of the world, mainly due to the great mountain, Everest, and others. They have contributed in increasing the economy of the country, drowning in poverty. Everest lies between 27 59 17 Latitude and 86 55 31 Longitude, in the Sagarmatha National Park, having a height of 8,848 meters. It is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Everest has attracted hordes of mountaineers from all corners of the world.

In 1852, by the efforts of Sir George Everest, British Surveyor General to India, surveyor Radha Nath Sikandar and Nepali corporal Tej Bir Budhathoki, the highest mountain in the world was found. During that time the peaks didn't have any confirmed names, so they were symbolized by Roman figures by the surveyors. Everest, at that time was referred to as Peak XV. In 1865, Peak XV was accepted as the planet's tallest mountain standing 8,848 meters above the sea level. Then, Sir Andrew Waugh, India's Surveyor general, named Peak XV as "Mount Everest", to honor Sir George Everest, who was his predecessor as surveyor general. Though Sir Waugh named this lofty peak as Everest, the Tibetans in the North called it "Chomolungma" or "goddess, mother of the world". Meanwhile, the Nepalese in the south called it "Sagarmatha" which meant "the goddess of the sky". The name Sagarmatha was given by Baburam Acharaya in 1956.

As Everest was heralded as the highest summit on earth, it was only a matter of time before people decided that Everest needed to be climbed, explored and conquered. Before Everest was finally scaled, it took the lives of twenty-four men, the efforts of fifteen expeditions and a duration of 101 years.



The Sherpas or the mountain people are very well known for their mountaineering skills. They are the people who can really fight the force of mother nature to succeed their battle in the high hills. They were first engaged in mountaineering in 1921 when the British embarked on their maiden expedition to Everest. As recommended by A.M. Kellas, who was familiar with the diligence of the Sherpas in Sikkim, the British decided to keep the Sherpas as their helpers. Then many Sherpas got involved in this business as they were paid a heavy sum for a single expedition. This was definitely a very heavy income for a poor nation.

As of the figure of January 1997, 391 expeditions were organized on Everest, out of which 167 were successful. 676 people including 39 women, representing 43 nations, have stood atop Everest. 90 climbers have reached the summit more than once. 60 summitters including 8 Sherpas and 2 women ascended Everest without using artificial oxygen.

Record Holders

It was on 29th May 1953, which marked the great determination of man in the history of mankind. Two brave men, Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal finally conquered the indomitable Everest. They became the first men to stand on the top of the world.

On 16th May 1975, Junko Tabei, a Japanese citizen successfully climbed Everest, making herself the first woman to reach the world's highest peak. Late Pasang Lamu Sherpa was the first Nepali woman to reach the top of the world. She scaled Everest in April 1993. But tragedy struck while she was returning back. Due to bad weather and lack of oxygen, she and her friend, Sonam, had to stop on the way. But they never returned back. Cath 'O' Dowd, a South African citizen, is the first woman to scale Mt. Everest from both the sides.

Angrita Sherpa, also known as the Snow Leopard, a 50-year-old man now, began his mountaineering career at the age of 19. He has climbed Everest 10 times, taking hold of the world record. The Snow Leopard also says that he climbed all these times without the use of artificial oxygen. Another legend, Appa Sherpa, who had an ambition to break Angrita's record, has recently leveled the record but yet hasn't broken it. Babuchhirie Sherpa, another great has succeeded Everest for the 9th time. He also has a record of his own. He has the world record for staying on the summit for the longest period of time. He stayed atop Everest for 21 hours.

The youngest summitteer to Everest is Shambhu Tamang of Nepal. He scaled Everest in 1973 at the age of 16. He is also the first Nepali citizen to scale Mt. Everest from both North and South side. In 1999, 15 year old Arbin Timalsina attempted to scale Everest to break Shambu's record. But he could not succeed, as he had to return back when he

was only 98 meters short of his destination, due to eye problems.

In 1978, Reinhold Messner, an Italian citizen, and Peter Habelerto, an Austrian citizen, became the first people to successfully ascend Everest without the use of any artificial oxygen. Reinhold Messner also completed the world's first solo ascent to Everest on 20 August 1980, via the North Col. to north face and the Great Couloir. Lave Sharkshov is the oldest summitter ever. He scaled Everest when he was 60 years and 161 days old. He broke Ramon Blanco's record by just a single day. The first married couple to reach the top of the world were Amdrej and Marija. They climbed Everest successfully together on Oct 7, 1990.

On 26th September 1988, a French climber Jean March Boivin became the first person to paraglide from the summit. He descended almost 8,000 meters and reached Camp II in 11 minutes. In 1970 Yuiich Miura, a Japanese citizen, descended Mt. Everest on skies. Another Japanese citizen, Yasuo Kato was the first person to reach the summit in three different seasons. In September 1992, Pierre Tardivel skied down 6,562 meters from the south summit in three hours, which made the highest ski run ever.

Sungdare Sherpa, one of Nepal's greatest climbers, was the first person to scale Everest five times whereas, Ang Phu Sherpa was the first person to scale Everest through two different routes.

In 1998, Kaji Sherpa scaled Everest in a record-breaking time of 20 hours 24 minutes though he could not complete his initial target of 18 hours. He broke the record made by Hans Kammerlander of Italy. On 14 May, 1995, Kaji Sherpa climbed Everest wearing the national dress of Nepal. He now has an ambition to scale all the other 14 giant peaks of the world.

Setting A Trend

Lopsang Jangbu Sherpa scaled Everest three times wearing three different costumes. First in 1995, he ascended Mt. Everest wearing a Bakkhu, a sherpa costume. Again in 1996 he reached the summit wearing his national dress. Again in 1997 he wore karate uniform to reach his destination to the top of the world.

On 27 May 1998, Tom Whittaker, a disable American citizen scaled Mt. Everest. He was the first disabled person to reach the top of the world. In one single day in May, 1993, 40 climbers reached the summit and making it a world record for the most number of climbers on the summit on any particular day.

Jamling Sherpa, son of Tenzing Norgay Sherpa , also joined the party as he played a lead role in the IMAX film, EVEREST. David Breashers, who had great faith in Jamling and his father brought him into the film. The story in this film is about an expedition to Everest and all those difficulties they had to face during their journey. Jamling cried when he reached the summit, which is the highest mountain in the Himalayas, which in turn is the greatest mountain range in the world. He was very pleased with himself. He thought of his father treading those very slopes 43 years ago. Jamling now has attained a star status worldwide with that one ascent to the top.

The China – Japan – Nepal Friendship Expedition in 1988 has added a new milestone in the history of mountaineering by simultaneously scaling the worlds highest peak from both North and South side, and by putting a record number of 12 climbers on the summit at once. This expedition was highlighted by live television coverage and was witnessed by millions of people all over the world.

Tragedies

Along with the happy moments in Everest, many sad moments have also occurred.

147 deaths have occurred in Everest, from 22 nations including 4 women

Total deaths in Everest

(As the figure of January 1997)

Causes of Death	Deaths in the Nepalese Side	Total Death
Avalanches, falling seracs or icefall collapse	36	57
Falls	26	35
Illness, exhaustion or exposure	19	34
Unknown Cases	16	21
TOTAL	97	147

While counting deaths by nationality, there are 50 Nepalese, 23 Indians, 13 Japanese, 9 English, 8 Chinese, 6 Americans, 5 Polish, 5 Czechs, and 28 others.

As the traffic to Everest is increasing day by day, it is also getting polluted. The summitters are throwing their used oxygen cylinders in the mountains. Now, the Nepalese Government has banned this kind of activity. A law has been made which says that it is the duty of the summitter to bring back all the oxygen cylinders and other materials that has been used in the journey. In 1994, Scott Fischer's Sagarmatha Environmental Expedition started to clean up the used oxygen bottles wasted since the 1950's. Now, there are very few remaining. The Sherpas are paid a cash bonus for each oxygen bottles they bring down from the Col. Between 1994 and 1996 there were 800 oxygen cylinders removed from the upper mountain.

Gaining Height

Everest, though being the world's tallest summit, is still growing. It is elevating about half a centimeter every year. According to Dr. Bradford Washburn, the director of the Millennium Expedition to Everest, Everest has grown 2 meters than it's initial height. Its present height is now 8,850 meters. He presented this measurement to the National Geography Society, on 11 November, 1999, in Washington D.C., during the 87th council meeting of the American Alpine Club. For more than seven years he has conducted an extensive and important survey and research works on and around Everest. He also claims that, as Sagarmatha is gaining height every year it also being pushed to northeast direction steadily at a rate of 3 to 6 millimeters every year. The height of Everest is increasing because of some geological activities. They are :

- Mt. Everest is situated in the region of "young fold mountains". Thousands of meters below the Himalayan range there is lava. Due to the internal pressure the lava moves in different directions. This has caused the increasement in height of Everest and probably some other peaks. But the other peaks haven't yet been newly measured.

- The Indian sub continent, which is situated in south of the Himalayan range is being pushed towards the northern side. The frictional speed is going on 3 – 4 cm annually and the Eurasian plateau at the northern part of the Himalaya, is moving towards the south at the rate of about one and a half centimeters annually. By this process it is obvious that the mid-part normally increases. So Everest, which is the mid-part, is increasing due to this process.

The Role of Japanese mountaineers in Japan-Nepal Friendship

- By Bhumi Lal Lama

Mountaineering as an adventure sport started about two hundred years ago in Europe and gradually spread to Asia, Africa and Latin America. This sport which began as a hobby for the wealthy with plenty of leisure now interests all sections of society and age. It has grown from being a hobby to a sport that brings in fame and wealth. Asia with her rich heritage of mountains could not remain isolated from this growing interest in mountaineering.

Japan's development interest included excellence in all fields of life and work. Mountaineering provided Japan the opportunity to excel in an arena the Europeans had considered their domain. An expedition to Mt. Manaslu was organized in 1953 to herald the entry of the Japanese into the mountaineering world. The particular interest in Nepal was fostered by the writings of Sage Kawaguchi who documented his findings about Nepal, the Nepali and the Himalaya.

Manaslu Himal (8163 metres) located in Gorkha district is one amongst the fourteen 8000 metre high mountains of the world. In 1953 when interest in climbing these 8000 metre peaks was just beginning, Japan Alpine Club sent an expedition to Manaslu Himal under the leadership of Mr. Waimita. Although the expedition had to be abandoned 1250 metres below the summit due to lack of oxygen, Japan did make its presence felt in the field of mountaineering. The following year, an expedition led by Mr. Y. Hotta attempted unsuccessfully to climb Ganesh Himal because the local residents using religious claims to Manaslu stopped the expedition at Samagaon. However, the Japanese were determined to achieve success. In Autumn 1955, Dr. Nashibori and Mr. Narushe visited Nepal to obtain government permission and other logistic support to climb Manaslu in Spring 1956. The 12 man expedition led by Mr. Yukomaki left Kathmandu on March 11, 1956. The team was supported by 20 Sherpas of whom Norbu Gyalchen Sherpa was the sardar. Mr. Toshio Imanishi and Norbu Gyalchen Sherpa were successful in ascending Manaslu Himal for the first time on 9 May, 1956.

It was a historic event for it not only marked the first ascent of this particular mountain but also demonstrated a combined success for Japan and Nepal.



Former Japanese Prime Minister R. Hashimoto (Center) at the IMM site in Pokhara

This led to the establishment of strong friendship ties between Nepal and Japan proving the value and strength of mountaineering being much more than just a sport. Mr. Imanishi continued this spirit of friendship when he participated at the age of 77 in the tripartite China-Japan-Nepal expedition to Everest. Mr. Imanishi's contribution towards strengthening economic and social ties through mountaineering can never be forgotten. Forty years later, the Japanese Alpine Club organized a number of events in Kathmandu to mark the first ascent of Manaslu. Mr. Imanishi was honoured by being recognized as Nepal's honorary Consul General throughout his lifetime. Mr. Imanishi proved that mountaineering is not limited to sport only but can transcend the barriers and natural boundaries of two nations. In the spring of 1988, Nepal, China and Japan mounted a tripartite expedition to Mt. Everest. The ascent was made on 5 May which is children's day in Japan. The impact this made on the minds of the children then who are the youth of Japan today is immeasureable. Mr. Imanishi played a key role in this expedition together with Japan's former Prime Minister Mr. Hashimoto. Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto first visited Nepal in 1971 as leader of the Japanese Everest expedition. The contribution and leadership of these two people in increasing ties of friendship between the two countries is unsurpassed to date. The first woman to climb Mt. Everest was Junko Tabei. Her continuing efforts towards the conservation of Khumbu area and her awareness raising activities for the youth in Nepal, India, Pakistan, China, Korea and Japan through her organization HAT-J are shining examples of how the mountains bond with people.

The contributions of Japan Mountaineering Association (JMA), Japan Workers Alpine Federation (JWAF), the Japanese Alpine Club (JAC), the Himalayan Association of Japan (HAJ) and Himalayan Adventure Trust of Japan (HAT-J) through their joint organization SANPAKU to build the International Mountain Museum is another outstanding example of the closeness between Nepal and Japan. This museum is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of mountain heritage, culture and history and will demonstrate the influence of nature on mankind. This project could not even have been visualized without the effective support of this association.

We understand the significant role mountaineering has played in bringing our two countries together. The majesty and challenge of the mountains continuously remind us of the importance of team play in overcoming life's challenges. The mountains showed us the way to become one and in becoming united, we have found the way to travel together to build a better tomorrow for our posterity. Let our friendship continue to flourish. Our best wishes for continued peace and understanding.



Minister for Tourism B.K. Gachhedar felicitating renowned Babu Chhiri Sherpa

Climbers, satellites determine Mount Everest higher

By DAVID HO

Burdened with oxygen 7/8 tanks, climbing gear and cameras, Bill Crouse and his fellow climbers arrived at the top of the world.

With the brown, arid plateau of Tibet stretching to the north and the mountains and green valleys of Nepal to the south, the climbers spread out their special gear on the snow-covered summit of Mount Everest.

The equipment they assembled would communicate with a fleet of satellites to help answer a deceptively simple question: How high is the highest point on Earth?

Now, six months later, the answer has been revealed: Mount Everest rises ..to 29,035 feet (8,850 meters) 7 feet (2 meters) higher than the altitude officially recognized for 45 years.

Bradford Washburn, 89, director of the Millenium Expedition to Mount Everest, presented the new measurements at the National Geographic Society recently.

"We now know much more about the configuration of our Earth than we did 40 years ago," Washburn said.

Three other teams have climbed Everest since 1995 as part of the project. The climbers have placed measuring devices and other scientific sensors at key points on the mountain.

Crouse, 35, of Carbondale, Colorado, along with expedition leader Pete Athans of Boulder, Colorado, and five Sherpa climbers spent nearly two hours on the summit on May 5, half of that time collecting data from Global Positioning System satellites.

"We felt like monkeys in space," Crouse said after the presentation, noting that their job was to push buttons to transmit data to stations below.

It took months of number crunching before the final results were known.

National Geographic said it will revise all its new maps and globes with the new elevation.

"It is clearly the most authoritative and thoroughly executed measurement of the highest point on the Earth's surface," Allen Carroll, the society's chief cartographer, said.

The previous height- 29,028 feet was determined in 1954 by averaging altitude measurements taken from a dozen diffeent observation points around the mountain.

The study also found that Mount Everest is moving steadily northeast at a rate of 2.4 inches (6 centimeters) a year because of the geological fault sytem that slowly pushes India under Nepal and China, creating the Himalayas, Washburn said.

"At this moment, six months later, Mount Everest may already be a trifle higher, as well as slightly northeast of the position that it occupied early in May," he said. The expedition is part of Washburn's ongoing work to accurately measure Everest. The Massachusetts cartographer and his wife, Barbara, produced in 1988 the most detailed map of Everest ever made.

The expedition would have been impossible without recent technical advances that shrank GPS units that once weighed 50 pounds (22.5 kilograms) to a handheld size.

Everest recently gained increasing infamy following a rash of deaths that a sent chill through the climbing community. Eight mountaineers died on the peak on May 10, 1996, alone, a tragedy described in the best-selling book "Into Thin Air" by Jon Krakauer.

But people keep climbing and now the magic altitude is seven feet higher.

"It's a big deal when you change the height of the highest peak in the world." said Crouse.

On May 5, after collecting the altitude data, Crouse had one more mission before leaving the summit.

His oxygen mask removed, exposing his face to the Everest air, Crouse took out a satellite telephone and dialed a number in Colorado. After trying to connect for 20 minutes, a sleepy voice answered.

Crouse said hello to his mother, telling her he was fine and how high up he was- higher than anyone knew. (AP)

We express our heartfelt condolence on the untimely demise of

Mr. P.P. Prasai

and

Mr. Anoop SJB Rana

We pray for Peace to the departed soul
- Nepal Mountaineering Associaiton

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By Bill Ickes

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With explosive population growth bringing not just more people but also more pollution, more toxic waste, more greeenhouse gases and more irreversible damage to the biosphere, the environment has moved in 100 years from a peripheral to a central concern of the global political agenda.

More has also meant less: fewer available resources as the forests, soil, water and air come under attack, and the disappearance of tens of thousands of plant and animal species.

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Meanwhile the 14 hot test years since records began in 1866 have occurred since 1980.

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The search is on therefore for alternative energy sources such as the sun, the wind and the waves.

Renewable natural sources are seen as holding the most promise for sustainable development, a concept poineered by the World Conservation Union in the late 1970s. The development of a fuel cell car that would hugely reduce the consumption of fossil fuels is well advanced, while an estimated 500,000 homes already get their electricity from solar cells. The production of recycled paper and steel from scrap is beginning to reach levels rivalling the production from forests and mines.

Wind energy technology is making headway in the industrial west and attracting growing interest in developing countries.

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Moreover "in the long run, with an increasingly integrated global economy, it will not work for the industrial economies either."

The work of the green movement at the end of the century is very different what it was 100 years ago.

Early ecological efforts centered on preservation as governments and philanthropists set aside lands in national parks and trusts.

But massive industrialization and the development of nuclear weapons meant that for the first time mankind was capable of bringing about his own destruction.

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A succession of conferences and conventions aimed at defending the environment have sharply increased the number of arrangements governing the global use of resources, and the 1992 Rio de Janeiro "Earth Summit", the largest gathering of heads of state in history, appeared to herald a belated green awareness by world leaders. AFP

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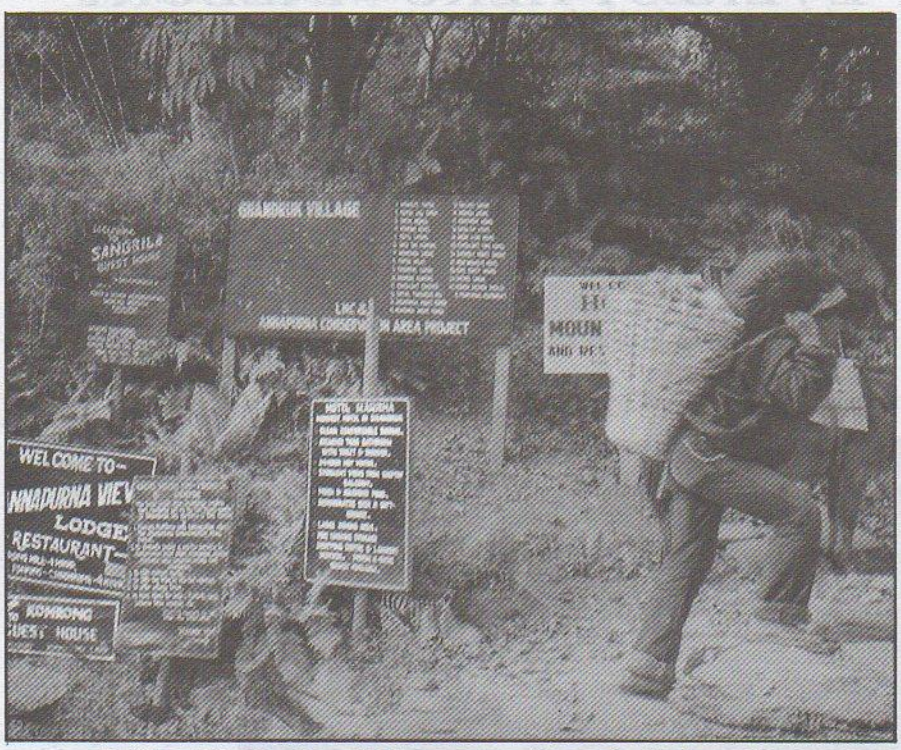
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The new sites-35 of them cultural, natural and two combinations-span 33 countries worldwide.

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"Without the understading and support of the public at large, without the respect and daily care by the local communities, which are the true custodians of World Heritage Sites, no amount of funds or army of experts will suffice to protect these sites." Director-General Koichiro Matsuura said.

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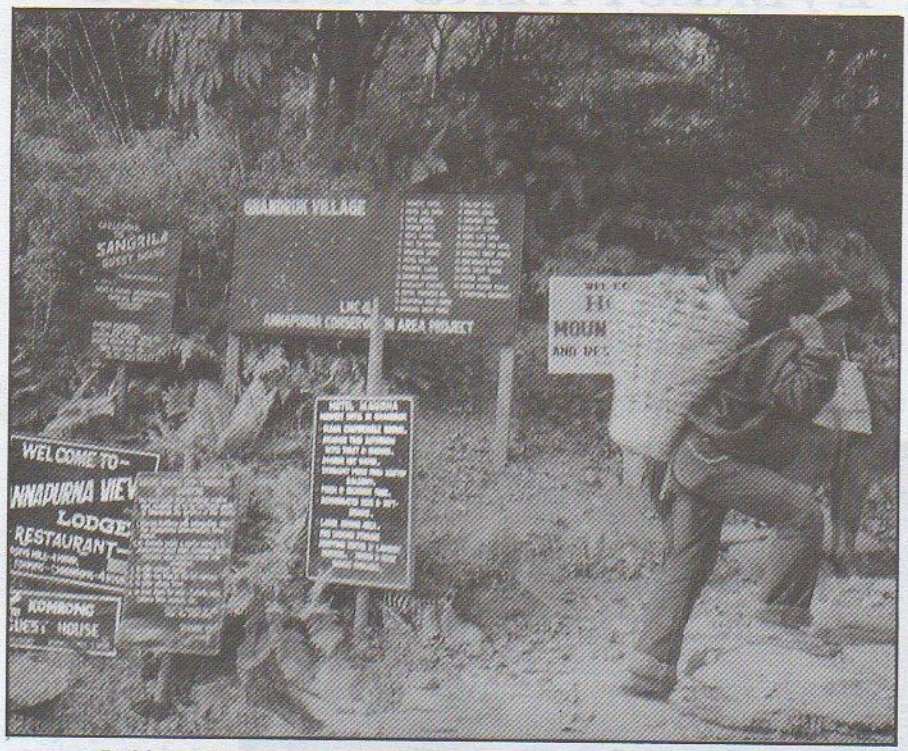
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Book Review

MYSTERY OF EVEREST HERO MALLORY

When the body of legendary British mountaineer George Mallory was found high atop Mount Everest last year- frozen almost to alabaster and still attached to a climbing rope- it seemed a chilling coda to one of the mountain's earliest tragedies. One of the earliest Westerners to attempt the world's highest mountain, Mallory disappeared with climbing companion Andrew Irvine on June 8, 1924, vanishing into the mists on a final ascent toward the 29,035- foot peak. For filmmaker and mountaineer David Breashears, the grim discovery of one of the world's most-sought- after bodies was testimony not to Everest's terrible toll but to the amazing spirit of adventure that drove Mallory and the other early Himalayan climbers. Breashears, who has climbed to the top of Everest four times and directed the popular IMAX Everest movie, has now published a book with historian Audrey Salkeld exploring the career of Mallory, who scaled Olympian heights clad in a tweed jacket and was the first mountaineer to declare that Everest needed to be conquered, "because it's there."

"He has come to represent Everest and our collective urge to explore our planet," Breashears said on a visit to San Francisco to promote the book," Last Climb: The Legendary Everest Expeditions of George Mallory (National Geographic Society). We all share his fascination with what's possible, and a need to look around the corner."

For modern mountaineering experts, the mystery of Mallory and his fatal final trip to Everest boils down to one simple question: Did he and Irvine beat Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay to the top? Hillary and Norgay, who made it in 1953, have long been credited in the record books as the first to reach the peak. But the possibility that Mallory and Irvine- last spotted by their companions somewhere above 8.540 metres and moving rapidly higher- made it almost three decades earlier has continued to feed doubts. It was partly this mystery that drove Breashears' long fascination with Mallory, which began in 1981 when the Boston-based filmmaker made his first trek to Everest's forbidding Kangshung face. "On the approach we found ourselves marching in Mallory's footsteps, literally", he wrote, "Suddenly, he became much more real to me. I began to wonder: what had pushed him?" Mallory represented a certain kind of British adventurer who set out to explore the empire at the zenith of Britain's power. Born in 1885 to a country vicar and his gregarious wife, he was as good at gymnastics as he was at geography and found himself on a track to success via Cambridge University.

His early climbing was done in Wales and on school holidays in Switzerland. He retained his thirst for nature after graduating, marrying and setting into life as a provincial schoolmaster- a life interrupted soon enough by the World War I, where he volunteered to fight in 1916.

Mallory came through the war with an urge to undertake something more adventurous and more inspiring than instructing class rooms full of schoolboys. In 1921, the chance came in the form of an invitation from an old mountaineering friend to become part of an exploratory party headed to Everest. Rising high above the Tibetan plateau, Everest was known to locals as Chomolungma, "Goddess Mother of the Land." British surveyors traingulated its height in 1856 and declared it, "most probably" the highest in the world. They gave it the name Everest after a former director of the Survey of India.

What Mallory and his team found when they arrived at their base camp clearly moved the 36-years-old climber. "Everest rises not so much as a peak as a prodigious mountain mass." Mallory wrote. "The highest of the world's great mountains, it seems, has to make but a single gesture of magnificence to be lord of all, vast in unchallenged and isolated supremacy."

The book by Breashears and Salkeld follows the failed 1921 assault on Everest and another Mallory and others mounted the next year. Full of photographs and citations from the climbers' diaries and letters, it gives vivid details of expeditions into a realm of thin atmosphere, blinding sun and freezing winds for their time, as unreal as" a trip to the moon in the 1960s .

- Andrew Quinn (Reuters)

Ginette Harrison Killed on Dhaulagiri

British climber Ginette Harrison died in an avalanche on Nepal's 26,795- foot Dhaulagiri on October 24, 1999. Harrison was 41. Harrison a physician and mountaineer with at least four 8000-meter summits to her credit, was killed with a Sherpa climbing partner on the upper mountain.

Harrison, from the UK, had recently moved to Massachusetts with her American husband, Gary Pfisterer, who was leading the 11-member climbing team on the Dhaulagiri expedition.

Harrison was regarded as one of the strongest female climbers in the world. Until her death, she had been the first living woman to climb 28,170-foot Kangchenjunga and survive the descent.

"I never got the chance to meet her," said American climber Chris Boskoff, who has climbed four 8,000 meter peaks. "She had an awesome record, and everyone says she was tremendously strong and a wonderful person. What a tragic turn of events."

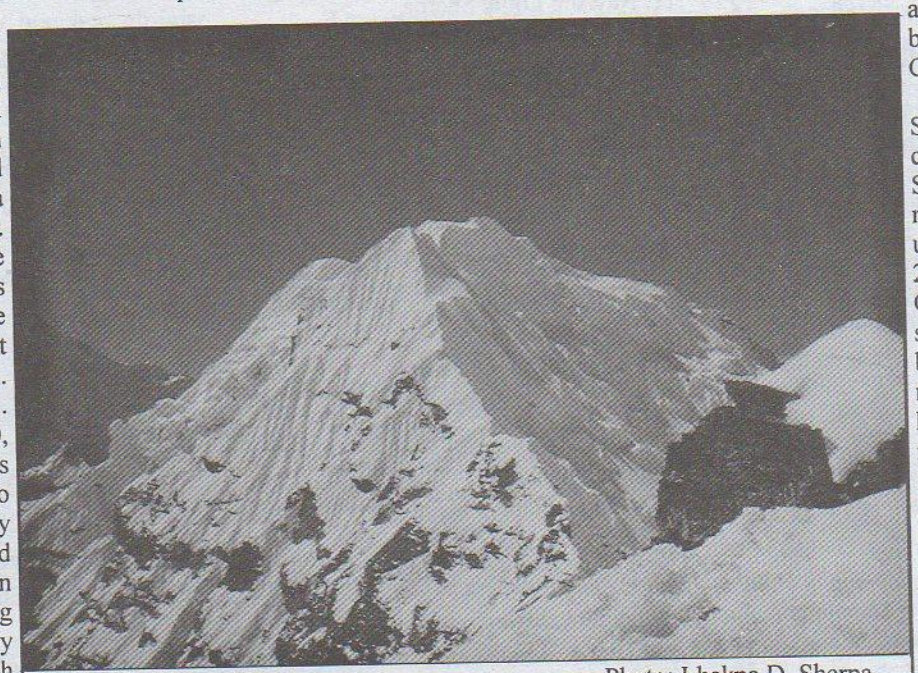
Harrison had been the second British woman to climb Mount Everest. Harrison had also climbed the fifth and sixth highest mountains, Makalu (8,463m) and Cho Oyu (8,201m). She had stated an ambition to be the first woman to climb all 14 8,000m peaks in the world.

Safety Net For Climbers

By Pema sherpa

Any history of mountaineering without mention of the role played by the Sherpas is incomplete and vague. Their association with the mountains begins from childhood. However, much before the introduction of mountain tourism in Khumbu the Sherpas of Darjeeling had already created a niche in mountaineering expedition from the Indian side. Even the trekking tourist in Sikkim employed Sherpas in large numbers. The Sherpas of Darjeeling were later hired as guides and porters when the Nepal Himalayas were made accessible.

Dr. Kellas first recruited Sherpas from Darjeeling as high altitude porters in 1907. General Bruce recruited Tsheten Sherpa in the second Sagarmatha expedition in 1922. By 1922, there were about fifty Sherpas employed by the British in their first attempt on Mt. Sagarmatha. Between 1930-1940, nearly six attempts were made to conquer the peak by British, German and Canadian expedition teams. Even Tenzing Norgay, was hired by the British expedition team for the historic expedition to Sagarmatha.



North face of Island Peak Photo: Lhakpa D. Sherpa

A typical Sherpa is hard working, simple natured, happy-go-lucky type, who can risk his life for a few hundred rupees in expedition. There are many instances of Sherpa sacrificing their lives to save mountaineers. It is basically these qualities that Sherpas are admired for most and chosen as mountaineering guides and porters.

They have been noted for their strong, smiling face, quiet efficiency and friendliness typical of Sherpas. Any one who has been to the Himalayas will not fail to enjoy the bonds of love and friendship which tie him to this brave community. Over the years, the Sherpas have gained mastery over the climbing techniques.

Mountaineering is a highly risky job. One can see Sherpas living a crippled life because of being victims of unforeseen accidents on mountains.

Even though accident means death, a considerable number of sherpas have continued to be part of expedition teams. In other words expedition is not a fair game as it does not guarantee them future security when they fall victims to mishaps.

Demands have been raised by climbing Sherpas on the need to work out a welfare scheme-disability allowances and pensions-for those actively involved in mountaineering. Since mountain tourism is an unorganised sector, it may be difficult to work out the modalities.

However, since the government is earning foreign exchange from these sources, it can find ways and means to meet the rising demand of Sherpas. In other words, the Nepal Mountaineering Association should take initiatives in this direction with the aid and advice of government as well as established trekking companies.

A good number of Sherpas have earned laurels for their country. The government has left no stone unturned, in recognising their achievements by awarding the highest national awards. Late Tenzing Norgay Sherpa was the first Sherpa to have received the Nepal Tara. Under his aegis, India founded the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute at Darjeeling in the year 1953. The veteran Sherpas were also decorated with prestigious awards like Trishakti Patta and Gorkha Dakshin Bahu for their outstanding feats in mountaineering.

Ang Rita Sherpa, who climbed Sagarmatha for a record ten times without oxygen, has been honoured with a Nepali music album titled Him Pahiro.There are national heroes who have earned high accolades in the international arena viz. Late Sungdare Sherpa's bravery shall be written in golden words in the history of Nepal, his daunting task of summiting Sagarmatha without oxygen for a record fifth time is memorable.

Late Pasang Lamu Sherpa was the first Nepali Sherpa female to have the distinction of hoisting the national flag a top Mt. Sagarmatha but the whole nation was bereaved when she met with an accident on the way back to the Base Camp.

Mr. Kazi Sherpa heroically conquered Sagarmatha in a record and unbelievable time of 20 hrs 24 minutes in Oct. 1998. This spectacular speed will be always remembered in the history of mountaineering. Similarly, Babu Chiri Sherpa surprised the entire world by spending 20 hrs at the highest elevation on the earth surface, without oxygen in May 1999.

There is one more extraordinary Sherpa, named Gyaltsen Sherpa of Pangboche village, makes the ice-fall route of Mt. Everest an easy task for expedition parties. His mastery over this task has earned him the nickname of Icefall Doctor. Besides these, there are a number of living Sherpa heroes and mountain tigers whose extra-ordinary feats have gone unnoticed. But for a visitor, their task of heroic deed is unbelievable.

It is beyond doubt that sheer lack of education, pressing economic hardship and absence of other employment opportunities has made people to crawl up mountains. Nevertheless, mountain trekking offers Sherpas the easiest way to earn a livelihood. For a Guiness record holder Sherpa Ang Rita, it is not the awards and decoration which matter to him but some material support from the Government.

Summiters of Khumbu

	No. of ascents
1. Late Chotare Sherpa	1
2. Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa	1
3. Mr. Chewang Rinzing Sherpa	1
4. Mr. Pemba Noru Sherpa	1
5. Mr. Lakpa Tenzing Sherpa	1
6. Mr. Yong Tenzing Sherpa	1
7. Mr. Ang Phurba Sherpa	1
8. Mr. Pertemba Sherpa	1
9. Late Ang Phu Sherpa	1
10. Mr. Lakpa Tshering Sherpa	1
11. Mr. Pema Dorjee Sherpa	1
12. Mr. Sonam Dendu Sherpa	3
13. Mr. Chuldim Sherpa	2
14. Mr. Tshiring Chumdi	1
15. Late Phu Dorjee Sherpa	2
16. Mr. Nima Tashi	1
17. Mr. Lhakpa Dorjee Sherpa	1
18. Mr. Lopsang Temba Sherpa	1
19. Mr. Ang Temba Sherpa	1
20. Mr. Ang Danu Sherpa	1
21. Mr. Lhakpa Tshiring Sherpa	1
22. Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa	2
23. Late Ang Lhapa Sherpa	1
24. Late Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa	2
25. Mr. Lhakpa Dorjee Sherpa	1
26. Mr. Lhakpa Sonam Sherpa	2
27. Phinzo Sherpa	1
28. Late Sungdare Sherpa	5
29. Mr. Pemba Dorjee Sherpa	4
30. Mr. Phu Dorjee Sherpa	2
31. Mr. Tashi Tshiring Sherpa	2
32. Mr. Ang Pasang Sherpa	3
33. Mr. Pemba Temba Sherpa	1
34. Mr. Ang Dorjee	1
35. Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa	5
36. Mr. Kami Tshering Sherpa	1
37. Mr. Lhakpa Gyaltsen Sherpa	1
38. Mr. Ang Rita Sherpa	10
39. Mr. Appa Sherpa	10
40. Mr. Chong Nima	7
41. Mr. Dorjee Sherpa	7
42. Mr. Dawa Tshering Sherpa	5
43. Mr. Kami Rita Sherpa	5
44. Mr. Lhakpa Rita Sherpa	3
45. Mr. Lhakpa Rita Sherpa	3
46. Mr. Ang Gyaltsen Sherpa	3
47. Mr. Kersang Namgyal	3
48. Nima Rita Sherpa	3
49. Dawa Temla Sherpa	3
50. Mr. Ang Phurba Sherpa	2
51. Aa Rita Sherpa	2
52. Dawa Nuru Sherpa	2
53. Mingma Tshering Sherpa	1
54. Chowang Dorjay	1
55. Mr. Gyaltsen Sherpa	2
56. Mr. Dawa Nuru	1
57. Mr. Tshultin Sherpa	1
58. Mr. Tenzing Nuru Sherpa	1
59. Ang Mingma Sherpa	1
60. Mr. Ang Dorjee Sherpa	2
61. Mr. Agiwa Sherpa	2
62. Mr. Tenzing Sherpa	1

The Last Climb

(Sherpas who laid their lives in Everest Expedition)

	Date of death	Cause of death
1. Phu Dorje Sherpa	1969 crevasse	Fall in icefall
2. Mingma Norbu Sherpa	1940	Icefall collapse
3. Nima Dorji Sherpa	,,	,,
4. Tshering Tarkey Sherpa	,,	,,
5. Passang Sherpa	,,	,,
6. Kunga Norbu Sherpa	,,	,,
7. Kami Tshering Sherpa	,,	,,
8. Kyak Tshering Sherpa	,,	,,
9. Zangbu Sherpa	1973	Avalanche
10. Pemba Dorji Sherpa	,,	,,
11. Nawang Lotuk Sherpa	,,	,,
12. Sanuwang Gale Sherpa	,,	,,
13. Lakpa Sherpa	,,	,,
14. Nima Wangdi Sherpa	,,	,,
15. Dawa Nuru Sherpa	1978	Fall in crevasse
16. Ang Fu Sherpa	1979	Fall
17. Nawang Kersang Sherpa	1980	Avalanche in icefall
18. Pasang Sona Sherpa	1982	,,
19. Ang Chuldim Sherpa	,,	,,
20. Dawa Dorji Sherpa	,,	,,
21. Lakpa Tshering Sherpa	1982	Illness
22. Nima Dorje Sherpa	1982	Fall
23. Pasang Temba Sherpa	1983	Fall
24. Ang Pinji Sherpa	1984	Fall
25. Ang Dorje Sherpa	1984	Avalanche in icefall
26. Gelu Sherpa	1986	Icefall collapse
27. Dawa Norbu Sherpa	1986	Avalanche
28. Tshuttin Dorje Sherpa	1987	Fall
29. Lakpa Sonam Sherpa	1988	Cause unknown
30. Pasang Temba Sherpa	1988	,,
31. Lakpa Dorje Sherpa	1988	Illness
32. Phy Dorje Sherpa	1989	Fall
33. Ang Sona Sherpa	1990	Avalanche
34. Ang Tshering Sherpa	1993	Fall into crevasse
35. Pasang Lamu Sherpa	1993	Cause unknown
36. Sonam Tshering Sherpa	1993	,,
37. Mingma Norbu Sherpa	1994	Avalanche
38. Kami Rita Sherpa	1995	Fall
39. Lakpa Nuru Sherpa	1995	Avalanche
40. Zangbu Sherpa	1995	Fall
41. Dawa Sherpa	1996	Avalanche
42. Lopsang Zangbu Sherpa	1996	,,
43. Nima Rinzi Sherpa	1997	Fall
44. Tenzi Nuru Sherpa	1997	Lost on return from summit

Source: Nepal Mountaineering Association.

The figures given above are just tip of an iceberg as the figures of Sherpas who laid their lives in other mountains of Nepal are not available.

Ang Rita Retires

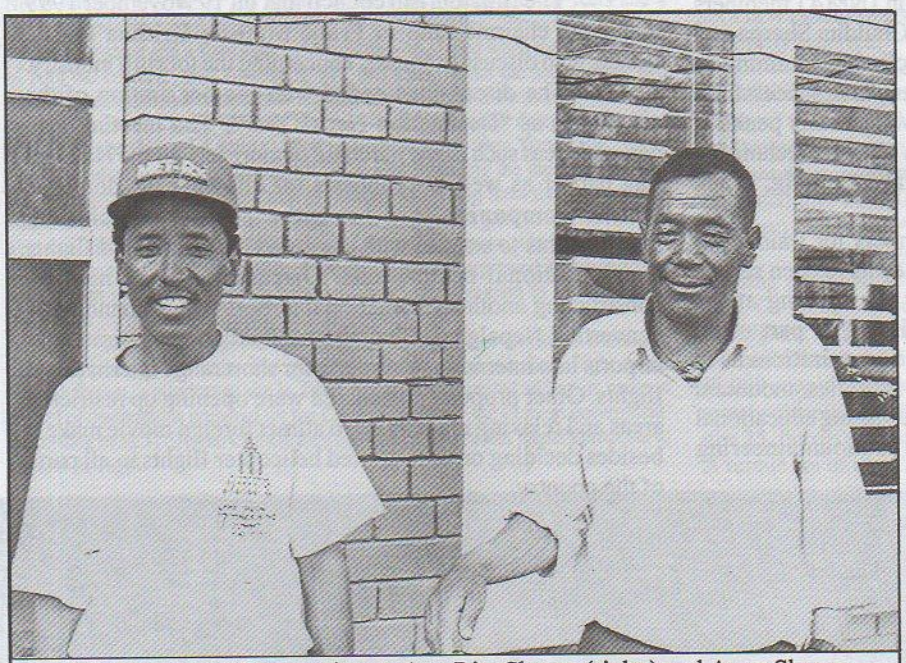
By Bhola Rana

TUBERCULOSIS has cut short the climbing career of Ang Rita Sherpa, the only man to scale the 8,848 metres high Sagarmatha, the world's tallest peak, for a record 10 times without the use of bottled oxygen in the spring, autumn and winter climbing seasons.

The intrepid climber from Thame, Solokumbu, announced his retirement from active climbing after being diagnosed with preliminary stages of the disease following examinations at a Kathmandu hospital in October 1999.

Nicknamed the Snow Leopard, Ang Rita, 49, has three sons and one daughter. He started climbing at 15 years of age. Sherpas are renowned for their exploits on Nepal's Himalayan peaks.

The slightly hunched alpinist first stepped on the highest point on earth on May 7, 1983 while assisting a German-American expedition. He recorded his last ascent of the mountain through the normal southeast ridge on October 23, 1996 while helping the first Swedish expedition atop the mountain. This route was pioneered by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa on May 29, 1953.



World renowned mountaineers Ang Rita Sherpa (right) and Appa Sherpa

Success has also eluded Ang Rita on Sagarmatha. Age and sickness caught up with him as he could not repeat his phenomenal exploits on the mountain or when storms thwarted his attempts after 1996. Ang Rita went on to record his first autumn conquest of Sagarmatha on October 15, 1984 with a Slovak team when a member, Josef Demzan, died while descending from the summit.

The accident did not deter him from continuing his exploits on the mountain which he considered his backyard, the southeast ridge to the top of the world was like a familiar trekking trail for Ang Rita.

Almost six months later, on April 29, 1985, Ang Rita and Sungdare Sherpa, the first man to climb the mountain five times, helped Andre Ness the leader of the first Norwegian expedition, to step atop Sagarmatha in stormy climbing conditions. The London-based shipping magnate married the famous American singer, Diana Ross, after the climb.

One day after Ang Rita's ascent, American millionaire, Dick Bass, climbed mountain at 55 years of age to become the oldest man to set foot on Sagarmatha.

Expeditions now scouted for Ang Rita for his experience and sure-footed skills on mountain in their dream to climb the world's tallest peak. The poor Sherpa, without any formal education or training as a climber, rubbed shoulders with international celebrities as he graduated to a guide from a porter.

Orphaned in his teens, Ang Rita followed expeditions to Sagarmatha to support his family and supplement his meager income from farming marginal agricultural land in his village. He scaled the 8164 metres high Dhaulagiri, the world's seventh tallest peak twice before climbing Sagarmatha for the first time in 1983. Ang Rita returned to Sagarmatha and recorded his only winter ascent of the mountain in the 1987/88 climbing season while assisting a South Korean expedition; 10 months later he again stepped atop the mountain with a Catalan team on October 10, 1988. The hard-drinking Sherpa and honorary climbing instructor of the Royal Nepal Army climbed the mountain for the sixth time on May 11, 1990 helping the first all-Nepali Army expedition to the summit.

The tireless climber accompanied the first successful Chilean expedition to the top of the world in the spring of 1992 and in 1993 scaled the peak for the eighth time with a Spanish team.

Ang Rita recorded his only ascent of the mountain from the north in Tibet in 1995 spring helping a Russian-Ingosethian expedition climb the mountain called Chomolongma by the Tibetans.

Besides Sagarmatha and Dhaulagiri, the illustrious climber has also scaled the 8,597 metres high Kangchenjunga, the world's third tallest peak and Cho Oyu, the world's sixth peak. He has, therefore, scaled four of the eight 8,000 metre high peaks located completely inside Nepal or on the Nepal-Tibet and Nepal-Sikkim frontiers. There are 14 eight thousanders in the world.

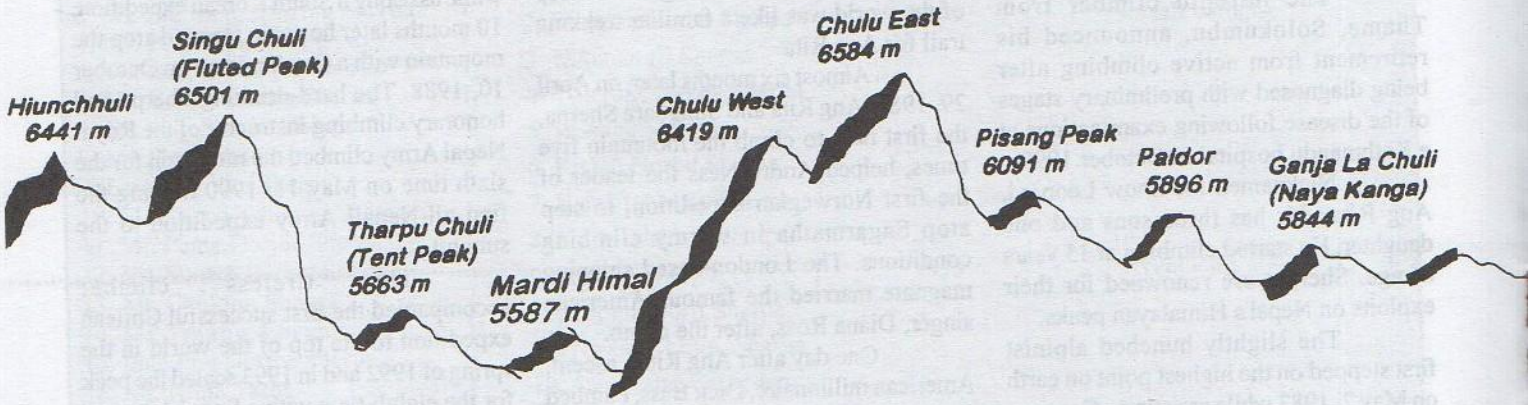
The irrepressible climber has been decorated with the prestigious Gorkha Dakhshin Bahu and the Tri Shakti First Class for his exploits on the snowy Himalayan peaks. Ang Rita is considered a natural climber but, perhaps, Partemba Sherpa is a technically better climber. Partemba climbed Sagarmatha for the first time through the steep and treacherous southwest face route pioneered in autumn 1975 by a British expedition led by famed climber Chris Bonnington.

As climbers abandoned seize-style expeditions and developed alpine-climbing techniques to scale the world's tallest peaks for which the Himalaya is famous, it was thought that the Sherpas could be dispended with on the mountains, in Nepal and elsewhere. But expeditions and novice climbers still seek the dependable services of Sherpas in their dreams to climb Himalayan peaks assuring Sherpas of employment opportunities.

Appa Sherpa is attempting to better a personal and Ang Rita's recorded of 10 ascents of Sagarmatha in May 2000.

(TRN)

from East to West



NMA training in S. Korea

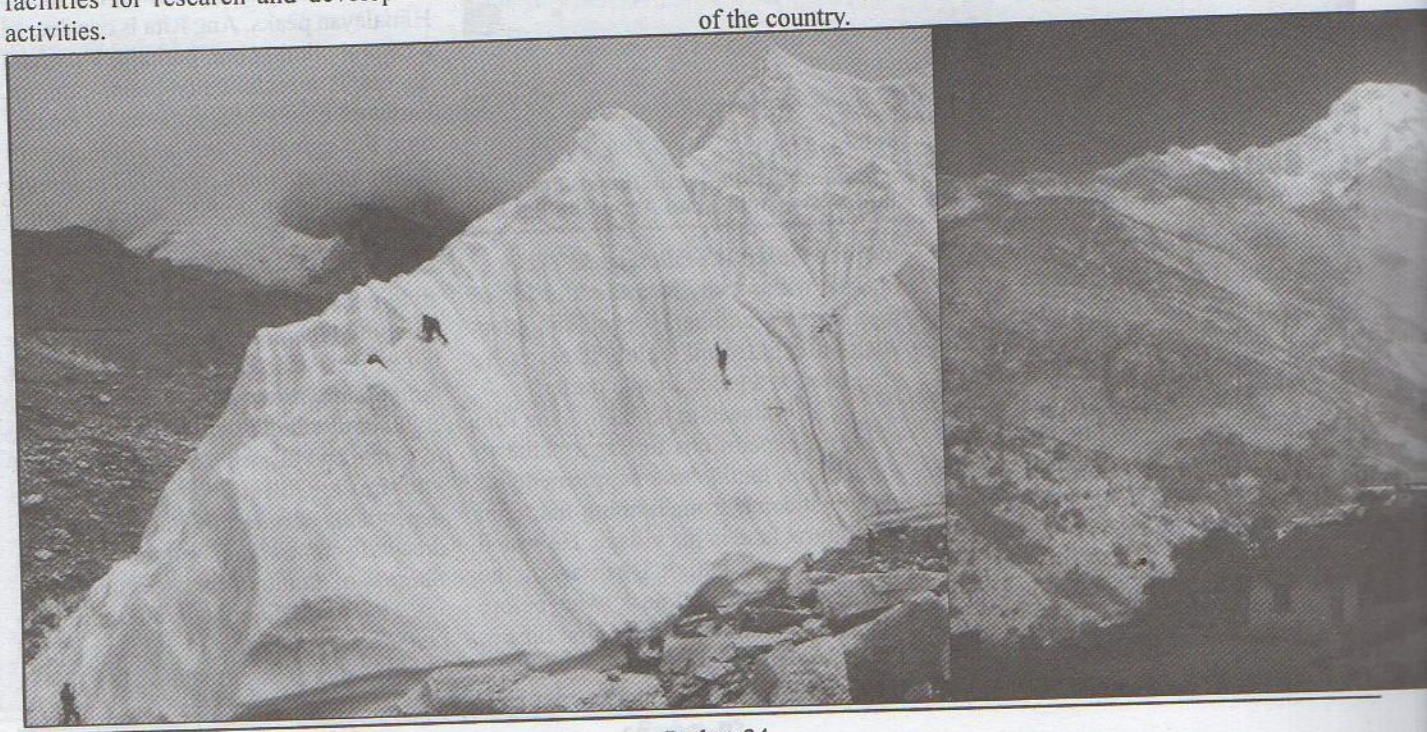
Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) members Lakpa Norbu Sherpa, Ang Dawa Tamang, Chuldim Sherpa and Nima Sherpa attended a week long rock climbing training in Seoul, South Korea recently. All the climbers have successfully summitted the 8848 meter Mt. Everest as well as other peaks of Nepal and abroad. The training dalt with various techniques including knots, belaying, rappelling, slab climbing, crack climbing, aid climbing and others.

The NMA has been sending climbers for training to various countries but this is the first time they have been sent to South Korea. The climbers had gone for the training at the invitation of Korean Alpine Federation (KAF) as part of an agreement between KAF and NMA. The two organizations have joined hands in spreading mountaineering activities, mountain environment protection campaigns, and establishing educational facilities for research and development of mountaineering activities.

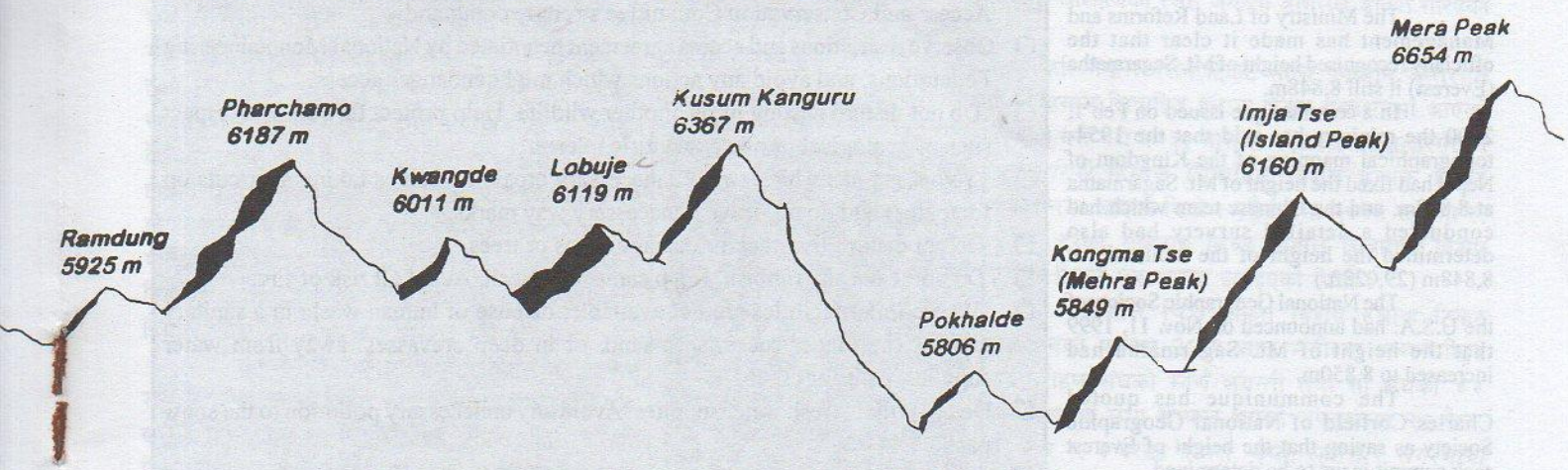
Tourism Council Meeting

The fifth tourism council met on 19 November 1999 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai to discuss proposals concerning the tourism industry.

The discussions ended with the declaration of the year 2002 as "Destination Nepal Year". The meeting also covered areas such as the purchase of more jets for the National flag carrier as well as proposals for allowing the domestic airline companies that have the requisite technical requirements to expand with chartered and scheduled flights to international destinations. Discussions were held on constructing another international airport at Kathmandu and converting Nepalgunj, Bhairahawa, Pokhara and Biratnagar airports into international airports for short range international flights. Other proposals discussed were opening up restricted areas and relaxing regulations to attract foreign movie makers besides deciding on unrestricted helicopter flights to all parts of the country.



the NMA Peaks



Nepal, China sign air accord

According to the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation MOTCA) Nepal initiated a Bilateral Air Service Accord with China after 20 years and a letter of agreement was signed between the two countries. The accord is in the preliminary stage and a final agreement will only be signed when the governments of both the countries will approve it. The two sides signed the accord after two days of consultations recently. The 6-member Nepali delegation was led by Secretary at MOTCA Barun Prasad Shrestha and the 9-member Chinese delegation by Vice Minister at the General Administration of Civil Aviation Shen Yuen Keng. Yagya Prasad Gautam, Joint Secretary of MOTCA after attending the meeting said that the agreement has incorporated new provisions that would meet the requirements which are outlined by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). He also said that there was a positive response from the Chinese side to the 11-point proposals put forth by Nepal and the Chinese delegation expressed its commitment to put forth the three proposals important for Nepal's tourism to the concerned authorities for necessary action.

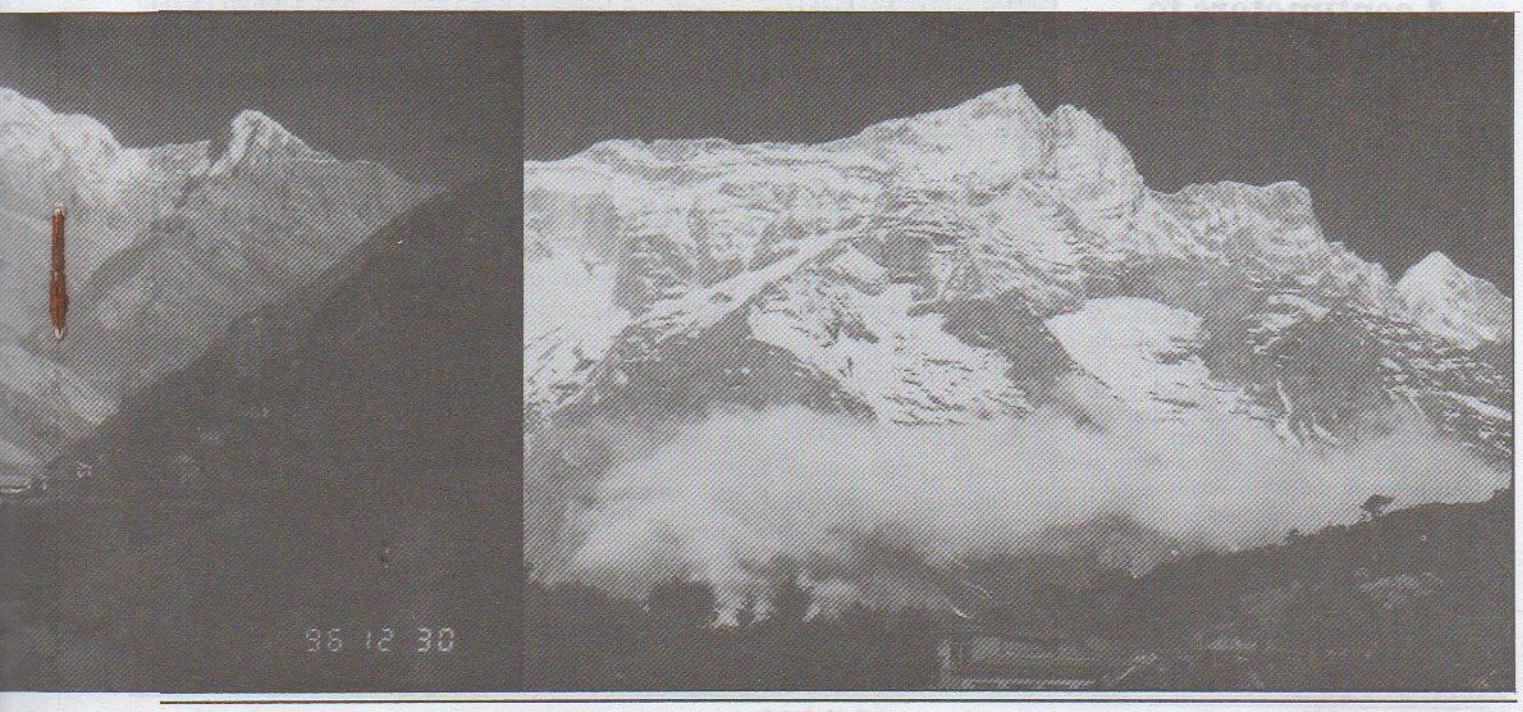
Nepal had proposed operating helicopter charter service to Burang of Tibet from Simikot, Humla. The proposals also included mountain flight to the Kailash Parbat, a pilgrimage site in Tibet. Nepal also requested adding its name in the list of destinations prepared for the Chinese people by the Chinese government. According to MOTCA, the Chinese side has agreed to consider Nepal's proposal to expand its flight.

Africa's highest mountain

Climbers on Africa's highest mountain- Mount Kilimanjaro- set a new entrance record for peak season, the Tanzania National Parks Authority reported.

From Dec. 22, 1999 to Jan. 5, 2000- during what was dubbed the Millennium Expedition- 1, 180 people trekked up the mountain. Many of the fees in Mount Kilimanjaro National Park were doubled for that period, bringing Tanzania dlrs 892, 194. In a normal November-January season, about 700 people climb Kilimanjaro, paying an estimated dlrs 200,000 dollars in fees to the authority, Job Lusinde, chairman of TANAPA's board of trustees said recently.

The average climb takes between five and eight days, depending on the fitness of the climber and acclimatization to the altitude. Of those who joined the expedition, 120 reached Uhuru Peak, the highest at 5,892 meters (19,443 feet), and 463 more reached to Gilman's Point, 5,681 meters (18,747 feet), he said. An average of 11,000 people climb Mount Kilamanjaro each year, generating approximately dlrs 600,000 for the entire season. The normal park entry fee is dlrs 25, the daily camping fee is dlrs 40 and the daily hut fee is dlrs 50. A rescue fee of dlrs 20 per climber is also assessed.



Official height of Sagarmatha still 8848m

The Ministry of Land Reforms and Management has made it clear that the officially recognised height of Mt. Sagarmatha (Everest) it still 8,848m.

In a communique issued on Feb 1, 2000 the ministry has said that the 1954-topographical mapping of the Kingdom of Nepal had fixed the height of Mt. Sagarmatha at 8,848m. and the Chinese team which had conducted a detailed survery had also determined the height of the mountain at 8,848m (29,028ft.)

The National Geographic Society of the U.S.A. had announced on Nov. 11, 1999 that the height of Mt. Sagarmatha had increased to 8,850m.

The communique has quoted Charles Corfield of National Geographic Society as saying that the height of Everest rock summit is yet to be determined.

It has also quoted Frederick Bloom, one of those involved in researching the height of Mt. Sagarmatha, as saying that the height of Mt. Sagarmatha might be more or less than two metres.

Likewise, quoting a report from Roger Willham of Colorado University, the ministry said the National Geographic Society's notice regarding the height of Mt. Sagarmatha does not confirm the new height of the mountain.

In the light of all these facts, the officially recognised height of Mt. Sagarmatha is still 8,848m. the ministry said.

Since it has been necessary to contact the scientists involved in the research of Mt. Sagarmatha and analyse the technological aspects they have applied in their research work, the Department of Topography has taken necessary initiatives in the direction, the communique states.

New technology adds 4 centimeters to height of mountain

For 80 years the residents of Swiss resort Zermatt have looked up to their beloved Matterhorn peak and told tourists it was 4,477.50 meters (14,690 feet) high.

But now, a scientist armed with the latest technology says he has proved it is even higher than that- by 4 centimeters (1.6 inches).

Giorgio Poretti, a geology professor from the University of Padua in Italy, said he had traingulated the position of the peak of the mountain- which straddles the border between Switzerland and Italy.

He used satellite technology to prove that the actual height of the mountain is 4,477.54 meters (14,690.10 feet).

The Matterhorn, one of the most famous peaks in the Alps, was originally measured in 1920.

It is the third mountain to be measured using the Global Positioning System. Climbers proved that the world's highest mountain, Everest, was 2 meters (7 feet) higher than originally thought, while Mount Kilimanjaro was 3 meters (10 feet) shorter.

UIAA International Mountain Code

- ❒ As a response to the growth of mountaineering the world body for mountaineers, the UIAA, has developed a simple, but very worthwhile code, that the BMC's Access and Conservation Committee strongly commend.
- ❒ Observe restrictions and access agreement negotiated by National Mountaineering Federations, and avoid any actions which might endanger access.
- ❒ .Do not disturb nesting birds or other wildlife. Help protect flowers and respect sites of geological or other scientific interest.
- ❒ .Avoid actions which cause unnecessary erosion (such as taking shortcuts on footpaths) and do not leave unnecessary way marks.
- ❒ Do not disturb livestock or damage crops or trees.
- ❒ Do not leave any rubbish. Keep campsites clean. Avoid all risk of fire.
- ❒ Where toilet facilities are not available, dispose of human waste in a sanitary manner (i.e. under rocks, soil, sand, or in deep crevasses, away from water supplies, paths or climbs).
- ❒ Do not pollute fresh water supplies. Avoid any unnecessary pollution to the snow pack.
- ❒ Respect established climbing traditions in ethical matters such as the use of chalk, pitons or bolts, etc. Avoid indiscriminate or excessive use of fixed equipment.
- ❒ In mountain areas use motorised transport sparingly and park considerately. Make
- ❒ On any excursions to remote or high mountains observe the UIAA Kathmandu Declaration and Ethical Code for Expeditions.

UIAA Kathmandu Declaration

- Protect effectively the mountain environment, its flora, its fauna and its natural resources.
- Reduce the negative impact of man's activities.
- Respect the cultural heritage and dignity of local populations.
- Stimulate activities that restore and rehabilitate the mountain world.
- Encourage contacts between mountaineers of different countries, in a spirit of friendship, mutual respect and peace.
- Make available all information and education necessary to improve the relationship between man and his environment.
- Use only technology respecting the environment for energy needs and the disposal of waste.
- Support developing mountain countries in efforts for the conservation of the environment.
- Widen access to mountain regions unfettered by political considerations.

UIAA Ethical Code for Expeditions

1.Ensure all members of the team are aware of the regulations set by the host country, the objectives of the Kathmandu Declaration, and the UIAA Ethical Code for Expeditions.

2.Adopt a sporting approach to the expedition's objectives and not use equipment or other resources out of proportion to those objectives.

3.Conduct the expedition in a way that maintains the safety of its members and especially those it employs.

4.Whenever possible and appropriate provide technical advice and training to members of the expedition from the host country.

5.Give an accurate report about the expedition to the appropriate bodies.

6.Do not use equipment and materials owned by other expeditions without permission, and be prepared to help local people and other expeditions if the need arises.

7.Leave the mountain environment as clean as possible at the end of the expedition.

हिमाल चित्राङ्कित हुलाक टिकट

विश्वमा नेपाललाई चिनाउने प्राकृतिक बरदानको रुपमा रहेका हिमाली श्रृङ्खला नै हुन् । त्यसैले हिमाल र नेपाल एक अर्काका पर्यायवाची शब्द नै भैसकेका छन् । हिमाल विनाको देश नेपाल भनेर नेपालको कल्पनै गर्न सकिन्न । हुलाक टिकटलाई देशको सानो राजदूतको रुपमा लिने गरिन्छ । हुलाक टिकट जुन जुन देशमा पुग्दछन्, त्यहाँ त्यहाँ त्यसले देशको राजदूतको रुपमा प्रतिनिधित्व गरेर सूचनाको प्रवाह गरेको हुन्छ । देशको भूगोल, इतिहास, संस्कृति र भेषभूषाका साथै देशको धार्मिक तथा सामाजिक अवस्थाको चित्र पनि हुलाक टिकटले बोकेर लगेको हुन्छ । यसका साथै देशको विकास निर्माणको गतिविधिको झलक पनि दिने प्रयास गरेको हुन्छ - हुलाक टिकटले । आज यस प्रसंगमा नेपाली हुलाक टिकटमा हिमाल चित्राङ्कित विषयलाई उल्लेख गरिएको छ ।



शिव रेग्मी

नेपालमा हुलाक टिकटको इतिहास हेर्न विक्रम सम्वत् १९३८ साल अर्थात १८८१ सन्मा पुग्नुपर्छ । क्रस खुकुरी माथि श्रीपेच राखिएको चित्र अंकित पहिलो हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनमा आएको थियो । १९६४ सालमा हिमालको पृष्ठभूमिमा महादेवको चित्र अंकित भएको 'गोर्षा सर्कार' अभिलेख छापिएको टिकट नै पहिलो हिमाल चित्राङ्कित हुलाक टिकट हो । यो टिकट शुरुमा २,४,८ र १६ पैसा दरका प्रकाशनमा आएका थिए भने १९८६ सालमा यसै नमूनामा प्रकाशित हुँदा २४,३२ पैसा र रु. १, ८, ५ रुपियाँ दरका पनि छापिएका थिए । त्यतिबेला टिकटको अभिलेखमा 'गोर्षा सर्कार' को सट्टा 'नेपाल सरकार' अंकित गरियो । यो नमूनाको टिकट १९९२ सालसम्म र रु. १ दरको टिकट २००५ सालसम्म प्रकाशित भएको देखिन्छ ।

हिमाल दृश्य अंकित अर्को हुलाक टिकट २०१३ साल मंसीरमा नेपालले सम्युक्त राष्ट्रसंघको सदस्यता प्राप्त गरेको एकवर्ष पूरा गरेको उपलक्ष्यमा निकालिएको १२ पैसा दरको नेपालको पहिलो त्रिकोणाकारको हुलाक टिकट थियो । २०१६ सालमा प्रकाशित हिमनदी, डाँफे, मोनाल चित्र अंकित विशेष हुलाक टिकटमा हिमालयका दृश्यहरु अंकित छन् तापनि यतिखेरसम्म पनि खास हिमालकै नामाकरण हुलाक टिकट निकालिएको भने देखिदैन । २०१७ साल फागुनमा सर्वप्रथम हिमालको नाम उल्लेख तीन प्रकारका टिकटहरु प्रकाशनमा ल्याइएका थिए । ती हुन् *माछापुच्छ्रे सगरसमाथा* तथा *मनासलु* हिमाल चित्राङ्कित हुलाक टिकट । २०२४ सालमा नेपालले पनि अन्तरराष्ट्रिय पर्यटन वर्ष मनाएको सन्दर्भमा प्रकाशित भएका हुलाक टिकटहरुमा रु. १ दरको *'अमाडब्लम'* चित्राङ्कित हुलाक टिकट थियो ।

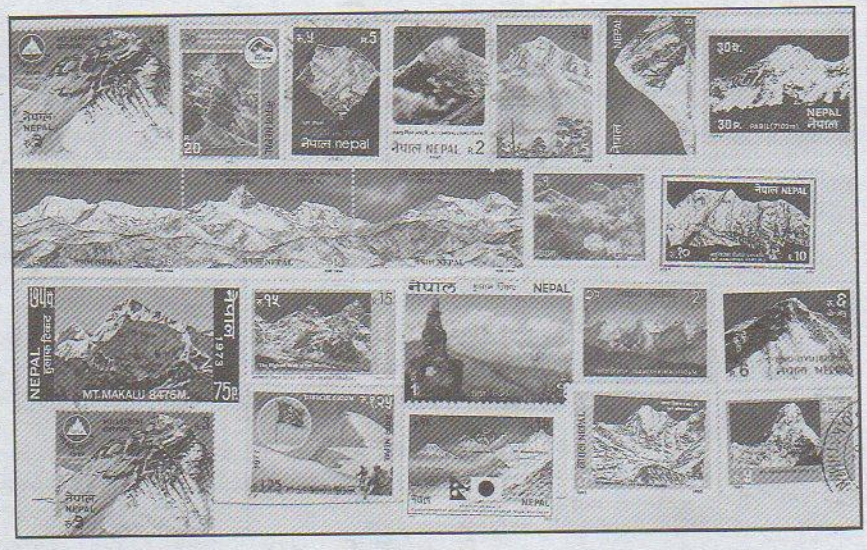
२०२७ साल पुसमा हुलाक सेवा विभागव्दारा नेपाल दर्शन टिकट माला प्रकाशन गर्ने परम्पराको शुरुवात भएको थियो । यो साल *गौरीशंकर* हिमाल चित्र अंकित हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनमा ल्याइएको थियो भने २०२८ साल दर्शनमाला अन्तरगत *सगरमाथा, कञ्चनजंघा* र *अन्नपूर्ण* हिमाल क्रमशः २५ पैसा, रु. १ र रु. १/८० दरको हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनमा ल्याइएको थियो । यही क्रममा २०३० सालमा *मकालु* हिमाल र २०३२ सालमा *गणेश* हिमाल चित्र अंकित विशेष हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनमा ल्याइएको थियो ।

२०३४ सालमा नेपाल प्रहरीले ६,९२० मीटर अग्लो *टुकुचे* हिमाल सफल आरोहण गरेको प्रथम वार्षिकोत्सवको उपलक्ष्यमा रु. १/१५ मूल्यको टुकुचे हिमाल चित्राङ्कित विशेष प्रकाशनमा ल्याइएको थियो । २०३५ सालमा २९ मे १९५३ का दिन सगरमाथा शिखर आरोहणको पच्चीसौं वार्षिक उत्सवको उपलक्ष्यमा *सगरमाथा* चित्राङ्कित संस्मरणात्मक विशेष हुलाक प्रकाशनमा ल्याइएको थियो । रु. २/३० र रु. ४ दरको दुई विशेष हुलाक टिकटमा प्रथम सगरमाथा आरोहणको रजत जयन्ती अभिलेख अंकित गरिएको छ ।

२०३६ साल फेरि नेपाल दर्शन टिकट माला प्रकाशन अन्तरगत ३० पैसा दरको पाविल हिमाल चित्राङ्कित हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनमा आएको थियो । यसै गरी २०३६ सालमा नेपाल दर्शन अन्तरगत नै *धवलागिरी* हिमाल चित्राङ्कित विशेष हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनमा आएको थियो । यसैक्रममा २०३८ सालमा रु. २ को दरको लाङटाङ लिरुङ हिमाल चित्राङ्कित विशेष हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनमा ल्याइएको थियो ।

हिमाल चित्र अंकित विशेष हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनको क्रममा २०३९ साल मंसीरमा अन्तरराष्ट्रिय पर्वतारोहण संघको स्वर्ण जयन्ती तथा सो संघको ४४ औं साधारण सभा सम्पन्न भएको उपलक्ष्यमा २५ पैसा, रु. २ र रु. ३ दरका क्रमशः *नुप्से, ल्होत्से* र *सगरमाथा* चित्र अंकित विशेष हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनमा ल्याइएका थिए । २०४० सालमा नेपाल दर्शन टिकट माला अन्तरगत *चोयू* हिमाल चित्राङ्कित, २०४१ सालमा *अपी* हिमाल चित्राङ्कित र २०४३ सालमा *पुमोरी* हिमाल चित्राङ्कित विशेष हुलाक टिकटहरु प्रकाशनमा आएका छन् । यसैगरी २०४४ सालमा कान्जीरोवा हिमाल, २०४६ सालमा *अमाडबलम* हिमाल, २०४७ सालमा साइपल हिमाल तथा २०४८ सालमा *कुम्भकर्ण जन्नु* हिमाल चित्राङ्कित विशेष हुलाक टिकटहरु प्रकाशनमा आएका छन् । हिमाल दृश्याङ्कित विशेष हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनको क्रममा २०५१ सालमा *सगरमाथा* तथा २०५२ सालमा *नाम्पा* हिमाल हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशित भएका छन् ।

२०५३ सालमा हिमाल चित्राङ्कित विशेष हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनको क्रममा *अन्नपूर्ण दक्षिण* र *अन्नपूर्ण प्रथम, माछापुच्छ्रे* र *अन्नपूर्ण तेस्रो* तथा *अन्नपूर्ण दोस्रो* र चौथो हिमाल चित्राङ्कित हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनमा आएका छन् । त्यसै साल नेपाल-जापानबीच दौत्य सम्बन्ध स्थापना भएको चालिसौं वार्षिकोत्सवको उपलक्ष्यमा प्रकाशित संस्मरणात्मक विशेष हुलाक टिकटमा जापानको *फुजी* हिमाल शिखर तथा नेपालको *सगरमाथा* र *मनास्लु* हिमशिखरहरु चित्राङ्कित छन् । २०५५ सालमा सोलुखुम्बुस्थित *चोलात्से* हिमाल चित्राङ्कित विशेष हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशित भएको छ भने २०५६



सालमा विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर *सगरमाथा* हिमाल चित्राङ्कित विशेष हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनमा आएको छ ।

संक्षेपमा भन्नुपर्दा हिमाल नामाकरण विशेष हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशनको थालनी २०१७ सालमा प्रकाशित सगरमाथा थियो भने हिमाल चित्राङ्कित संस्मरणात्मक विशेष हुलाक टिकटमा आजसम्म इतिहासमा त्यही सगरमाथा चित्राङ्कित विशेष हुलाक टिकटसम्म आइपुग्नु पनि संयोगको कुरा नै मान्नु पर्ला !

नेपालमा रहेका ८००० मीटरभन्दा अग्ला हिमशिखरहरु र तिनका उचाई र अवस्थिति :

	हिमालको नाम	*उचाई*	*हिमश्रृँखला*	*जिल्ला*
१.	सगरमाथा	८८४८	खुम्बु	सोलुखुम्बु
२.	कञ्चनजंघा	८५९७	कञ्चनजंघा	ताप्लेजुङ
३.	ल्होत्से	८५१६	खुम्बु	सोलुखुम्बु
४.	मकालु	८४७६	कुम्भकर्ण	संखुवासभा
५.	चोयु	८२०१	खुम्बु	सोलुखुम्बु
६.	धवलागिरि	८१३७	धवलागिरि	म्यार्दी
७.	मनास्लु	८१६३	गणेश हिमाल	गोरखा
८.	अन्नपूर्ण	८०९१	अन्नपूर्ण	मनाङ

हालसम्म प्रकाशनमा आएका हिमशिखर नामाकरण चित्राङ्कित विशेष हुलाक टिकट र तिनमा अंकित उचाई :

क)	सगरमाथा	८८४८	ख)	कञ्चनजंघा	८५९७
ग)	मकालु	८४७६	घ)	चोयु	८२०१
ङ)	धवलागिरि	८१३७	च)	अन्नपूर्ण (प्रथम)	८०७८
छ)	अन्नपूर्ण (दोस्रो)	७९३७	ज)	अन्नपूर्ण (तेस्रो)	७५५५
झ)	अन्नपूर्ण (चौथो)	७५२५	ञ)	कुम्भकर्ण (जन्नु)	७७१०
ट)	गणेश हिमाल	७४०६	ठ)	लाङटाङ (लिरुङ)	७२४६
ड)	पुमोरी	७१६१	ढ)	अपी	७१३२
ण)	पाविल	७१०२	त)	सैपाल	७०३१
थ)	टुकुचे	६९०२	द)	कान्जीरोवा	६८८३
ध)	नाम्पा	६७५५	न)	माछापुच्छे	
प)	चोलात्से	६४४०	फ)	अमाडब्लम	६८१२
ब)	नुप्से		भ)	गौरीशंकर	
म)	मनास्लु		य)	ल्होत्से	

उपर्युक्त विशेष हुलाक टिकटहरुका अतिरिक्त सन् १९९७ मा नेपाल र जापान बीचको दौत्य सम्बन्ध स्थापना भएको चालीसौं वर्षको उपलक्ष्यमा प्रकाशित भएको हुलाक टिकटमा नेपाल र जापानको राष्ट्रिय झण्डाका साथै माउण्ट फूजी, सगरमाथा तथा मनास्लु हिमाल चित्राङ्कित विशेष हुलाक टिकट प्रकाशित भएको छ ।

सगरमाथाको उचाइ कति ?

जर्ज म्यालोरीलाई सगरमाथा आरोहण गर्ने कारणबारे जिज्ञासा राख्दा झण्डै आठ दशकअघि उनको प्रत्युत्तर थियो- किनकि त्यो त्यहाँ छ । सगरमाथा त्यहीं नै छ, तर त्यस विश्व सम्पदाबारे नवीन जानकारीहरू प्रकाशमा आउने क्रम जारी छ । प्राचीनकालमा टेथिस सागर रहेको तर पछिका कालखण्डमा भारतीय प्लेट युरेसियन प्लेटतर्फ धकेलिएपछि उत्पत्ति भएको सगरमाथाको उचाइ एक शताब्दीअघि उनन्तीस हजार दुई फिट रहेकोमा यसको उचाइ थपिदैछ । सगरमाथाको उचाइ सन् १९५४ मा उनन्तीस हजार अठाइस फिट अर्थात् ८८४८ मिटर रहेकोमा अब विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथाको उचाइमा परिवर्तन देखापरेको छ । अमेरिकी पर्वतारोहीहरू पिट एथान्स र बिल क्लाउज तथा पाँच शेर्पाहरूद्वारा भूउपग्रह कम्प्युटरका माध्यमबाट गरिएको मापन तथा अमेरिकाको नेशनल ज्योग्राफिक सोसाइटीद्वारा पुष्टि गरिएको आधारमा अहिले सगरमाथाको उचाइ सातफिटले बढेर २९०३५ फिट अर्थात् ८,८५० मिटर पुगेको छ । परिवर्तित भौगर्भिक प्रक्रियाका कारण वैज्ञानिकहरूले सगरमाथा वर्षेनि उत्तरपूर्व दिशामा धकेलिदै गएको विश्वास गरेका परिप्रेक्ष्यमा सगरमाथाका विविध पक्षमा गरिएका अध्ययन अनुसन्धानले त्यस क्षेत्रको भौगर्भिक स्थितिबारे भविष्यमा नवीन जानकारीहरू प्रकाशमा आउने प्रबल सम्भावना समेत छ । युरेसियन तथा भारतीय प्लेटबीचको घर्षणको कारण सगरमाथाको उचाइ वृद्धि भइरहेको सन्दर्भमा अर्को चार पाँच दशकपछि सगरमाथाको वर्तमान उचाइमा फेरबदल भएमा आश्चर्य मान्नुपर्ने स्थिति रहने छैन ।

विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथाले विश्वव्यापी रूपमा पर्वतारोहीहरूलाई मोहित तुल्याउँदै आएको छ । तेन्जिंग नोर्गे शेर्पा तथा एडमण्ड हिलारी सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गरेका साढे चार दशक बढी अवधिमा नेपाल तथा विदेशका सयौं पर्वतारोहीहरूले सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गरिसकेका छन् । सगरमाथा आरोहणको इतिहास साहसका गाथाले जति परिपूर्ण छ त्यत्तिकै दुःखान्त घटनाहरूले पनि । सगरमाथा आरोहणका क्रममा कतिपय पर्वतारोहीहरूले जीवन गुमाउनुपरेको छ । तथापि सगरमाथा आरोहण आकर्षणप्रति ह्रास आएको छैन । कैयन पर्वतारोहीहरू सगरमाथा आरोहणका प्रसङ्गमा नयाँ नयाँ कीर्तिमान कायम गर्न प्रतिबद्ध छन् । सगरमाथाका चार मोहडाबाट सर्वोच्च शिखरको आरोहण गर्न पर्वतारोहीहरू तल्लीन छन्, सगरमाथा चुचुरोमा कुनै कुनै वर्ष पर्वतारोहीहरूको भीड नै पुग्ने गरेको पृष्ठभूमिमा सगरमाथालाई विश्राम दिनुपर्ने धारणा पनि बेलाबखत सार्वजनिक हुनेगरेको जग जाहेर छ । साहसिक गाथाको ज्वलन्त प्रतीक बनेको सगरमाथा क्षेत्र यसै क्रममा विभिन्न समस्या र चुनौती सामना गर्न पनि विवश छ । सगरमाथा आरोहणका सिलसिलामा पर्वतारोहीहरूले त्यस क्षेत्रमा छोड्ने गरेका सामान लगायतका कारण सगरमाथा क्षेत्रको वातावरणीय सन्तुलनमा प्रतिकूल असर परेको छ । विश्व सम्पदा सगरमाथा स्वच्छ राख्न हालका वर्षहरूमा गम्भीर प्रयास भए पनि सगरमाथा क्षेत्रलाई पूर्ववत् स्थितिमा पुऱ्याउन अझै केही वर्ष प्रतीक्षा गर्नुपर्नेछ । सर्वोच्च शिखर सम्बन्धमा गरिएका अध्ययन अनुसन्धानका सन्दर्भमा नवीन तथ्यहरू पत्ता लागेको तथा भौगर्भिक स्थितिप्रति विविध दृष्टिकोण देखापरेको परिप्रेक्ष्यमा मानवजातिको नै अमूल्य सम्पदा सगरमाथाको गरिमा श्रीवृद्धि गर्न तथा विश्व सम्पदाको संरक्षण गर्न सम्बद्ध सबैको चिन्तन आवश्यक छ । विश्व मानचित्रमा नेपाललाई सुपरिचित गराउँदै आएको सगरमाथाको सफाइ अभियान प्रभावकारी रूपमा सञ्चालन गर्न सकिएमा अनन्तकालसम्म सगरमाथा संरक्षित रहन सक्नेछ ।

अमेरिकाको नेशनल ज्योग्राफिक सोसाइटीले सगरमाथाको उचाइ समुद्र सतहदेखि २९ हजार ३५ फिट रहेको कुराको पुष्टि गरेको छ । यस पुष्ट्याईले सगरमाथाको उचाइ विगत ४५ वर्षमा सातफिट बढेको रहस्योद्घाटन गरेको छ । एक अमेरिकी पर्वतारोही टिमले गत मे महिनामा सर्वोच्च शिखरको आरोहण गर्ने क्रममा भूउपग्रहमा भुउपग्रह (ग्लोबल पोजिसनिङ स्याट्लाइट) कम्प्युटर मार्फत सगरमाथाको उचाइ ५० मिनेट लगाएर मापन गरेको थियो ।

पर्वतारोही पिट एथन्स, विल व्वाइज तथा पाँच शेर्पा पर्वतारोहीको सहयोगमा मापन गरिएको सगरमाथाको उचाइको प्रमाण र तत्सम्बन्धी विवरणलाई अमेरिकाको कोलोराडो विश्वविद्यालयका वैज्ञानिकहरूले ६ महिना लगाएर सो तथ्यको अध्ययन- अनुसन्धान गरेपछि उनीहरू सगरमाथाको उचाइ बढेको निष्कर्षमा पुगेका थिए ।

सगरमाथाको यसअघिको २९ हजार फिटको उचाइ त्यसबेला सगरमाथाको विभिन्न बिन्दुबाट गरिएको मापनबाट निर्धारण गरिएको थियो र त्यसमा भारतको सर्वेक्षणको प्रमुख भूमिका रहेको थियो ।

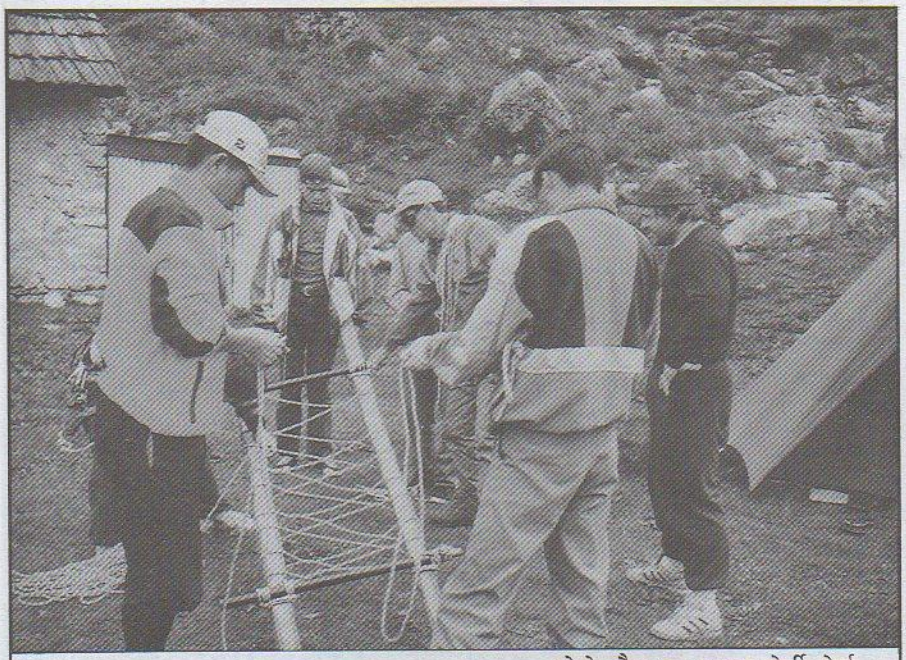
अमेरिकी वैज्ञानिकहरूको निष्कर्ष अनुसार यस भौगोलिक क्षेत्रमा उत्पन्न असन्तुलनका कारण सगरमाथा हाल प्रतिवर्ष २.४ इञ्चका दरले उत्तरपूर्वको दिशामा धकेलिदैछ । वैज्ञानिकहरू अनुसार सगरमाथा क्षेत्रको गर्भमा उत्पन्न प्रक्रियाका कारण विस्तारै भारततिर धक्का दिदै सगरमाथाको विस्तार भइरहेको छ ।

नेपाली वैज्ञानिकहरू पनि यस्तै धारणासित सहमत छन् । उत्तरमा रहेको युरेसियन प्लेट (भूखण्ड) तथा भारतीय प्लेटबीचको घर्षणका कारण सगरमाथाको उचाइ बढिरहेकोछ । भूगर्भविद्हरूका अनुसार अहिले सगरमाथा रहेको ठाउँमा शुरुमा टेथिस सागर थियो । पछि भारतीय प्लेट युरोसियन प्लेटतिर धकेलिएपछि सगरमाथाको उत्पत्ति भएको हो । आजको सगरमाथा शुरुमा टेथिस क्षेत्रमा समुद्रको गर्भमा रहेका कारण आज पनि सगरमाथाको टुप्पोमा सामुद्रिक अवशेष पाइन्छ ।

सगरमाथाको उत्पत्तिपछि युरेसियन प्लेटसँग ठोक्किने प्रक्रियामा शिथिलता आएको तर हालका वर्षमा त्यो क्रम फेरि शुरु भएकोले सगरमाथाको उचाइ निरन्तर बढ्ने क्रममा रहेको छ ।

अमेरिकी वैज्ञानिक ब्राडफोड वासबर्नद्वारा दावी गरिएको सगरमाथाको उचाइ वृद्धिसम्बन्धी तथ्यलाई श्री ५ को सरकारले अस्वीकार गरेको छ । भूमि सुधार तथा व्यवस्था मन्त्रालयले एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति जारी गरी सगरमाथाको उचाइ ८८४८ मिटर नै रहेको कुरा पुष्टि गरेको छ । नेपालको स्थलरूप आधार नक्सा तयार गर्ने सिलसिलामा सन् १९५४ मा सगरमाथाको उचाइ ८८४८ कायम भएको कुरा उल्लेख गर्दै सो विज्ञप्तिमा सन् १९७५ मा चिनियाँ टोलीबाट भएको विस्तृत सर्वेक्षणमा समेत सगरमाथाको उचाइ ८८४८ मिटर निर्धारण भएकोले त्यसैलाई नै आधिकारिक मान्नुपर्ने जनाएको छ ।

नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघका तालीमहरु



फोटो सौजन्य : लाक्पा दोर्जी शेर्पा

- विनय शाक्य

सन् १९७३ मा नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघको जन्म हुँदा संघको विभिन्न उद्देश्यहरु मध्ये एउटा प्रमुख उद्देश्यको रुपमा पर्वतारोहण सम्बन्धी तालीम पनि रहेको थियो । यही उद्देश्य परिपूर्ति गर्ने लक्ष्य अनुरुप सन् १९७८ मा पूर्व युगोस्लाभियाको अल्पाइन क्लवका ख्यातिप्राप्त पर्वतारोही श्री एलेस कुनाभेरले मनाङको हुम्रेमा एक प्रशिक्षण स्कूलको स्थापना गरी सहयोग गरिदिएका थिए । त्यसबेलादेखि उक्त प्रशिक्षण स्कूलमा पर्वतारोहण प्रशिक्षण अभियान नियमित रुपमा संचालन भइरहेको छ ।

नेपाली तथा विदेशी पर्वतारोहीहरुलाई सम्मिलित गराई पर्वतारोहण सम्बन्धी आधारभूत, उच्च तथा ढूँगेभीर चढाईका सीप मात्र होइन पर्वतारोहण, वातावरण, नेतृत्व गर्ने कौशलताका साथै आपतकालीन स्थितिमा उद्धार गर्ने विषयमा समेत प्रशिक्षण दिने कार्यको लागि नेपाली, स्लोभेनिया, फ्रान्स एवं अष्ट्रियाका प्रशिक्षकहरुको प्रत्यक्ष सहभागिता रहेको छ ।

खास गरी आधारभूत तालीमको लागि पूर्व युगोस्लाभिया र स्लोभेनियाको अल्पाइन क्लवले महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निर्वाह गरेका छन् भने उच्च पर्वतारोहण प्रशिक्षणको लागि अष्ट्रिया र फ्रान्सले प्रमुख भूमिका खेलेका छन् । यसै सम्बन्धमा हालै मनाङमा संचालित पर्वतारोहण सम्बन्धी आधारभूत तालीममा सम्पूर्ण नेपाली प्रशिक्षकहरुले प्रशिक्षण गरेका थिए । नेपाली प्रशिक्षकहरुलाई अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय स्तरको प्रशिक्षकको रुपमा प्रस्तुत गर्न थप तालिम लिन पाएमा आत्मविश्वासमा बृद्धि हुने कुरा उक्त तालिमका प्रमुख प्रशिक्षक श्री प्रेमबहादुर गुरुङ बताउनु हुन्छ ।

नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघले दिने आधारभूत पर्वतारोहण प्रशिक्षण भारतको दार्जिलिङ्ग र मनालीमा दिइने तालिमभन्दा उच्चस्तरको रहेको कुरा दार्जिलिङ्ग पर्वतारोहण स्कूलका प्रशिक्षक श्री गोम्बु शेर्पा बताउनु हुन्छ । नेपालको पर्वतारोहण प्रशिक्षणमा प्रशिक्षक भइसकेका श्री शेर्पाले नेपालमा दिइने तालिममा प्रत्यक्ष स्थलगत र प्रयोगात्मक अनुभव हासिल गर्न पाउने हुँदा प्रशिक्षार्थीहरुको कुशलतामा सकारात्मक प्रभाव पर्ने कुरामा विश्वास गर्नु हुन्छ । यो तालीमले प्रशिक्षार्थीहरुमा उत्साह जाँगर तथा आत्मविश्वास बृद्धि हुने कुरा बताउनु हुन्छ । यस प्रकारको तालिम लिइसकेपछि पर्वतारोहण तथा पदयात्रामा सहभागी भईजाने समूहको नेतृत्व गर्न सक्षम हुने कुरामा प्रशिक्षकहरु विश्वस्त छन् ।

विगतमा संघबाट प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त पथप्रदर्शकहरुले नेतृत्व गरेका पदयात्रा तथा पर्वतारोहण समूहको मूल्याङ्कन गर्दा आकस्मिक दुर्घटनाहरुमा कमी भएको कुरा यस संघका कार्य समिति सदस्य तथा *नेपाल हिमालयन पथप्रदर्शक संघका* अध्यक्ष श्री ल्हाक्पा दोर्जी शेर्पा बताउनु हुन्छ । यसबाट पनि संघको प्रशिक्षण उपयोगीसिद्ध भएको प्रमाणित हुन्छ ।

नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघ र इको हिमालको सम्युक्त आयोजनामा गत वर्षदेखि महिलाहरुलाई मात्र सहभागी गराई थप तालिम संचालन गरिएको थियो । नेपाली महिलाहरुलाई हौसला प्रदान गर्न उक्त Female Outdoor Leadership Training मा अनुमान गरेकोभन्दा दोब्बर संख्यामा तालिम लिन निवेदन परेको थियो । खासगरी महिलाहरुमा पर्वतारोहण सम्बन्धी जागरण ल्याउने प्रमुख उद्देश्यले संचालित उक्त तालिम गत वर्ष अन्नपूर्ण क्षेत्रमा १५ दिनसम्म संचालन गरिएको थियो । महिला प्रशिक्षक तथा संघका वर्तमान कार्यसमिति सदस्य श्रीमती डिमी शेर्पाले सो तालिममा महिला सहभागीहरुले नौलो अनुभव गर्नुका साथै सहभागीहरुको उत्साहमा थप जाँगर ल्याएको अनुभव व्यक्त गर्नुभयो ।

यस आर्थिक वर्ष २०५६/५७ मा संचालित तालिममा सहभागी भएकी प्रशिक्षार्थीहरुमध्येकी सुश्री ल्हाक्पा शेर्पाले आगामी वसन्त ऋतुमा *नेपाली महिला नयाँ सहस्राब्दी सगरमाथा आरोहण अभियान, सन् २००० वसन्त* को नेतृत्व गर्दै संघबाट तालिम लिएका अन्य तीन महिला सदस्यहरु समेत सम्मिलित गराई विशुद्ध नेपाली महिला सगरमाथा आरोहण दलले सगरमाथाको आरोहण गर्ने लक्ष्य लिएको छ ।

गत वर्ष सानै उमेरमा सगरमाथाको आरोहण गर्न प्रयास गर्ने पोखराका १५ वर्षका



किशोर पर्वतारोही श्री अरविन तिमिल्सिनाले पनि संघकै पर्वतारोहण तालिम लिएका थिए भने संघबाट आधारभूत पर्वतारोहण प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त गरिसक्नु भएका गौरीशंकर - ५, ताशिनाम, दोलखा निवासी १४ वर्षिय किशोर श्री तेम्बा छिरी शेर्पाले आगामी वर्ष यस्तैप्रकारको कीर्तिमान कायम राख्ने लक्ष्य लिएका छन् । उनको प्रयासको सफलताको लागि पनि हार्दिक शुभकामना ।

यस प्रकार संघबाट प्रशिक्षित पर्वतारोहीहरुको दक्षतामा वृद्धि भइ पर्वतारोहीहरुमा आत्मविश्वास बढ्दै गएको कुरा प्रमाणित भएको मात्र होइन कि प्रशिक्षित दक्ष जनशक्तिले पदयात्रा र पर्वतारोहण अभियानलाई सुरक्षित पार्न पनि मद्दत गरेको कुरा प्रष्ट भएको छ ।

यसलाई अझ अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय स्तरमा पुऱ्याउन संघ प्रयासरत रहेको कुरा संघका महासचिव श्री भूमिलाल लामा तथा प्रशिक्षण तथा पर्वतारोहण अभियान समितिका संयोजक श्री पासाङ शेर्पा बताउनु हुन्छ ।

तसर्थ, शौखिन र पेशेवर पर्वतारोहीहरुको आत्मविश्वास बढाउने यसप्रकारको तालिमलाई अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय स्तरको बनाउने मात्र होइन कि तालिमप्रति जागरण ल्याउन पनि यो प्रयासलाई निरन्तरता दिनु पर्ने आजको माग रहेको देखिन्छ ।

नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघद्वारा आरोहण अनुमपति पत्र प्रदान गरिने शिखरहरु

क्र.सं.	शिखर	उचाइ (मिटर)
१.	मेरा पीक	६६५४
२.	चुलु ईष्ट	६५८४
३.	सिंगुलुची (Fluted Peak)	६५०१
४.	हिउँचुली	६४४१
५.	चुलु वेष्ट	६४१९
६.	कुसुम कांग्रु	६३६७
७.	फर्चामो	६१८७
८.	इम्जात्से (Island Peak)	६१६०
९.	लोवुचे	६११९
१०.	पिसांग पीक	६०९१
११.	क्वांदे	६०११
१२.	रामडुंग	५९२५
१३.	पाल्दोर पीक	५८९६
१४.	खोंमात्से (Mehra Peak)	५८४९
१५.	गञ्जला चुली (Naya Kanga)	५८४४
१६.	पोखाल्दे	५८०६
१७.	थार्पु चुली (Tent Peak)	५६६३
१८.	मार्दी हिमाल	५५८७

नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघले हालसम्म संचालन गरेको प्रशिक्षण तथा प्रशिक्षार्थीहरुको तालिका

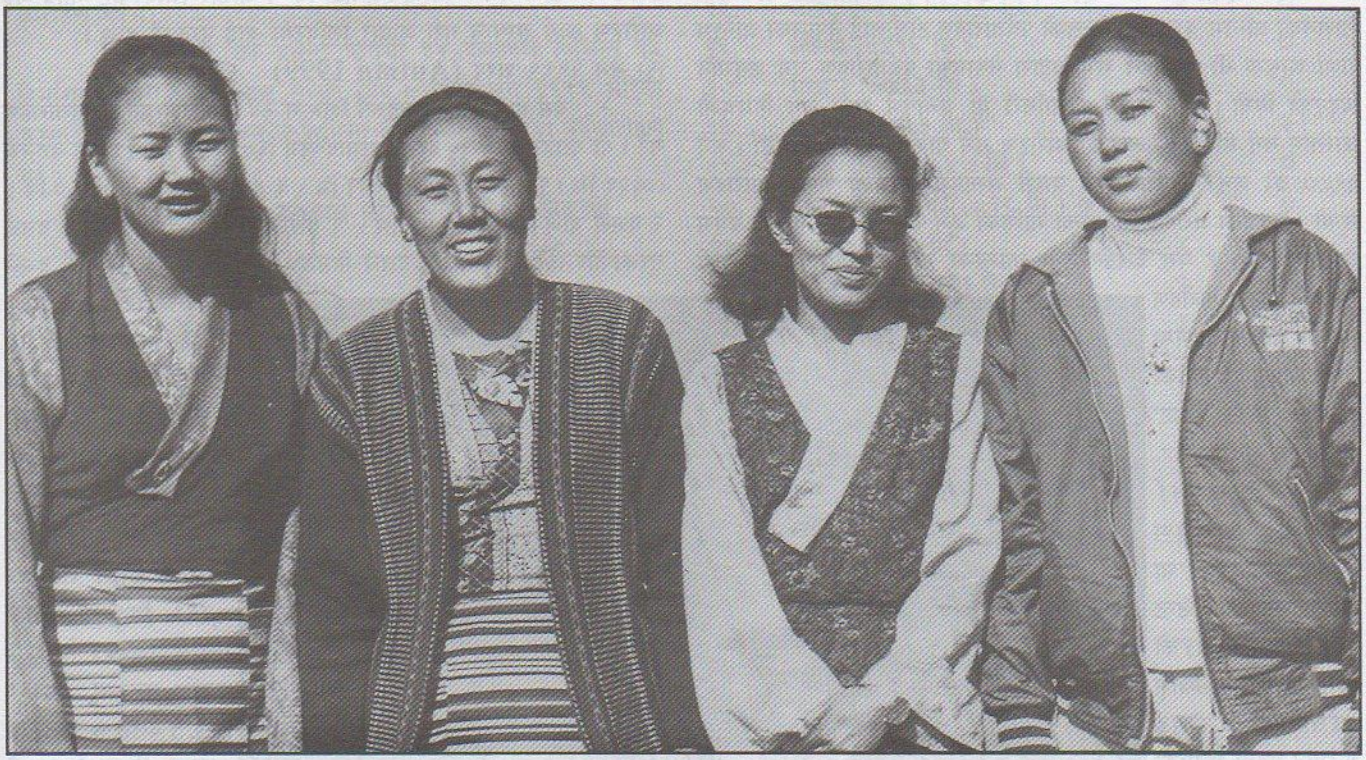
प्रशिक्षित प्रशिक्षार्थीहरुको संख्या ७७८

TRAININGS CONDUCTED BY NMA (1979 TO 1999)

Year	Basic Mt. Training	Advance Mt. Training	Basic Rock Training	Advance Rock Training	Trek Tour Leader	Junior Basic Training	Female Training
1979	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1980	45	-	-	-	-	-	-
1981	46	-	-	-	-	-	-
1982	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
1983	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1984	30	7	-	-	-	-	-
1985	24	11	-	-	-	-	-
1986	31	9	-	-	-	-	-
1987	30	15	-	-	-	-	-
1988	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1989	31	22	-	-	-	-	-
1990	30	17	-	-	-	17	-
1991	29	13	-	-	30	-	-
1992	33	17	-	-	-	-	-
1993	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1994	30	-	-	-	-	-	-
1995	32	-	-	-	-	-	-
1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1997	13	11	-	-	-	-	-
1998	16	13	29+34	-	-	-	-
1999	-	16	-	7	-	-	15
1999	31	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	495	151	63	7	30	17	15

नयाँ सहस्राब्दीमा नेपाली महिलाहरुको सगरमाथा आरोहणबाट नेपालको प्रवेश

- भूमिलाल लामा



सन् १९५१ को मई महिनामा विश्वको सर्वोच्च १४ शिखरहरु मध्ये फान्सेली अन्नपूर्ण आरोहण अभियान दलका सदस्यद्वय श्री मौरिश हर्जोग र उनका सहयात्री श्री लुई लेचेनेलले अन्नपूर्णको सफलतापूर्वक आरोहण गरेपछि नेपालका हिमालहरुमा सन् १९५० को दशकदेखि अभियान दलहरुको ओइरो लाग्न थाल्यो । सन् १९५३ को मई महिनामा विशवको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथामा ब्रिटिश एभरेष्ट एक्स्पिडिसन दलका सदस्यद्वय श्री एडमण्ड हिलारी श्री तेञ्जीङ्ग नोर्गे शेर्पाले यस सगरमाथालाई चुमेपछि विश्वको मानचित्रमा नेपाल कहाँ पर्छ भनेर विश्व मानव समुदायमा कौतुहलताको लहर नै चल्यो । त्यसपछि जापानीहरुले सन् १९५४ मा मनासलु हिमालको आरोहण पनि पर्वतारोहण इतिहासमा दस्तावेजहरुमा सुरक्षित नैप छन् । हुन त सगरमाथाको उचाइ ब्रिटिश सर्भे दलले पत्ता लगएर संसारको उच्चतम शिखर हो भनेर चिन्हिएपछि ब्रिटेनका प्रख्यात सर्भेयर जनरल सर जर्ज एभरेष्टका नाममा सम्मान स्वरु MT. Everest भनेर नामाकरण गरिएको कथा पनि कम रोचक छैन । यस प्रकार आ-आफ्नो राष्ट्रको इज्जत बढाउने एवं तत् तत् राष्ट्रका पर्वतारोहीहरुले आ-आफ्नो नाम पनि इतिहासमा लेखाउने उत्कण्ठा स्वरुप अहिलेसम्म पनि त्यस्तो प्रयासहरु प्रशस्त मात्रामा भएको पाइन्छ ।

यसै क्रममा सर्वोच्च १४ वटा हिम शिखरहरु मध्ये सगरमाथा लगायत ८ वटा हिमशिखरहरुद्वारा सुशोभित नेपालका पर्वतारोहीहरुले पनि विश्व कीर्तिमान राख्न कहाँ पछि परेका छन् र ! तथापि महिला पर्वतारोहीहरुको कीर्तिमानलाई पुरुष पर्वतारोहीहरुको कीर्तिमानले ओझेलमा पारेको हो कि भन्ने भान पनि हामीलाई पर्न सक्छ । त्यस्तो त कीर्तिमानको स्वरुप, अवस्था र कालखण्ड पृथक पृथक छन् र आफ्नै वैयक्तिक विशेषताहरु पनि नभएको चाहिँ होइन । तर जे होस् नेपाली महिला पर्वतारोहीहरु यस क्षेत्रमा पछि नै परेको कुरालाई एक्लो पासाङ ल्हामुको सफलताले आगमनलाई स्वागत गर्न एवं नेपाली महिलाहरुको इज्जतलाई श्रीवृद्धि गराउन महिलाहरुको आत्मसम्मानलाई उचाइ तर्फ लाने उद्देश्य बोकी नयाँ सहस्राब्दीसँगै नेपाली महिलाहरु पनि यस राष्ट्रको गौरव बढाउने, राष्ट्रिय चेतना जागरण औ साहस जगाउने कार्यमा पछि पर्दैनन् भन्ने सन्देशमूलक अभियानको थालनी गर्न राष्ट्रिय स्तरमै नेपाल र नेपालीको गरीबी, अशिक्षा र पछौटेपन हटाउन २०५० साल देखि विभिन्न जनजागृतिका परियोजनाहरू सम्पन्न गर्ने शुभकार्यमा दत्तचित्त भई अनवरत रुपमा लागि परेको सुष्मा कोइराला मेमोरियल ट्रष्टले चार सदस्यीय "नेपाली महिला सहस्राब्दी सगरमाथा वसन्त २०००" लाई एक प्रतिकात्मक अभियानको रुपमा अघि सारेको प्रतीत हुन्छ । यसका साथै नयाँ सहस्राब्दीले ल्याउने सम्भावित समस्याहरुको सामना गर्न नेपाली महिलाहरु तत्पर छन् भन्ने देखाउन पनि यो अभियानलाई पर्वतारोहण क्षेत्र इतरका अरु विभिन्न क्षेत्रमा पनि यस्तो जोश जाँगरको प्रस्फुरण होओस् भन्न खातिर एक विम्वात्मक संकेत दिन उक्त अभियानको आयोजना गरिएको हुनुपर्छ ।

निश्चित रुपले यस अभियानले आम नेपाली महिलाहरुमा दृढ मनोवल, साहस, जाँगर एवं चेतना जगाउनेछ र राष्ट्रको विकासमा महिलाहरुको सक्रिय एवं गरिमामय भूमिका प्रतिको प्रतिबद्धतालाई एक सन्देशको रुपमा पुऱ्याउन सफल हुनेछ भन्ने सुष्मा कोइराला मेमोरियल ट्रष्ट तथा अभियान संचालनको अभिभारा बोकेको समितिको मनोकांक्षा पूरा होओस्, हामी नेपालीहरु यही चाहन्छौं ।

आर्थिक रुपले विपन्न नेपालीहरुको भावनालाई "जिउ मेरो यही हो, धन मेरो छैन, मन पछि कि पर्दैन ?" भन्ने लोक भाषाको मूल भावबाट यस अभियान पनि अछुतो छैन अर्थात् केवल साहस, जाँगर र जोश छ तर आवश्यक भौतिक साधन जुटाउन पैसा छैन । तसर्थ यस पूनित कार्यमा नेपाली उद्योगी एवं समाजसेवीहरु सवैमा भौतिक एवं आर्थिक सहयोग जुटाई सहभागी हुन ट्रष्टका तर्फबाट "नेपाली महिला सहस्राब्दी सगरमाथा आरोहण अभियान वसन्त २०००" लाई सफल संचालन गर्न गठित अभियान संचालन समिति हार्दिक आह्वान मनासिव नै देखिन्छ । धेरै पुनित कार्यहरुको लागि यस्तो आह्वानहरुलाई नेपालीहरुले कसरी लिए, कति सहभागिता देखाए भन्ने कुराको लेखाजोखा त्यति भए जस्तो लाग्दैन तर यो अभियानमा संलग्न पढ्न लेख्न पाउने अवसरबाट वञ्चित, भाग्यले ठगिएका वहुसंख्यक नेपाली महिलाहरु जस्तै यी अपठित शेर्पा महिलाहरुको सगरमाथाको शिखर छुने प्रयास भने सवैतिरबाट प्रशंसनीय नै देखिन्छ । यी निरक्षर महिलाहरुले राष्ट्रवासीहरुलाई नयाँ सहस्राब्दीको संघारमा दिन खोजेको सन्देश जति महत्वपूर्ण छ सायद त्यति महत्व अभियान सफल असफल हुनमा पनि नहोला तथापि अभियानको सफलताको कामना गर्नु सवैको सामूहिक कर्तव्य भित्र नै पर्छ ।

सन् १९९९ : शरद र हिउँदको पर्वतारोहण गतिविधि

– उमेशकुमार सिंह

सन् १९५० देखि नेपालमा पर्वतारोहण शुरु भएको देखिन्छ । राणा शासनको अन्तिम कालतिर फ्रान्सको पर्वतारोहण टोलीलाई नेपालका अन्तिम राणा शासक श्री ३ मोहन शमशेरद्वारा नेपालमा पर्वतारोहण गर्न अनुमति दिइएको थियो । उक्त दलले धौलागिरी या अन्नपूर्ण मध्य जुन हिमचुली आरोहण गर्न सकिने हो त्यसको आरोहण गर्ने योजना बनाएको थियो । सन् १९५० को जुन महिनामा यस दलले अन्नपूर्ण प्रथमको सफल आरोहण गऱ्यो । विश्वका ८००० मि. भन्दा माथिका कुनै पनि हिमचुलीको यो प्रथम आरोहण थियो र यस दलका नेता फ्रान्सका मौरिस हेर्जोग ले अन्नपूर्ण प्रथमको सफल आरोहण गरे तर यस आरोहणमा उनले आफ्ना दुवै हातका औंलाहरु 'फ्रस्ट बाइट' का कारण गुमाए ।



सगरमाथा आरोहणमा नयाँ कीर्तिमान कायम गर्ने बाबु छिरी शेर्पा नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघद्वारा आयोजित समारोहमा

अन्नपूर्ण प्रथमको आरोहण पश्चात सन् १९५२ मा नेपाल तर्फबाट माउन्ट एभरेष्ट (सगरमाथा) को आरोहणको लागि स्वीस पर्वतारोही दललाई अनुमति प्रदान गरिएको थियो तर उक्त दल २७,५५० फिटसम्म पुगेता पनि शिखरमा पुग्न सकेन । तत्पश्चात सन् १९५३ मा सर जोन हन्टको नेतृत्वमा गएको ब्रिटिस पर्वतारोही दलले सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गऱ्यो । त्यसपछि नेपालमा वर्षेनि विभिन्न पर्वतारोही दलहरुले आरोहण कार्य गरिआएका छन् ।

नेपालमा हालसम्मको अध्ययनबाट ६००० मिटर भन्दा बढी उचाइका करिब १३१० हिमशिखरहरु रहेको देखिन्छ । जस मध्ये १५१ हिम शिखरहरु पर्वतारोहणको लागि खुल्ला गरिएको छ । यी मध्ये कम उचाइका १८ वटा हिम शिखरहरुलाई "ट्रेकिङ पिक" भन्ने गरिएको छ र यिनीहरुको आरोहण अनुमति प्रदान गर्न नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघलाई अधिकार दिइएको छ । यी १८ वटा हिमचुलीहरुको आरोहण अनुमति नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघबाट प्रदान हुन्छ र यसबाट उठेको शुल्कबाट संघले नेपालमा पर्वतारोहणको विकासको लागि विभिन्न कार्यक्रमहरु सञ्चालन गर्दै आएको छ । बाँकीका १३३ हिम शिखहररुको आरोहण अनुमति श्री ५ को सरकार, पर्यटन तथा नागरिक उड्डयन मन्त्रालयबाट प्रदान गरिन्छ । पर्वतारोहण नियमावली २०३६ को व्यवस्था अनुसार पर्यटन तथा नागरिक उड्डयन मन्त्रालयबाट वर्षका चार ऋतुहरुका लागि अनुमति प्रदान हुन्छ । १ मार्चदेखि ३१ मईसम्म वसन्त (Spring) ऋतु, १ जुनदेखि १५ अगष्टसम्म ग्रीष्म (Summer) ऋतु, १ सेप्टेम्बर देखि १५ नोभेम्बरसम्म शरद (Autumn) ऋतु र १ डिसेम्बरदेखि १५ फेब्रुअरीसम्म हिउँद (Winter) ऋतुको रुपमा वर्गीकरण गरिएको छ । पर्वतारोही दलहरुलाई एक ऋतुको समयावधिको लागि अनुमति प्रदान गरिन्छ र दलले सो समयावधिभित्र नै आधार शिविरबाट माथि गई आरोहण कार्य सम्पन्न गरी आधार शिविरमा आई पुग्नुपर्ने हुन्छ ।

(१) सन् १९९९ शरद **(Autmn 1999)**

यस ऋतुमा ७० दलहरुले विभिन्न २४ हिमखिशरहरुमा पर्वतारोहण गरे । यी दलहरु मध्ये १६ दलले आमादव्लम (६८१२ मि.), १२ दलले वरुन्त्से (७१२९ मि.) १ दलले चोपोलु (६७११ मि.), ६ दलले धौलागिरी (८१६७ मि.), २ दलले दोर्जे लाक्पा (६९६६ मि.), १ दलले ड्रामो (६८५५ मि.), १ दलले गुरकापोरि (६८९१ मि.), १ दलले हिमलुङ्ग हिमाल (७१२६ मि.), २ दलले कन्चनजंघा (८५८६ मि.), १ दलले कुम्भकर्ण (७७१० मि.), १ दलले कान्जीरोवा (६८८३ मि.), १ दलले कांगटोकाल १ दलले कांगुरु (६९८१ मि.), २ दलले लाङ्गटाङ्गलिरुङ्ग (७२३४ मि.), १ दलले लोत्से (८५१६ मि.), १ दलले मकालु (८४६३ मि.), ३ दलले मनास्लु (८१६३ मि.), १ दलले मनास्लु नर्थ (७१५७ मि.), १ दलले निलगिरी साउथ (६८३९) मि., ५ दलले पुमोरी (७१६१ मि.), १ दलले रक्साउराई (६५९३ मि.) २ दलले सगरमाथा (८८४८ मि.), ३ दलले तिलिचो (७१३४ मि.) र २ दलले टेंगकोमा (६२१५ मि.) मा पर्वतारोहण गरेका थिए । यी पर्वतारोहण दलहरु मध्ये १७ दलले सफल आरोहण गरेका थिए भने ५३ दल असफल भएका थिए । ८००० मि. भन्दा बढी उचाइका हिमालहरुमा १२ दलले पर्वतारोहण गरेकोमा एक दलले मात्र आरोहणमा सफलता प्राप्त गऱ्यो जुनकि धौलागिरीमा थियो । यस ऋतुमा शुरुदेखि नै हिमाली क्षेत्रमा मौसम बिग्रेको थियो र १८ अक्टोवरदेखि लगातार तीन दिनसम्म हिमाली क्षेत्रहरुमा व्यापक हिमपात भएको थियो, जसले गर्दा पर्वतारोहणमा कठिनाई भयो । शरद ऋतुको अन्त्यमा मौसम राम्रो भएकोले कम उचाइका हिमशिखरहरुमा भने केही दलहरुले सफलता प्राप्त गरेका थिए । वरुन्त्से नजिक रहेको चोपोलु शिखर (६७११ मि.) को जर्मन पर्वतारोहीहरुले प्रथम पटक आधिकारिक आरोहण गरे । तर सन् १९८४ मा एक जना स्पेनिस पर्वतारोहीले बिना अनुमति यस शिखरको अनधिकृत आरोहण गरेको आशंका छ ।

यस ऋतुमा २४ अक्टोवरका दिन मकालु गा.वि.स. संखुवासभा निवासी दावादोर्जे शेर्पाको धौलागिरीमा, ११ अक्टोवरका दिन नाम्चे गा.वि.स. सोलुखुम्बु निवासी सांगे शेर्पाको मकालुमा, १४ सेप्टेम्वरका दिन कोरियाका होन डो क्याको कञ्चनजंघामा र २४ अक्टोवरका दिन अमेरिकाकी श्रीमती जिनेट एल. ह्यारिशनको धौलागिरीमा पर्वतारोहणको क्रममा दुःखद निधन भयो ।

(२) सन् १९९९/२००० हिउँद **(Winter 1999/2000)**

यस ऋतुमा ८ पर्वतारोहण दलहरुलाई विभिन्न २ हिमशिखरहरुमा पर्वतारोहण गर्न अनुमति प्रदान गरिएको थियो जस मध्ये ५ दलले आमादव्लम (६८१२ मि.) र ३ दलले मनास्लु (८१६३ मि.) को आरोहण अनुमति प्राप्त गरेका थिए। यसमध्ये २ दलले सफल आरोहण गरे।

सन् १९९९ को वसन्त ऋतुमा ३४ दलहरुले विभिन्न १५ हिमशिखरहरुमा पर्वतारोहण गरेका थिए। यसरी सन् १९९९ भरिमा जम्मा ११२ दलहरुले नेपालका विभिन्न ३१ हिमशिखरहरुमा पर्वतारोहण गरे।

सन् १९९९मा विभिन्न दलहरुले गरेको पर्वतारोहण विवरण

	हिमखिरको नाम र उचाई	दलसंख्या		
		वसन्त	शरद	हिउँद
१.	सगरमाथा (८८४८ मि.)	८	२	०
२.	आमादव्लम (६८१२ मि.)	४	१६	५
३.	वरुन्तसे (७१२९ मि.)	०	१२	०
४.	चोपोलु (६७११ मि.)	०	१	०
५.	धौलागिरी (८१६७.)	१	६	०
६.	दोर्जे लाक्पा (६९६६ मि.)	१	२	०
७.	ड्रामो (६८५५ मि.)	०	१	०
८.	गुकार्पोरी (६८९१ मि.)	०	१	०
९.	हिमलुंग (७१२६ मि.)	०	१	०
१०.	कञ्चनजंघा (८५८६ मि.)	१	२	०
११.	कुम्भकर्ण (७७१० मि.)	०	१	०
१२.	कांजिरोवा (६८८३ मि.)	०	१	०
१३.	कांगटोकाल (६२९४ मि.)	०	१	०
१४.	कांगुरु (६९८१ मि.)	०	२	०
१५.	लाङ्गटाङ्गलिरुङ्ग (७२३४ मि.)	०	२	०
१६.	ल्होत्से (८५१६ मि.)	३	१	०
१७.	मकालु (८४६३ मि.)	३	१	०
१८.	मनास्लु (८१६३ मि.)	३	३	३
१९.	मनास्लु नर्थ (७१५७ मि.)	०	१	०
२०.	निलगिरी साउथ (६८३९ मि.)	०	१	०
२१.	पुमोरी (७१६१ मि.)	१	५	०
२२.	रक्सा उराइ (६५९३ मि.)	०	१	०
२३.	तिलिचो (७१३४ मि.)	०	३	०
२४.	तेंगकोमा (६२१५ मि.)	०	२	०
२५.	अन्नपूर्ण प्रथम (८०९१ मि.)	२	०	०
२६.	धाम्पस (६०१२ मि.)	१	०	०
२७.	गंगापूर्ण (७४५५ मि.)	१	०	०
२८.	नुपत्से (७८५५ मि.)	२	०	०
२९.	याला (५३२२ मि.)	२	०	०
३०.	थामशेकु (६२३० मि.)	१	०	०
३१.	गान्चेम्पो (६३८७ मि.)	०	१	०
	जम्मा	३४	७०	८

Mountaineering Expedition Teams Permitted During 1999 Autumn Season

	Name of Expedition team	Name of the Peak & Height	Ascent Route	Name of the Leader	Country	No. of Member
1	International Amadablam Exp.'99	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Andre Georges	Switzerlan	8
2	Amadablam Ko Pahuna Expedition	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Ms. Jeanne Panek	USA	6
3	Norwegian Amadablam Exp.	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Karl Erik Roenstad	Norway	8
4	Amadablam Valais Expedition	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Paul V.Amaudruz	Switzerland	7
5	Expedition Andalusian Amadablam	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Manuel G. Diaz	Spain	3
6	DAV Summit Club Ama Dablam Exp.	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Zbigninew Mlynarczyk	Germany	7
7	ABS Amadablam Expedition	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Arthur B. Schulz	USA	6
8	Int.Amadablam Expedition '99	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Ernst Rufibach	Switzerland	4
9	Azimt Amadablam Expedition	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Yvan Estrenne	France	12
10	Chiemgau-Mountaineering Team Exp.	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Markus Prechti	Germany	7
11	OTT Amadablam Expedition	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. David Cumming	UK	12
12	Earth Treks Shared Summits Exp.	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Cijostpier Warner	USA	4
13	Amadablam Vaiais Expedition	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Paul Victor Amandriuz	Swiss	9
14	Star Trek Amadablam Expedition	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Marcello Cominetti	Italy	6
15	Mountain Madness Amadablam Exp.	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Stephen Shrader	USA	7
16	Amadablam 99 Expedition	Amadablam (6812m.)	S.W.Ridge	Mr. Nicholas Parks	UK	7
17	Amical Alpine Baruntse Exp.'99	Baruntse (7129m.)	W.Col to S.R.	Mr. Robert Racki	Germany	12
18	1999 American Baruntse Exp.	Baruntse (7129m.)	S.E.Ridge	Mr. Robert D. Garneau	USA	8
19	Numberger Anniversary Exp.	Baruntse (7129m.)	S. Ridge	Mr. Christain Funke	Germanay	8
20	Austrian Baruntse Expedition '99	Baruntse (7129m.)	S.East Ridge	Mr. Jheodor Kubicka	Austrian	6
21	Baruntse French Alpine Club Exp.	Baruntse (7129m.)	Normal Route	Mr. Denis Crabers	France	11
22	International Expedition Baruntse '99	Baruntse (7129m.)	North Ridge	Mr. Marco Berti	Italy	3
23	4061 Esprit De Montagne Expedition	Baruntse (7129m.)	South W.Face	Mr. Corrado Gonter	Italy	4
24	OTT USA Baruntse Expedition	Baruntse (7129m.)	S.E.Ridge	Mr. Damian Bengas	USA & UK	9
25	French Baruntse Expedition	Baruntse (7129m.)	S.Ridge	Mr. Georges Derycke	France	7

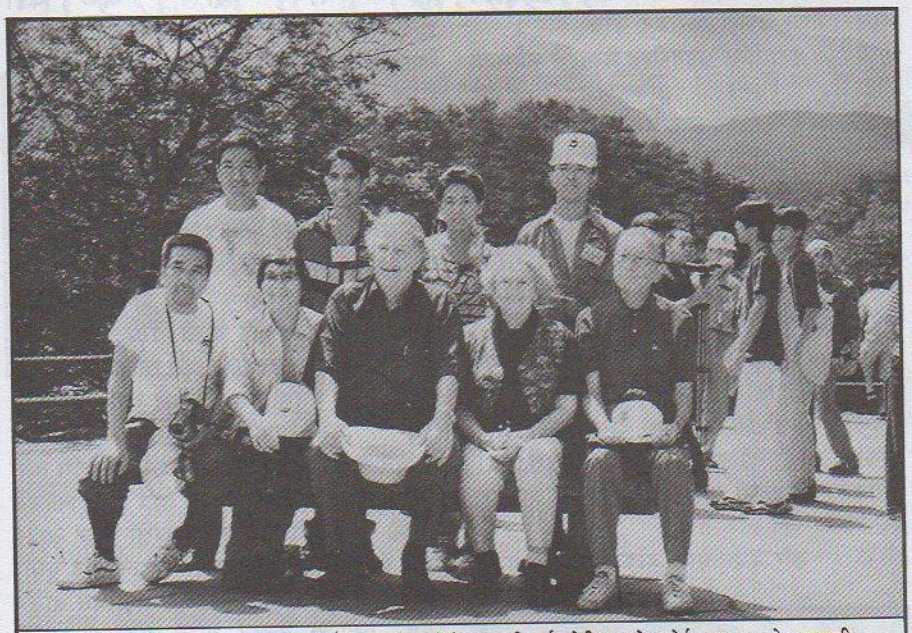
26	Genova in Himalaya Gruppo Alt inontagnt	Baruntse (7129m.)	S.Ridge	Mr. Ruggero Pallanca	Italy	7
27	Trans Tirol Baruntse Expedition	Baruntse (7129m.)	S.Ridge	Mr. Rudof Schweigkofler	Italy	5
28	Baruntse 99 Expedition	Baruntse (7129m.)	West Ridge	Mr. Jean Marc Genevois	France	4
29	Saxon Khumbu Expedition	Cho Polu (6711m.)	West Face	Mr. Markus Walter	Germany	4
30	Swiss Dhaulagiri Exp. 1999	Dhaulagiri (8167m.)	Normal Route	Mr. Pierre-Alain Romagnoli	Switzerland	7
31	International Dhaulagiri 99 Expedition	Dhaulagiri (8167m.)	North East R.	Mr. Gary Scott Pfisterer	USA	11
32	Dhaulagiri Exp.99 By Alpine Team-84	Dhaulagiri (8167m.)	East Face	Mr. Hiraoka Ryuseki	Japan	2
33	Slovenian Dhaulagiri Exp. '99	Dhaulagiri (8167m.)	South Face	Mr. Tomaz Humar	Slovenia	7
34	French Dhaulagiri 1 Expedition	Dhaulagiri (8167m.)	Normal Route	Mr. Francois Damilano	France	8
35	Dhaulagiri International Expedition'99	Dhaulagiri (8167m.)	Normal Route	Mr. Josef Moravek	Czech Republic	9
36	French Dorje Lhakpa Expedition	Dorje Lhakpa (6966m.)	West Ridge	Mr. Robert Rene Leon	France	7
37	TA Dorje Lhakpa Autumn '99	Dorje Lhakpa (6966m.)	West Ridge	Mr. Grobel Paulo	France	11
38	Drahmo Expedition 1999	Drahmo (6855m.)	N.R./N.E.F.	Mr. Bruce Normand	UK	7
39	South Palatinate Himalaya Exp.	Gurkarpo Ri (6891m.)	West Ridge	Mr. Jurgen Schutz	Germany	7+3
40	Swiss Academic Ski Club	Mt. Ganchenpo(6387m.)	South W.Ridge	Mr. Kari Cobler	Switzerland	11
41	Saxony Himlung Expedition '99	Himlung Himal (7126m)	N.G.Wiegand	Mr. Gotz Wiegand	Germany	6
42	99 Korean Kangchenjunga Exp.	Kanchenjunga (8586m.)	North Face	Mr. Hyung-Chil Lim	Korea	8
43	99 Korean Kangchenjunga Exp.	Kanchenjunga (8586m.)	North Face	Mr. Jong Hwan Kim	Korea	7
44	Jannu Expedition	Kumbhakarna (7710m.)	North Face	Mr. Grigovev Olega	Uzbekistan	9
45	British Kanjiroba Himal Expedition	Kanjiroba (6883m.)	Normal	Mr. Thomas Wedgewood	UK	9
46	Sotillo Ladroda Sanga Kangtokal Exp.	Kangtokal (6294m.)	Normal	Mr. Miguel Angel Vidal	Spain	4
47	Kang Guru '99 Expedition	Kang Guru (6981m.)	W.N.W.Spur	Mr. Sesare Cesa Bianchi	Italy	8
48	Atlante Kang Guru Expedition '99	Kangu Guru	N.E. Rodge	Mr. Gills Buisson	France	9
49	Penaguara-Sanga Exp.	Langtang Lirung(7234m.)	S.E.Ridge	Mr. Palacin C. Teodora	Spain	5
50	Swiss Langtang Lirung Exp.	Langtang Lirung(7234m.)	S.E.Ridge	Mr. Rauner Johanes	Swiss	5
51	99 Korea Lhotse South Face Exp.	Lhotse (8516m.)	South Face	Mr. Bong Jae Lee	Korea	12
52	99 Korean Makalu Expedition	Makalu (8463m.)	Normal Route	Mr. Kim.Hyoung Woo	Korea	7
53	99 Korean Manaslu Expedition	Manaslu (8163m.)	Normal Route	Mr. So Byung Geom	Korea	4
54	Sailung Manaslu Expedition '99	Manaslu (8163m.)	Noth E. Ridge	Mr. Gricelli Hugues	Belgium	7
55	Montaneros de Aragon	Manaslu (8163m.)	N.E. Face	Mr. Jose Chaverri Alaman	Spain	12
56	Sapporo Alpine Association Manaslu	Manaslu North (7157m.)	South Ridge	Mr. Koichi Ezaki	Japan	7
57	Slovenian Nilgiri Expedition '99	Nilgiri South (6839m.)	South Face	Mr. Tadej Golob	Slovenia	6
58	Canadian 99 Mt. Pumori Expedition	Pumori (7161m.)	S.E.Ridge	Mr. Tim Ripple	Canada	11
59	The Norwagian Pumori Expedition	Pumori (7161m.)	S.W. Ridge	Mr. Jonas Lie-Nielsen	Norway	4
60	1999 PMA Pumori Expedition	Pumori (7161m.)	Normal Route	Mr. Ryszard Pawlowski	Poland	9
61	H.G. Pumori South Ridge Exp.	Pumori (7161m.)	South Ridge	Mr. Henry B. Todd	UK	11
62	HG2 Pumori South Ridge Exp.	Pumori (716m.)	South Ridge	Mr. Simon A. Yates	UK	9
63	Austrian Raksha Urai Expedition	Raksha Urari (6593m)	Normal	Mr. Fritzen Bothern	Austria	9
64	Everest 100 Anys. Expedition	Sagarmatha (8848m.)	S.E. Ridge	Mr. Ferran Latorre Torres	Spain	4
65	Expeditico Castellano-Leonesa Al Everest	Sagarmatha (8848m.)	S.E. Ridge	Mr. Isidoro Rodriguez Cubilla	Spain	9
66	Tilicho French Expedition	Tilicho (7134m.)	North Ridge	Mr. Gilles Marcaud	France	11
67	TA Tilicho Expedition '99	Tilicho(7134m.)	N.E. Ridge	Mr. Fabien Ibarra	France	9
68	TA Tilicho Expedition '100	Tilicho (7134m.)	N.E.Ridge	Mr. Grenier Philipe	France	8
69	German Tengkoma Expedition	Tengkoma (6215m.)	Normal	Mr. Gerhard Fimmel	Germany	7
70	Explora Himalaya Three Peaks Exp.	Tengkoma (6215m.)	South Side	Mr. Joel Schone	USA	12

Mountaineering Expedition Teams Permitted During 1999 Winter Season

	Name of Expedition team Peak & Height	Name of the Route	Ascent Leader	Name of the	Country Member	No. of
1	1999 American T-3 Ama Dablam Exp 1999/2000 Winter	Ama Dablam (6812m)	South Ridge	Mr. Alan Kerney	USA	6 (six)
2	1999 American Ama Dablam Exp. USA	Ama Dablam (6812m)	South W.R.	Ms. Cathy Ann Taylor	USA	7 (seven)
3	Winter Ama Dablam -II Exp. USA	Ama Dablam (6812m)	South W.R.	Ms. Melissa Kade	USA	7 (seven)
4	1999 PMG Ama Dablam Winter Exp.	Ama Dablam (6812m)	South W.R.	Mr. James M. Williams	USA	7 (seven)
5	Winter '99 Ama Dablam Expedition UK	Ama Dablam (6812m)	South W.R.	Mr. Henry B. Todd	G.Britain	10 (ten)
6	Sapporo Alpine Associations Manaslu Exp.	Manaslu (8163m)	North E.R.	Mr. Koichi Ezaki	Japan	7 (seven)
7	Danish Manaslu Expedition '99	Manaslu (8163m)	North E.R.	Mr. Michael Stryno	Denmark	2 (two)
8	Japan Gunma Winter Mt. Manaslu Exp.	Manaslu (8163m)	East Face	Mr. Hideji Nazuka	Japan	7 (seven)

सगरमाथा आरोहणका कीर्तिमान

❒ अर्जुन 'अन्जान' घिमिरे



पर्वतारोहीहरु एडमण्ड हिलारी (अघिल्लो पंक्ति दायाँबाट तेस्रो) जापानी पर्वतारोही जुनको तावेई तथा तादाओ कान्जाकी

भारतका सर्वेयर राधानाथ सिकन्धर र तेजवीर बुढाथोकीले सगरमाथालाई विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर हो भनेर सन् १८५५ मा नापी हुँदा बताए। यस सम्बन्धमा विवाद उत्पन्न हुँदा भारतबाट सन् १८५५ मा नेपालमा रहेका तत्कालीन अंग्रेज रेजिडेण्ट ब्रियान हड्सनसँग पनि राय मागिएको थियो। उनले नयाँ पत्ता लागेको चुली देव ढुङ्गा वा भैरवथान भन्ने भएकाले सोही नाम हुनुपर्छ भनी सुझाव पठाएका थिए। तर तत्कालीन अंग्रेज सरकारलाई यो मान्य भएन। सन् १८६५ मा ब्रिटिश भारतका नापी महानिर्देशक कर्णेल एण्ड्रीयु बागले आफूभन्दा अगाडिका नापी महानिर्देशक सर जर्ज एभरेष्टको नाम नै उक्त नयाँ चुलीको नाम हुनुपर्ने राय पठाएका थिए। अंग्रेजहरुलाई नेपालमा पदयात्रा मनाही, तिब्बततर्फबाट सगरमाथा चढ्न नसक्नुको कारण बेलायतको संसद्मा छलफल हुँदा पनि १८५५ देखि १८५६ भित्र सगरमाथाको नामाकरण हुन सकेन। अन्ततः सन् १८६५ जुलाई ४ मा बेलायतको ग्रीनबीचमा जन्मेका सर जर्ज एभरेष्टकै नामबाट सगरमाथाको नाम माउण्ट एभरेष्ट राख्ने निर्णय बेलायतको रोयल जोग्राफिकल सोसाइटीबाट भयो। भारत स्वतन्त्र भएपछि राधानाथ सिकन्धरको नाम रहनु पर्छ भनेर खैलाबैला मच्चाए पनि शिखर 'सगरमाथा', 'माउण्ट एभरेष्ट', 'झोमोलोङ्गमा', 'मितीगुती चापुलोङ्गा' जस्ता लोकप्रिय स्थानीय र विदेशी नामले प्रसिद्धि कमाइसकेको हुनाले भारतको राधानाथ सिकन्धर नाम राख्ने धोको अधकल्चो भएको थियो।

भू-सर्वेक्षणको शुरुवातसँगै हिमचुचुरा कुन अग्ला भन्ने कुरामा चर्चा चलेको हो। ब्रिटिश भारत सरकारको नापी महानिर्देशकले रोमन अक्षराङ्कनमा पन्धौं चुलीको संज्ञा सगरमाथालाई र सर्वोच्च शिखरको संज्ञा कञ्चनजङ्घालाई दिएका थिए। तर, त्रिकोणात्मक सर्वेक्षणद्वारा यसको यथार्थ उचाइ ८८४८ मि. ठहर गरेपछि भने सगरमाथा विवादमुक्त भई शिर उचो राख्न सफल भएको छ।

मानिस रहस्यलाई कोट्याई रहन चाहने चेतनशील प्राणी हो । यो बानीले मानिसले कति ठाउँमा ज्यान गुमाउनु परेको छ भने कति ठाउँमा सफलता प्राप्त गरेको छ। सगरमाथा विश्वको उच्च शिखर हो भन्ने थाहा भएपछि आरोहणका पाइलाहरु चालिन थालिए। राणाकालमा, विशेषतः अघिल्ला वर्षहरुमा सगरमाथा चढ्न प्रतिबन्ध लगाइएको थियो। वि.सं. १९४२ सालमा क्लिण्टन डेष्टनले सगरमाथा चढ्ने प्रयास गरे। तर, सगरमाथा चढ्न बन्देज लगाइएकै कारण उनको इच्छा पूरा हुन सकेन। वि.सं. १९७८ मा तात्कालिक राणा सरकारले जर्ज म्यालोरीलाई स्वीकृति प्रदान गरेको थियो। तर म्यालोरीले सफलता प्राप्त गर्न सकेनन्। जर्ज म्यालोरी र उनका साथी इर्भिन पुनः वि.सं. १९८२ सालमा सगरमाथाको आरोहणमा पाइला चाले तर उनीहरु दुवैको केही उचाइमै मृत्यु भयो। यी आरोहीको मृत्युले केही समयको लागि सगरमाथा चढ्ने प्रयास रोकिएको पाइन्छ। वि.सं. २००४ सालदेखि नै सगरमाथा आरोहणको लागि खुला गरिनु पर्छ भनेर दवाव आएपछि वि.सं. २००६ सालमा सगरमाथा आरोहणको लागि सबैलाई ढोका खुल्ला गरिएको थियो । यस खुल्लापनले पर्वतारोहीहरुलाई सगरमाथाको वस्तुस्थिति राम्ररी बुझ्न मद्दत गऱ्यो।

सोलुखुम्बु जिल्लाको विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर, सगरमाथाको काखमा जन्मिएका तेन्जिङ्ग नोर्गे शेर्पा र न्यूजिल्याण्डका महात्वाकांक्षी पर्वतारोही एडमण्ड हिलारी २०१० जेठ १६ गते ब्रिटिश पर्वतारोही दलबाट प्रथम पटक सगरमाथाको शिखरमा पुग्न सफल भएका थिए। विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथाको शिरमा पाइला टेकेको खबर विश्वभर फैलिएपछि अरु पर्वतारोही पनि सगरमाथाको चुचुरो टेक्ने प्रबल आकांक्षाले जुर्मुरिए। तदनुरुप, स्वीट्जरल्याण्डका पर्वतारोहीहरुले दोस्रोपटक र चिनियाँ पर्वतारोहीहरुले तेस्रोपटक सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गरे।

तेन्जिङ्ग नोर्गे शेर्पाले भारतको नागरिकता लिएर दार्जीलिङ्गमा बस्न थाले र पछि त्यही देहावसान भयो। उनीपछि नेपालको तर्फबाट प्रथमपटक सगरमाथा चढ्ने व्यक्ति फुदोर्जी शेर्पा हुन्। उनी वि.सं. २०२२ जेठ १६ गते सगरमाथाको चुचुरो चुम्न सफल भएका थिए। नेपालको तर्फबाट सबैभन्दा कम उमेरमा सगरमाथाको चुचुरो टेक्ने युवा पर्वतारोही शम्भु तामाङ हुन्। उनले १८ वर्षको उमेरमा सफल आरोहण गरेका थिए। यसैगरी विश्वको सबैभन्दा कम उमेरमा सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गर्ने फ्रान्सका १७ वर्षीय किशोर बर्टाण्ड रोज थिए।

सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गर्ने प्रथम पत्रकार स्टाइन एसिन नर्वेका पर्वतारोही हुन्। उनले आरोहण पश्चात् सगरमाथाको थप प्रचार प्रसार गर्ने टेवा पुऱ्याएका थिए। सगरमाथाको आराहेण गर्ने प्रथम महिला जुन्को तावेइ हुन्। जापानकी पर्वतारोही जुन्को तावेइले २०३२ जेठ २ गते सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गरेकी थिइन्।

इटालीका राइनहोल्ड मेस्नर र अष्ट्रियाका पिटर ह्यारोल्डले वि.सं. २०३५ सालमा पहिलोपटक बिना अक्सिजन सगरमाथाको आरोहण गरे। प्रथमपटकचुचुरोमा वारपार गर्ने व्यक्ति नेपालका आङफुर्वा शेर्पा हुन्। उनले वि.सं. २०४५ बैशाख २३ गते सगरमाथाको चुचुरो परिक्रमा गरेका थिए। तिब्बत क्षेत्र र नेपालबाट एकैपटक चीन-जापान-नेपालको संयुक्त आरोहण टोलीले वि.सं. २०४५ सालमा सगरमाथाको आरोहण गरेको थियो। यस समयमा उक्त टोलीको आरोहण चित्र जापानको 'निप्पन' टेलिभिजनले विश्वभर प्रत्यक्ष प्रसारण गरेको थियो। यो करामत टोपीमा जडान गरिएको एक विशेष भिडियो क्यामेराको थियो।

समुद्रको सतहदेखि पैदल यात्रा गरेर विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथासम्म पुग्ने व्यक्ति अष्ट्रेलियाका टिममेकाटूर्नी स्नेप हुन्। उनी वि.सं. २०४६ माघ २३ गते कलकत्तास्थित हुग्ली नदीको मुख, बंगालखाडी तटबाट पैदल यात्रा शुरु गरेर २०४७ साल वैशाख २० गते सगरमाथाको शिखर



सुङदरे शेर्पा

टेक्न सफल भएका थिए ।

भारतकी डिकी डोल्मा (१९ वर्ष) ले महिलातर्फ सबैभन्दा कम समयमा सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण (वि.सं. २०५० वैशाख १० गते) गरेर विश्वकीर्तिमान राखेकी हुन् । यो साल सगरमाथाले महिला वर्ष मनाइदियो: नेपाली वीराङ्गना श्रीमती पासाङ ल्हामु शेर्पाले पनि यसै साल वैशाख १० गते विहिवारका दिन सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गरेकी थिइन् । २०५० सालमै विश्वका सबैभन्दा बढी महिलाले एकैपटक लगायत विश्वकै सबैभन्दा ठूलो ३८ जनाको समूह सगरमाथाको चुचुरोमा वैशाख २८ गते पुग्न सफल भएको थियो । वि.सं. २०५० सालमै विश्वको अर्को ठूलो कीर्तिमान पनि कायम भएको थियो : भेनेजुएलाका ६० वर्षीय रामोन ब्लाँको सुयारेजले त्यसै वर्ष असोज २१ गते सबभन्दा बढी उमेरमा सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गरेका थिए ।

सोलुखुम्बु जिल्लाको नाम्चे बजारका आङरिता शेर्पा विश्वमा सबैभन्दा बढी पटक सगरमाथाका आरोहण गर्ने साहसी व्यक्ति हुन् । हाल ४९ वर्षीय हिउँचितुवा प्रथमपटक वि.सं. २०४० साल वैशाख २४ गते शनिवार र पछिल्लोपटक २०५३ जेठ १० गते विहिवारसम्ममा १० पटक विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखरमा पाइला राख्न सफल भइसकेका छन् । आङरिताले नै नेपाली पर्वतारोहीमध्ये सबैभन्दा पहिले बिना अक्सिजन सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गरेका थिए । आङरितालाई श्री ५ को सरकारले उनको अमूल्य देन, उत्तम सीप र तेजस्वितालाई हृदयङ्गम गर्दै प्रति महिना रु. पाँच हजार दिने निर्णय गरेको छ ।

भारतबाट सर्वप्रथम सगरमाथा आरोहण गर्ने पर्वतारोही वचेन्द्री पाल हुन् भने लगातार दुईपटकसम्म सगरमाथाको चुचुरोमा पुगी विश्व प्रसिद्धि कमाउने महिला सन्तोष यादव हुन् । उनले एक वर्षको फरकमा अर्थात् प्रथमपटक वि.सं. २०४९ मा र दोस्रो पटक २०५० सालमा सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गरेकी थिइन् । बिना अक्सिजन सगरमाथाको एक्लै आरोहण वि.सं. २०५२ वैशाख ३१ गते ब्रिटेनकी ३३ वर्षीय महिला पर्वतारोही एलिसन हरग्रिभ्ससले प्रथमपटक गरेकी हुन् । यसैगरी तिब्बती र नेपाली दुवै क्षेत्रबाट सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गर्ने व्यक्ति जापानका आसु ओकातो हुन् ।

वि.सं. २०५३ साल एकै महिनाभित्र आजसम्म सबैभन्दा बढी ६४ जना पर्वतारोहीले सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गरेका थिए ।

इटालीका राइनहोल्ड मेस्नरले सबैभन्दा पहिलो बिना अक्सिजन, एक्लै सगरमाथा र विश्वका आठ हजार मिटरभन्दा बढी उचाइ भएका १४ वटै हिमशिखरहरुको सफल आरोहण गरिसकेका छन् ।

दशरथ रङ्गशालास्थित सितेरियो करााँते महासंघबाट 'ब्ल्याक बेल्ट' प्राप्त गरेका लोप्साङ शारीरिक सुगठनका धनी व्यक्ति हुन् । उनको सगरमाथा आरोहणमा विश्व चकित छ । उनले सगरमाथाको चुचुरोमा लगेर नेपालको संस्कृतिलाई प्रदर्शित गरेका छन् । लोप्साङले सबभन्दा पहिले शेर्पा पोशाकमा, दोस्रो पटक नेपाली पोशाकमा तेस्रो पटक सितेरियो करााँतेको पोशाकमा सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गरिसकेका छन् ।

कार दुर्घटनामा आफ्नो खुट्टा गुमाउन



पासाङ ल्हामु शेर्पा

पुगेका प्राध्यापक टम हिव्टकर कृत्रिम खुट्टाको सहायताले वि.सं. २०५५ जेठ १३ गते विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथा टेक्न सफल भएका थिए ।

यस्तै सोलुखुम्बु जिल्लाको तामाखानीमा जन्मिएका ३५ वर्षीय काजी खाइलाग्दा, सुगठित शरीरका धनी छन् । घुमन्ते पशुपालनलाई छोडी पर्वतारोहीको भारी बोक्न थालेका काजी पहिलोपटक सात हजार पाँच मिटरको उचाइबाट फर्केका थिए । नयाँ विश्वकीर्तिमानका नायक काजीले आठ वर्षअघि फ्रेञ्च नागरिक मार्क वर्टार्डले कायम गरेको २२ घण्टा २९ मिनेटको कीर्तिमानलाई तोडी वि.सं. २०५५ साल असोज ३१ गते शनिवारका दिन २० घण्टा २४ मिनेटमा विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखरमा चढेर नयाँ विश्व कीर्तिमान कायम गरेका हुन् । आठ हजार मिटरभन्दा बढी उचाइका १४ वटा हिमालयमध्ये पाँचवटामा पाइला टेकिसेकेका काजी बाँकी सम्पूर्ण शिखरको शिर चुम्न चाहन्छन् । काजी आफूले घोषणा गरेको १८ घण्टामा सगरमाथा चढ्ने अभिलाषालाई पूरा गर्न प्रतिबद्ध छन् ।

सोलुखुम्बु टाक्सिन्दु गाउँ विकास समिति वडा नं. ७ छुलम गाउँको लाहक्पा शेर्पाका ३३ वर्षीय छोरा, ६ वटा छोरीका बाबु, बाबुछिरी शेर्पा गत जेठ महिनाको विहिवार बिहान नौ बजेदेखि शुक्रवार करिब बिहान सात बजेसम्म विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथामा चन्द्र सूर्य अङ्कित राष्ट्रिय झण्डा फहराएर 'श्रीमान् गम्भीर नेपाली ....' राष्ट्रिय गीत गाउँदै विश्व कीर्तिमान राखेर लगभग ६ अर्ब मानिसलाई आश्चर्य चकित तुल्याएका छन् । उनी त्यति लामो बसाइ पछि पनि स्वस्थ छन् र तुरुन्तै अर्को टोलीलाई शिरमा पुऱ्याएर आफूले पनि नवौं पटक पुऱ्याई विश्वको दोस्रो धेरैपटक आरोहण गर्ने व्यक्ति भएका छन्, जुन कुरा चिकित्सा क्षेत्रलाई समेत नौलो अनुभूति हुन पुगेको छ ।

यसैगरी पोखरामा जन्मिएका १५ वर्षीय अरबिन तिमिल्सिना दिनकुमारी शर्माका छोरा तथा कुमुदिनी होम्समा अध्ययनरत छात्र हुन् । विश्वकै कान्छो पर्वतारोही बन्ने महत्वाकांक्षा राखेर २०५६ साल वैशाख २२ गते बुधवार बिहान साढे एघार बजे आठहजार सातसय मिटर उचाइस्थित साउथ समिट पुगेपछि बेजोड आँखा दुखाइका कारण फर्किएका थिए । १७ वर्षीय सबभन्दा कान्छा आरोहीको तुलनामा अरबिनको कार्य उमेर अनुसार बढी मानिन्छ ।

यसरी वि.सं. २००६ सालमा सगरमाथा आरोहणको लागि अनुमति दिइएपछि हालसम्म ७२० जनाभन्दा बढी पर्वतारोहीहरुले सगरमाथाको आरोहण गरिसकेका छन् ।

आरोहणका प्रमुख दुर्घटनाहरु - वि.सं. १९८२ मा इर्भिन तथा जर्ज म्यालोरी दुवैको मृत्यु भएको थियो । वि.सं. २०५३ मा एकै पटक सबैभन्दा बढी नौजना पर्वतारोहीहरुको मृत्यु भएको थियो । वि.सं. २०५० वैशाख ११ गते नेपाली प्रथम महिला आरोही नेपाल ताराद्वारा विभूषित पासाङ ल्हामु शेर्पाको बास बसेको ठाउँमा हिउँले पुरिई मृत्यु भएको थियो । सगरमाथा आरोहणकै क्रममा २००९ सालदेखि हालसम्म करिब २०५ जना जति पर्वतारोहीहरुको मृत्यु भइसकेको छ ।

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सोनाम छिरिङ शेर्पा

गिनिजबुकमा नाम अंकित गर्ने पर्वतारोहीहरु


आङरिता शेर्पा

विश्व रेकर्डसम्बन्धी संसारको सर्वाधिक चर्चित र धेरै बिक्री हुने किताब 'गिनिज वर्ल्ड रेकर्ड २०००' को मिलेनियम संस्करणमा पाँच जना नेपाली महारथीहरुले आफ्नो नाम प्रकाशित गर्न सफल भएका छन् ।

लण्डनबाट प्रकाशित सो किताबको अमेरिकी संस्करण हालै बजारमा आएको छ, जसमा पर्वतारोहणजस्ता साहसपूर्ण कार्यमा विश्व रेकर्ड बनाउन सफल यी नेपालीहरुको नाम उल्लेख गरिएको छ ।

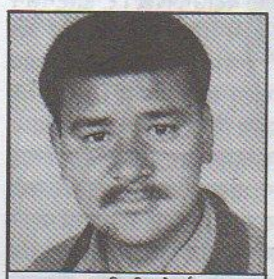
त्यस किताबमा नाम लेखाउन सफल विश्व कीर्तिमान कायम गर्ने व्यक्तिहरुमा बाबुछिरी शेर्पा, काजी शेर्पा, आङ्रिता शेर्पा, शम्भु तामाङ र स्व. तेन्जिङ् नोर्गे शेर्पा रहेका छन् ।

अंग्रेजीलगायत अन्य २२ भाषामा प्रकाशित भई संसारका ७० भन्दा बढी देशमा करिब ९ करोड प्रति बिक्री हुने अनुमान गरिएको सो पुस्तकले हालै सगरमाथाको चुचुरोमा धेरै समय बिताउने बाबुछिरी शेर्पा र सबैभन्दा छिटो सगरमाथा चढ्ने काजी शेर्पाको तस्वीरलाई विशेष प्राथमिकताका साथ छापेको छ ।


शम्भु तामाङ

विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगमाथाका प्रथम ओरोहीहरुमा एडमण्ड हिलारी (न्यूजिल्याण्ड) र तेन्जिङ नोर्गे शेर्पा (नेपाल) भनी सो किताबमा स्पष्टरुपमा लेखिएको छ । युरोप र अमेरिकाबाट प्रकाशित हुने प्रायः जसो किताबमा भने तेन्जिङलाई 'इण्डियन' भनी उल्लेख गरिएको पाइन्छ । ती दुई जनाले सन् १९५३ को मेमा सर्वप्रथम सगरमाथाको चुचुरोमा मानव पाइला राखेका थिए ।

यस अनुसार काजी शेर्पाले १७ अक्टोवर १९९८ मा आधारशिविर (१७,५५२ फिट) बाट चुचुरोसम्म २० घण्टा २४ मिनेटमा पुगेर विश्व कीर्तिमान कायम गरेका थिए । यसभन्दा अगाडि फ्रान्सका मार्क वर्टार्डले १९८८ सेप्टेम्बर २५, २६ मा २२ घण्टा २९ मिनेटको रेकर्ड बनाएका थिए । बर्टार्डले त्यस बखत अक्सिजन बोतल प्रयोग गरेका थिएनन् भने काजीले झर्दाखेरि प्रयोग गरेका थिए ।


बाबुछिरी शेर्पा

बाबुछिरी शेर्पाले यसै वर्ष विना अक्सिजन २१ घण्टा लगातार सगरमाथाको चुचुरोमा बिताएर अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण रेकर्ड बनाउन सफल भए । हालसम्म एक घण्टाभन्दा बढी समय चुचुरोमा बस्न अरु व्यक्तिले सकेका छैनन् । बाबुछिरीले सोही सिजनमा दुई पटक चुचुरोमा पुगी एउटै सिजनमा दुई पटक चुचुरोमा पुग्ने रेकर्डसमेत बनाउन सफल भएका छन् ।

सबैभन्दा सानो उमेरमा सगरमाथा चढ्नसक्ने नेपालका शम्भु तामाङलाई सो किताबले 'योङगेष्ट क्लाइम्बर' को उपाधि दिएको छ । शम्भु तामाङ सन् १९७३ मे ५ मा सगरमाथा चढ्दा मात्र १७ वर्ष ७ महिना १५ दिनका थिए । पुस्तकले सगरमाथा आरोहणको गौरवशाली सूचीमा नेपालका हिउँ चितुवाका उपाधिले चर्चित आङ्रिता शेर्पालाई पनि उल्लेख गरेको छ । आङ्रिताले १० पटकसम्म विना अक्सिजन सगरमाथाको आरोहण गरेका छन् ।


काजी शेर्पा

प्रणाम छ ! सगरमाथा

– युलुङ किरात

यात्राको पानामा
चिराइतो र बुकि फुलेको सेताम्मे बारीमा
सुस्तरी बहने बिहानको हावा खाँदै
फाप्लु चिवाङ्खोप्को गुराँसे घारी उक्लेर
आएको छु चिवाङगुम्बा बुद्धको अगाडि
प्रेम र शान्तिको बत्ती बालेर
मन-भित्रको रहरहरु सँगाल्दै
यो रातनाङ्गीबाट
प्रणाम छ ! भगवान
प्रणाम छ ! सोलुको देवता
दूधकुण्ड, नुम्बुर र केरुलुङको
स्वयम्भूको चैत्य जस्तो हिउँको दरवारलाई
प्रणाम छ ! सगरमाथा
प्रणाम छ ! हिमशैलका राजा-महाराजा हिमालहरुलाई ।

❐

धर्ती र आकाश ह्वाङ्ग पारेर
बादलले घुम्टो खोल्दा
घामको वर्कोले झलमल्ल पोतेछ
आह कति सुन्दर ! हिमचुलीका मन्दिरहरु
आनन्द विभोरले हेर्दैछु
कतै हिममानव यति देखिन्छ कि
दूरबीनले हेर्छु तर
पृथ्वीको सर्वोच्च शीर नेपालको गौरव सगरमाथा
तिम्रो महिमा संसारभर गाउँछन्
तिमीलाई हेर्न पर्यटकहरु
कुनै तीर्थस्थलको भक्तजन जस्तै
प्रकृति-प्रेमको आँगनमा लस्कर आउँछन्
तिम्रो सम्झनामा
पासाङ ल्हामु र हिलारी
आङ्रिता र जुनको तावेई
मितेरी साँघुका गीतहरु गाउँदै होलान्
विश्वकै सम्पदा भएकोले
आधार शिविरबाट तिम्रो तस्वीर खिच्ने
रियोतारो हासोमोतोले
ती फोहोर-मैला हटाउने
योजना बनाउँदै होलान्

❐

सगरमाथा तिमी र तिम्रो लस्कर भाइ-भारदारहरु
ल्होत्से, नुप्से, चोयु, पोमुरी, ग्याचुङकाङ, खुम्बुत्से र शान्तिशिखरको
आमादाब्लाम, थामसेर्कु, काङतेगा, कुसुमकाङ्गुरु र खुम्बिलाको
चित्र-विचित्र रुप-रङ्ग देखेर
गोक्यो (दूधकोशीको मुहान), नौलेक पाँच पोखरीबाट
चाँदीको पेटीजस्तो छाँगा छहरामा नाच्दै
जिन्दगी नै स्वच्छन्द बगिरहने नदीहरु भेटेर
स्वदेश-विदेशका पर्यटकहरुलाई
यस्तो भन्न मन लाग्छ
आउ ! सोलुखुम्बु
प्रत्येक सूर्योदयको दैलो उघारेर
हाम्रो प्यारो देशको
साँच्चै सुन्दर-सजीव दृश्यहरु हेर
र सृष्टिको साँग्रिलाहरुलाई भेट ।

डेस्टिनेशन नेपाल वर्ष २००२

प्रधानमन्त्रीको अध्यक्षतामा गत मङ्सीर ३ गते सम्पन्न पर्यटन परिषद्को पाँचौं बैठकले नेपालको पर्यटन उद्योगलाई गति दिनसक्ने दूरगामी महत्वका दुई निर्णयहरु गरेको छ- (क) अधिराज्यका सम्भाव्य स्थलहरुमा पूर्वाधारको व्यवस्था, स्थानीय निकायको संलग्नता, पर्यटकीय गन्तव्यस्थलका समुदायमा सचेतता, वातावरणीय गुणस्तरको सम्वर्द्धनको लागि सन् २००२ को अन्त्यसम्म दश लाख पर्यटक नेपाली आउने लक्ष्य राखी सन् २००२ लाई डेस्टिनेशन नेपाल इएर' को रुपमा विशेष राष्ट्रिय कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गर्ने तथा (ख) विश्वव्यापी रुपमा खेलकुदीय पर्यटनतर्फको बढ्दो चाखलाई दृष्टिगत गरी नयाँ शताब्दीको शुरुमा हिमालयको प्राकृतिक पृष्ठभूमिका साहसिक खेलकुदलाई प्रचार गर्न नेपालको गन्तव्य स्थलको दीर्घकालीन छविलाई सकारात्मक योगदान पुग्ने देखिएकोले सन् २००१ लाई 'खेलकुद हिमालय इअर '२००१' अर्थात् खेलकुद पर्यटन वर्षका रुपमा वृहद् कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गर्ने।



सात वर्षअघि गठित पर्यटन परिषद्को हालै सम्पन्न पाँचौं बैठकले पर्यटन क्षेत्रको वर्तमान स्थितिको समीक्षा गर्नुका अतिरिक्त पर्यटन गतिविधिलाई राष्ट्रिय अर्थतन्त्रको महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रको रुपमा विस्तार गर्न हवाई यातायातमा सुधार तथा अभिवृद्धि, पर्यटकीय गतिविधि विस्तार तथा गन्तव्यस्थलको व्यापक प्रचारप्रसार तथा निजी क्षेत्रको सक्रिय सहयोग र साझेदारी अभिवृद्धि जस्ता काममा चिन्तन गरेको छ। पर्यटन परिषद्को बैठकमा पर्यटन विकासका लागि सरकारीस्तरबाट प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त गरिए पनि परिषद्को बैठक विगतमा झैं औपचारिकतामा सीमित हुने गरेको तथा निजी क्षेत्रद्वारा प्रस्तुत सुझावहरुको प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयनमा सरकार त्यति गम्भीर हुन नसकेको निजी क्षेत्रको आरोप छ। पर्यटन परिषद्को यस पटकको बैठक विगतमा झैं औपचारिकता निर्वाह गरेर सम्पन्न भए पनि यसले सन् २००२ लाई डेस्टिनेशन नेपाल वर्षका रुपमा मनाउन गरेको निर्णय राष्ट्रिय पर्यटन उद्योगलाई थप गति दिन अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण मानिनुपर्दछ।

सन् १९९८ लाई नेपाल भ्रमण वर्षका रुपमा मनाएको नेपालले भ्रमण वर्षको आयोजनको फलस्वरुप अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय पर्यटन बजारमा एक विशिष्ट पर्यटन गन्तव्यस्थलको रुपमा रहिआएको नेपालको छविलाई पुनः स्थापित गर्न उत्प्रेरणा पाएको पृष्ठभूमिमा पर्यटन क्षेत्रका समस्या र चुनौती समाधान गर्ने दिशामा सरकार तथा निजी क्षेत्रका व्यवसायहरु अब संवेदनशील हुन थालेका छन्। सन् १९९८ मा नेपाल भ्रमण गर्ने पर्यटक संख्या पाँच लाख पुऱ्याउने, पर्यटकहरुको नेपालको औसत बसाइ अवधि १३ रात र औसत प्रतिदिन खर्च ४९ अमेरिकी डलर बराबर पुऱ्याउने लक्ष्यका साथ मनाइएको नेपाल भ्रमण वर्ष उल्लेखित लक्ष्य प्राप्तिमा सफल हुन सकेन, तथापि भ्रमण वर्षले पक्षाघातबाट पीडित पर्यटन क्षेत्रलाई जीवनजल दिई नयाँ दृष्टिकोण र धरातलमा उभ्याएको छ। सरकारी तथ्यांकअनुसार, विगत डेढ दशकमा नेपाल भ्रमणमा आउने पर्यटक संख्यामा वार्षिक आठ प्रतिशतले वृद्धि भई सन् १९९८ मा नेपाल भ्रमण गर्ने पर्यटक संख्या चारलाख ६३ हजार ६८४ पुगेको छ। नेपाल वसाईंका अवधिमा एक पर्यटकले औसत ४७५ अमेरिकी डलर बराबरको विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च गर्दछ तथा पदयात्रा पर्यटनसमेतको कारण पर्यटकको नेपाल बसाइ अवधि १० देखि १३ दिनसम्म घटबढ हुने गरेको छ। काठमाडौंबाट २३ वटा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय विमानस्थलमा प्रत्यक्ष र नियमित हवाईसेवा सञ्चालन भएको हुँदा वार्षिक करीब १० लाख हवाई सिट उपलब्ध भएको तथा होटल उद्योगद्वारा २० हजार शैया सञ्चालनमा रहेको परिप्रेक्ष्यमा पर्यटक आगमनतर्फ प्राप्त उपलब्धि सन्तोषप्रद छैनन्।

नेपाल भ्रमण वर्षको आयोजनाले पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विस्तारमा आशाका संकेतहरु सञ्चार गरेको छ। चालू सन् १९९९ को प्रथम नौ महिनामा हवाई मार्गबाट आउने पर्यटक संख्या गत वर्षको त्यस अवधिको पर्यटक आगमनको तुलनामा ५.५ प्रतिशतले वृद्धि भएको मात्र होइन, हवाई सिट क्षमता पनि क्रमिक रुपमा वृद्धि भएको छ र गुणस्तरयुक्त होटल सुविधा समेत बढ्दै गएकोले पर्यटक आगमन वृद्धि गर्न अल्पकालीन र दीर्घकालीन दृष्टिले सोच्नु जरुरी छ। यस स्थितिलाई दृष्टिगत गरी सरकारले सन् २००२ लाई डेस्टिनेशन नेपाल वर्षका रुपमा मनाउन गरेको निर्णयको सफल कार्यान्वयनको लागि अहिलेदेखि नै गृहकार्य गर्नु आवश्यक छ। दुई वर्षपछि आयोजना गरिने डेस्टिनेशन नेपाल वर्षका कार्यक्रमलाई योजनाबद्ध रुपमा सञ्चालन गर्ने सोचाइ अहिलेदेखिनै राखिएमा त्यसवर्ष नेपाल भ्रमण गर्ने पर्यटक संख्या १० लाख पुऱ्याउन समस्या पर्ने छैन।

सरकारले सन् २००२ लाई डेस्टिनेशन नेपाल वर्षको रुपमा मनाउने प्रस्तावना सँगसँगै नेपाल भ्रमण वर्ष १९९८ आयोजना गर्ने अवधारणा प्रस्तुत गनुहुने वरिष्ठ पर्यटन व्यवसायी कर्ण शाक्यले खेलकुदको माध्यमबाट पर्यटनको प्रबर्द्धन गर्न सन् २००१ लाई खेलकुद पर्यटन वर्षका रुपमा मनाउन प्रस्तुत गर्नुभएको प्रस्तावप्रति सरकारले सकारात्मक दृष्टिकोण लिएको छ। पश्चिमी विश्वमा परम्परागत पर्यटनको अवधारणामा निकै परिवर्तन आई नयाँ नयाँ पर्यटकीय 'प्रडक्ट' प्रबर्द्धन गरिएका सन्दर्भमा नेपालमा पनि परम्परागत सोचाइबाट मात्र पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकास विस्तार हुन सक्तैन। नेपालले खेलकुद क्षेत्रमा निकै लगानी गरिसकेको र दक्षिण एसियाली खेलकुद समारोह सफलतापूर्वक आयोजना गरेको पृष्ठभूमिमा विश्व नयाँ सहस्राब्दीमा प्रवेश गर्ने क्रमसँगै सन् २००१ लाई खेलकुद हिमालय वर्षका रुपमा मनाउन सकिएमा त्यसबाट डेस्टिनेशन नेपाल वर्षलाई सार्थक पार्न टेवा पुग्नेछ।

पर्यटन सचिव बरुणप्रसाद श्रेष्ठले पर्यटन परिषद्को बैठकमा उल्लेख गर्नु भएअनुसार सरकारबाट प्राथमिकताप्राप्त पर्यटन क्षेत्रमा पर्यटकको आगमन तथा विदेशी मुद्रा आर्जनमा वृद्धि एवं निजी पर्यटन व्यवसायीहरुको लगानी परिचालनबाट पर्यटकीय सेवा सुविधा विस्तार भए तापनि देशको महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक विकल्पको रुपमा रहेको पर्यटनलाई सम्भाव्यताको तुलनामा विकास गर्न सकिएको छैन। यस प्रयोजननिम्ति पर्यटक उद्गम स्थलबाट नेपाल भ्रमणमा आउने पर्यटकहरुले भोग्नुपरेको हवाई सिट अभावको समाधान, पर्यटकीय क्षेत्रहरुमा पर्यटकीय आकर्षक बढाउने कार्यक्रम, पर्यटन पूर्वाधारको विकास, पर्यावरणीय-पर्यटनतर्फको चिन्तन तथा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय पर्यटन बजारमा नेपालको प्रचार-प्रसार र प्रबर्द्धन गर्नेतर्फ ठोस कार्यक्रम अघि बढाउनुपर्दछ। र, 'डेस्टिनेशन नेपाल' वर्ष अगाडि यी समस्या समाधानानार्थ विशेष कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गरिनु आवश्यक छ।

नेपाल भ्रमण वर्ष १९९८ पछि नेपाली पर्यटनले पर्यटन विकासमा विद्यमान प्रतिस्पर्धालाई आत्मसात गरी नवीन धारणालाई अघि सारेको तथा जल्दाबल्दा समस्याहरु समाधान गर्न प्रतिबद्धता जाहेर गरेकोले सरकारले निजी क्षेत्रलाई विश्वासमा लिई अघि बढ्नु जरुरी छ। फ्रान्सको रेड गुलबाज संस्थाको अग्रसरतामा सन् २००० को अप्रिल-मेमा नेपालमा आयोजना गरिने "ट्रान्स हिमालय-२०००" कार्यक्रम, सन् २००१ लाई 'खेलकुद हिमालय वर्ष' तथा सन् २००२ लाई 'डेस्टिनेशन नेपाल वर्ष' का रुपमा मनाउन प्रारम्भ गरिएको अभ्यास पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकास विस्तारका सन्दर्भमा दीर्घकालीन महत्वका भएकाले यी कार्यक्रमलाई औपचारिकता र प्रचार-प्रसारमा मात्र सीमित राख्ने प्रवृत्तिबाटमाथि उठी यसको माध्यमबाट नेपाली पर्यटनलाई पुनर्जीवन प्रदान गर्ने उपायतर्फ अहिलेदेखि नै गम्भीररुपमा सोचिनुपर्दछ। विस्तृत गृहकार्यको अभावमा 'डेस्टिनेशन नेपाल वर्ष' ले विश्वका १० लाख पर्यटकलाई नेपाल भ्रमणमा आकर्षित पार्न सक्नेछैन।

- रमेश तिवारी

हिमाली क्षेत्रको प्रवेशद्वार

लुक्ला र जोमसोम विमानस्थल

खुम्बु क्षेत्र र अन्नपूर्ण क्षेत्रको प्रवेशद्वार लुक्ला र जोमसोम अहिले नेपाली पर्यटन जगतमा चर्चामा आएका छन् । एसियाली विकास बैंकको ऋण सहयोगमा सञ्चालित दोस्रो पर्यटन पूर्वाधार विकास आयोजना अन्तर्गत नेपाल नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरणले अब देशका लुक्ला, जोमसोम, जुम्ला, भरतपुर र विराटनगरका विमानस्थलहरुको सम्भार तथा सृदृढीकरण गर्ने योजना अघि सारेको छ । प्राधिकरणले सन् २००० को मे महिनादेखि लुक्ला र जोमसोम विमानस्थलमा धावनमार्ग विस्तार, टर्मिनल भवन निर्माण र धावनमार्गमा कालोपत्र लगाउने १४ महिनाको कार्यक्रम तय गरेकोले त्यसबाट समग्रमा राष्ट्रको पर्यटन उद्योगमा पर्न सक्ने प्रतिकूल असरप्रति पर्यटन व्यवसायीहरु विशेषतः ट्रेकिङ्ग एजेन्सीहरु चिन्तित हुन थालेका छन् ।

नेपालको पर्यटन विकास विस्तारमा खुम्बु र अन्नपूर्ण क्षेत्रको अग्रणी स्थान रहिआएको छ । सगरमाथाको प्रवेशद्वार खुम्बुमा वर्सेनि ४५ हजार तथा अन्नपूर्ण क्षेत्रमा करिब ७० हजार पदयात्री पुग्ने गर्दछन् । खुम्बु क्षेत्रका हिमशिखरहरु आरोहण गर्न त्यसतर्फ जाने पर्वतारोही तथा पदयात्रीहरुका लागि लुक्ला विमानस्थलले उल्लेख्य सेवा पुऱ्याउँदै आएको छ र लुक्ला विमानस्थलकोअभावमा खुम्बु क्षेत्रको पर्यटन विकास, विस्तार, कल्पना गर्न सकिदैन । लुक्लाबाट नाम्चे बजार, स्याङबोचे, थ्याङ्गबोचे, गोक्यो उपत्यका र सगरमाथाको आधार शिविर जाने पदयात्री र पर्वतारोहीहरु हुन् अथवा अन्नपूर्ण क्षेत्रको भ्रमणमा जाने पदयात्री हुन्, लुक्ला र जोमसोम विमानस्थलले त्यस क्षेत्रको पर्यटन वहन क्षमता वृद्धिगर्न पनि योगदान पुऱ्याएका छन् ।

देश राजनीतिक बहुलवादमा प्रवेश गरेपछि सरकारले अख्तियार गरेको खुला र उदार हवाई नीति अनुरुप निजी क्षेत्रका विमानसेवाहरुले लुक्ला र जोमसोम क्षेत्रतर्फका उडानलाई उच्च प्राथमिकता दिएका छन् । लुक्लाको प्रसङ्गमा विदेशीहरुका लागि उच्च भाडादर निर्धारण गरिएकोले नेपालीहरुले लुक्ला आवागमन गर्न जटिल समस्या बेहोर्नु परिरहेको छ । ट्रेकिङ्ग एजेन्ट्स एसोसिएसन अफ नेपाल (टान) का पूर्व अध्यक्ष पेम्बा शेर्पाको विचारमा सम्भारका कारण लुक्ला र जोमसोम विमानस्थल लामो समय बन्द गरिएमा त्यसबाट नेपालको पर्यटन पछाडि धकेलिनेछ । लुक्ला र जोमसोम विमानस्थल १४ महिनामा मरम्मत सम्भार गरिने बताइए पनि विगतमा विमानस्थलहरुको सुदृढीकरण गतिविधि दृष्टिगत गर्दा ती विमानस्थल समयमै निर्माण गरिने विश्वास गर्न सकिदैन । पर्यटकीय निकायहरुले खुम्बु र अन्नपूर्ण दुवै क्षेत्रमा सन् २००० का प्याकेज कार्यक्रम बिक्री गरिसकेकाले लुक्ला र जोमसोम विमानस्थल बन्द गरिएमा सहस्राब्दी प्याकेजमा नेपाल भ्रमण गर्न इच्छुक पर्यटकहरुमा नेपालप्रतिको विश्वसनीयतामा प्रतिकूल असर पर्न सक्छ- पेम्बा शेर्पा थप्नुहुन्छ ।

श्री ५ को सरकारले चालू आर्थिक वर्षदेखि खुम्बु, अन्नपूर्ण र लाङटाङ् क्षेत्रमा पदयात्रा अनुमति लिनुपर्ने व्यवस्था खारेज गरेपछि त्यसप्रति सरकारी र निजी क्षेत्रबीच विवाद कायमै छ । सरकारी निकायहरुले पदयात्रा अनुमति खारेजीबाट त्यस क्षेत्रको पदयात्रा प्रबर्द्धनमा उल्लेख्य उपलब्धि हासिल भएको बताए पनि ट्रेकिङ्ग एजेन्सीहरु त्यस पक्षलाई स्वीकार गर्ने पक्षमा छैनन् । राष्ट्रिय योजना आयोगका सदस्य डा. शङ्कर शर्माका अनुसार, उल्लेखित पदयात्रा क्षेत्रमा अनुमतिपत्र लिनुपर्ने व्यवस्था खारेज गरिएपछि यस वर्ष त्यस क्षेत्रको पदयात्रामा पुग्ने पदयात्रीहरुको संख्या नाटकीय ढंगमा वृद्धि भएको छ । अर्कोतिर ट्रेकिङ्ग एजेन्सीहरु यस व्यवस्थाबाट ट्रेकिङ्ग उद्योगको भविष्य अन्धकार हुने सम्भावना बढ्दै गएकोले सरकारी निर्णयको पुनर्मूल्याङ्कन गरिनुपर्ने तथा यस वर्षको निर्णय फिर्ता लिन सरकारी निकायहरुलाई घचघच्याइरहेका छन् ।

खुम्बु, अन्नपूर्ण र लाङ्टाङ् क्षेत्रमा पदयात्रा अनुमति लिनु नपर्ने सम्बन्धमा गरिएको निर्णयप्रतिको विवाद किनारा नलाग्दै सन् २००० मे महिनादेखि लुक्ला र जोमसोम विमानस्थल बन्द गर्ने र १४ महिनामा सम्भार पूरा गरिने उड्डयन प्राधिकरणको निर्णय अव्यावहारिक भएको र त्यसबाट पर्यटन विकासमा गम्भीर असर पर्ने व्यवसायीहरुको जिकिर छ । ट्रेकिङ्ग व्यवसायीहरु पोखरा विमानस्थल सुधार कार्यक्रम छ महिनामा पूरा गर्ने लक्ष्य राखिएकोमा डेढ वर्ष लागेको परिप्रेक्ष्यमा १४ महिनामा काम पूरा गरिने भनिएको लुक्ला र जोमसोम विमानस्थलको काम पूरा गर्न तीन वर्ष लागेमा आश्चर्य मान्नु नपर्ने बताउँछन् । "लुक्ला विमानस्थलको तल दूधकोशी रहेको, भौगोलिक अवस्थिति जटिल रहेको तथा लुक्लाको भौगर्भिक स्थिति चट्टानले पूर्ण भएकोले सोचे अनुरुप त्यसलाई कालोपत्रे गर्न सकिदैन र सुदृढीकरण र सम्भारका नाममा त्यहाँ गरिने कार्यले झन् समस्या सिर्जना गरी लामो समयसम्म लुक्ला बन्द रहनसक्नेछ, लुक्ला विमानस्थल बन्द हुनु भनेको खुम्बु क्षेत्रको पर्यटनमा ग्रहण लाग्नु हो" ट्रेकिङ्ग व्यवसायी पेम्बा शेर्पाको विचार छ ।

देशमा हाल त्रिभुवन अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय विमानस्थल सहित ४४ विमानस्थल छन् र त्यसमध्ये १३ वटा विमानस्थलहरु- वैतडीको पाटन, डोटीको दिपायल, कैलालीको टीकापुर, दाडको दाङ, सप्तरीको राजविराज, गोरखाको पालुङ्टार, बाग्लुङको बलेवा र ढोरपाटन, रोल्पाको रोल्पा, दार्चुलाको धार्चुला, दोलखाको जिरी, कञ्चनपुरको महेन्द्रनगर तथा रसुवाको लाङ्टाङ् बन्द अवस्थामा रहेका छन् । एकातिर लामो समयदेखि हवाई यातायात सम्पर्कमा रहेका विविध दृष्टिले महत्वपूर्ण विमानस्थल बन्द भई गौचरण क्षेत्रमा परिवर्तन भएका छन् भने अर्कोतर्फ ती विमानस्थललाई पुनः सञ्चालनमा ल्याउने सोचाइ राखिनु सट्टा थप पाँवटा विमानस्थल मुगुको तात्चा, कालीकोटको कालीकोट, अछामको कमल बजार र सोलुखुम्बुको कागेल डाँडा र खोटाङ्गको थामखर्कमा विमानस्थल निर्माण गर्ने कार्यक्रम अघि सारिएको छ । यातायात पूर्वाधारको विकासको अभावमा पश्चिमाञ्चल, मध्यपश्चिमाञ्चल र सुदूर पश्चिमाञ्चल क्षेत्रले विदेशी पर्यटकहरुलाई आकर्षित पार्न नसकिरहेका स्थितिमा ती क्षेत्रका विमानस्थललाई प्रयोगमा ल्याइनु सट्टा लुक्ला र जोमसोम जस्ता सर्वाधिक विमान आवागमन हुने विमानस्थल मर्मत सम्भारको कारण लामो समय बन्द गर्ने योजना पर्यटन दृष्टिले प्रत्युत्पादक हुन सक्ने निश्चित छ ।

पर्यटकीय मौसममा लुक्ला विमानस्थलमा दैनिक करिब ३० उडान र जोमसोममा करिब १५ उडान हुने गरेको छ र निजी क्षेत्रको आन्तरिक विमानसेवाहरु ती क्षेत्रमा आफ्नो गुणस्तरीय सेवा बिक्री गर्न तीव्र प्रतिस्पर्धामा उत्रेका छन् । लुक्ला र जोमसोम जस्ता विमानस्थल बन्द गरिएमा ती क्षेत्रमा पर्यटक आगमनमा ह्रास आउने भएकोले त्यसको विकल्प सोचिनु जरुरी छ । प्रसिद्ध महिला पर्वतारोही निमी शेर्पाको धारणा छ- नेपाल भ्रमण वर्षको आयोजनापछि कतिपय ट्रेकिङ्ग एजेन्सीहरुले खुम्बु र अन्नपूर्ण क्षेत्रमा आफ्ना कार्यक्रम अघि सारेर बुकिङ्ग गरिसकेकोले ती दुवै विमानस्थललाई लामो समय बन्द गरिनु हुँदैन, ती क्षेत्रमा आवागमन गर्ने विकल्प तयार पारेर मात्र विमानस्थलको मर्मत सुधार गरिनु पर्दछ, 'अफ सिजन' मा एक पल्ट लुक्ला र अर्को वर्ष जोमसोम विमानस्थलको सुधार यथाशक्य चाँडो सक्ने गरी कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गरिनु पर्दछ ताकि पर्यटन व्यवसाय घराशायी नहोस् । लुक्ला र जोमसोम विमानस्थल बन्द गरिंदा त्यसबाट स्थानीय जनजीवनमा पर्ने प्रतिकूल असरलाई मनन गरी निर्माण र सुधारको नाममा ती दुवै विमानस्थल १४ महिना बन्द गर्ने निर्णय विरुद्ध स्थानीय जनता पनि जुर्मराउन थालेका छन् । नेपाल नागरिक उड्डयन प्राधिकरणका अधिकारीहरुले लुक्ला र जोमसोम विमानस्थलको सुधार कार्य 'अफ सिजन' मा थालिने पिक सिजन' मा विमानस्थल बन्द नगरिने तथा दुवै विमानस्थल सुदृढीकरण कार्य निर्धारित समयमै अर्थात् यथाशक्य चाँडो पूरा गरिने स्पष्ट पारेपनि व्यवसायीहरु त्यसप्रछि आश्वस्त हुन सक्ने आधार देख्दैनन् । हिमाली क्षेत्रको दृश्यावलोकनका लागि मुख्य प्रवेश द्वार र कुल पर्यटक आगमनमा ३० प्रतिशत हिस्सा ओगट्ने पदयात्रीमध्ये अधिकांश ती क्षेत्रको पदयात्रामा जाने भएकोले समयमै ती विमानस्थल निर्माण गर्दा पदयात्रा व्यवसाय, निजी क्षेत्रका विमानसेवाहरु तथा पदयात्रीहरुले सामना गर्नुपर्ने समस्यालाई असर नपर्ने गरी वैकल्पिक उपायको खोजी गरिनु पर्दछ । लुक्ला र जोमसाम विमानस्थललाई युद्धस्तरमा 'अफ सिजन' मा सुधार गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता सहित प्राधिकरण अघि बढ्नु जरुरी छ ।

❐ रमेश तिवारी

पर्वतीय पर्यटनको विकास : समस्या र समाधान

- बमसिंह राणाभाट

प्राकृतिक सौन्दर्य, स्रोत र साधनहरुमा नेपाल अत्यधिक मात्रामा धनी रहेको छ भन्ने कुरामा शायद कसैको पनि दुईमत छैन होला । अनुपम् सौन्दर्य स्रोतको रुपमा रहेको हिमाली श्रृङ्खला, हरिया पहाड, खोंचहरुमा बग्ने असंख्य नदीनाला र अन्नको भण्डारको रुपमा रहेको विशाल तराईको फाँटहरुले नेपाललाई वास्तवमै विश्वकै एक धनी देशको रुपमा प्रस्तुत गरेकोलाई अस्वीकार गरिहाल्ने ठाउँ छैन । तर बाहिरको भौतिक आवरण हेर्दा धनी जस्तो देखिए पनि नेपालको भित्री रुप भने त्यस्तो छैन । धेरै लामो समयदेखि नै गरीबी र विपन्नता नेपाल र नेपालीको नियति बन्दै आएको छ । अर्को शब्दमा भन्ने नै हो भने ल्हासामा सुन छ, कान मेरो बुच्चै भनिने उखान नेपालको सन्दर्भमा लागू भइरहेको छ ।

वास्तवमा द्रुतगतिमा पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकास र ८३ हजार मेघावाट विद्युत शक्ति उत्पादन क्षमताको समुचित सदुपयोग गर्ने हो भने नेपालको आर्थिक र सामाजिक क्षेत्रको विकासले कोल्टे नै फेर्न सक्ने कुरामा कुनै शंका छैन । किन हो कुन्नी नेपालको विकासको गतिमा निरन्तर बाधा अवरोधहरु मात्रै देखिने गरेका छन् । पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकासमा मात्रै पनि नेपालले राम्ररी ध्यान केन्द्रित गर्ने हो भने वार्षिक रुपमा अर्बौं डलर कमाउन सक्ने स्थिति र वातावरण विद्यमान छ । तर हामी शक्तिमा रहेकाहरुले भने पर्यटन क्षेत्रको पूर्वाधार तयार भइसकेको दावी गर्न कत्ति पनि हिच्किचाउँदैनौ भने व्यवहारमा हेर्दा त्यस्तो स्थिति विद्यमान नरहेको कुरा सबैले अनुभव गरेका छन् । किनभने विदेशी पर्यटकहरुलाई आकर्षित गर्न धेरै तत्वहरुको आवश्यकता पर्दछ । उनीहरुलाई अत्यधिक सुविधाहरु दिन सकेको खण्डमा मात्रै पर्यटकहरुको आगमनलाई आकर्षित गर्न सकिन्छ ।

पर्यटन क्षेत्रको समुचित विकास भन्ने बित्तिकै सम्बन्धित देशको नीति, कानुन र प्राकृतिक वातावरणका बारेमा चासो उठ्नु स्वाभाविक नै हो । वास्तवमा वातावरण संरक्षणका प्रयासहरुले सन्तोषजनक ढंगमा लक्ष्य भेदन गर्न नसकेकै कारणले गर्दा नेपालको प्राकृतिक वातावरणमा निरन्तर ह्रास देखिदैछ । मानवीय क्रियाकलापहरुले गर्दा नै प्राकृतिक वातावरण खल्बलिन गएको देखिन्छ । नेपालको सामाजिक र आर्थिक क्षेत्रमा निरन्तर देखिएको विकृति र विसंगतिले गर्दा नै सिंगो प्राकृतिक वातावरण माथि नकारात्मक प्रभाव पार्दैछ । वातावरणीय असन्तुलन तथा जनसंख्या वृद्धिले हिमाली क्षेत्र र नेपालको आन्तरिक भू-भागमा समेत गम्भीर असर पार्दै गरेको तर्फ तत्कालै ध्यान पुऱ्याउनु जरुरी छ ।

वास्तवमा एकातिर वन विनाश र प्राकृतिक असन्तुलन छ, जसका कारण डरलाग्दो भू-क्षय र मरुभूमिकरणले निरन्तर स्थान ओगट्दै छ । अर्कोतिर अव्यवस्थित शहरीकरण र देशको भौगोलिक वातावरणसँग मेल नखाने अनुपयुक्त प्रविधिको आयात र प्रयोगको कारण वायु र ध्वनी प्रदूषण पनि अत्यधिक मात्रामा बढिनै रहेछ । तर यसो भन्दैमा पनि औद्योगिक विकासको गतिलाई मन्द बनाउन पनि नसकिने वाध्यात्मक परिस्थिति आफ्नै ठाउँमा छ ।

यसका अतिरिक्त, थोरै जमिनबाट धेरै उत्पादन गर्ने प्रविधि हाम्रो जस्तो देशको लागि नितान्त आवश्यक छ । तर यस क्षेत्रमा संलग्न नीति निर्माताहरुको उदासीनताले पराकाष्ठा नै नाघेको अनुभव हुन्छ भने तिनीहरुमा अज्ञानताले पनि उत्तिकै जरो गाडेकोलाई स्वीकार गर्नै पर्ने हुन्छ । वातावरण संरक्षणका लागि केवल राष्ट्रिय प्रयासहरुले मात्रै पनि पुग्दो रहेनछ । तर के गर्नु ? वातावरण संरक्षणका लागि भएका अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय स्तरका प्रयास र प्रतिबद्धताहरुलाई नै सम्पन्न राष्ट्र र सरोकारवाला संस्थाहरुले इमान्दारीपूर्वक पालना गरिदिएका भए आज यसप्रकारको वातावरण विनाश नेपाल लगायत समस्त विश्वले देख्न र भोग्न पर्ने थिएन । उदाहरणको रुपमा आज हाम्रै नेपालको विश्व प्रसिद्ध हिमालयको काखैमा सयौं टन फोहर थुप्रिएर रहेको छ । महँगो हेलिकोप्टरको भाडा तिरेर हिमालमा थुप्रिएको फोहर उठाउँदैमा क्षणि लोकप्रियता त आर्जन गर्न सकिएला । तर यो दीर्घकालीन समाधान भने हुँदै होइन । यसका अतिरिक्त हिमाली भेगमा पाइने दुर्लभ रुखविरुवा र वन्यजन्तुहरुको संरक्षण एवं सम्बर्द्धन गर्ने कुनै दरिलो उपायहरु पनि अवलम्बन गरिएको पटक्कै पाइँदैन । जैवक विविधताको उचित संरक्षण र हेरचाह गर्ने गर्नाले पनि पर्यटकहरुको आगमनमा वृद्धि गर्न मनग्गे सहयोग पुग्दछ ।

नेपालको पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकासका लागि वातावरणबारे अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय क्षेत्रहरुमा भइरहेका क्रियाकलाप, सम्मेलन, गोष्ठीहरुमा भए गरिएका छलफल र निष्कर्षहरुलाई पनि ध्यान दिनु जरुरी छ । सन् १९९२ मा भएको पृथ्वी शिखर सम्मेलनमा पारित गरिएका एजेण्डा २१, मौसमको परिवर्तन तथा जैविक विविधता सम्बन्धी महासन्धिहरुको कार्यान्वयनमा वातावरणीय प्रभाव मूल्याङ्कन प्रविधिका महत्वपूर्ण पक्षहरुलाई नेपाल जस्तो मुलुकले राम्ररी केलाउनु आवश्यक छ । किनभने सन् १९७० मा अमेरिकाको राष्ट्रिय वातावरणीय कानुनमा समावेश भई प्रारम्भ भएको वातावरणको प्रभाव मूल्याङ्कन प्रविधिलाई नै अहिले संसारका धेरै जसो देशहरुले दिगो विकासको पूर्वाधारको रुपमा स्वीकार गर्दै आएका छन् । नेपालले पनि आफ्नो ध्यान त्यसतर्फ गम्भीर रुपले केन्द्रित गर्नु पर्दछ ।

नेपालको तराईदेखि हिमालयसम्म जैविक विविधता (Bio-Diversity) प्रचुर मात्रामा फैलिएको छ । यसैभित्र असंख्य प्रजातिका जीव र अनगिन्ति प्रकारका वनस्पतिहरु रहेका छन् । साना ठूला जलाधार क्षेत्रहरु पनि थुप्रै छन् । यी सबैलाई संयुक्त रुपमा समेटेर अघि बढ्न सकेको खण्डमा मात्रै पर्यटकहरुको आकर्षणमा वृद्धि हुन सक्दछ । प्राकृतिक वातावरणलाई सन्तुलनमा राख्ने महत्वपूर्ण तत्वहरु नै हावा, पानी, माटो, ध्वनी र दृश्य नै प्रमुख हुन् । यी तत्वहरुमा व्यापक रुपले वृद्धि भएको प्रदूषणका कारण ठूलो असर पर्दैछ । तसर्थ नेपालको विग्रँदो प्राकृतिक वातावरण र जैविक विविधता संरक्षणमा नयाँ नीति र कार्ययोजनाको छिट्टै विकास गरिनु नितान्त आवश्यक भइसकेको छ ।

हुन त वातावरण सम्बन्धी रियो सम्मेलन तथा जनसंख्या सम्बन्धी कायरो सम्मेलनद्वारा निर्दिष्ट व्यवस्था अनुरुप नेपालमा पनि वातावरण संरक्षण नियमावली २०५४ अनुसार २० वर्षे कार्य योजना बनाउने लक्ष्य राखिएको छ । यस अनुसार काठमाडौं उपत्यकाको वातावरणीय पक्षलाई समग्रतामा हेरेर समस्या समाधान गरिने लगायत मुलुकको सामाजिक, आर्थिक विकास प्रक्रियामा वातावरणीय पक्षलाई एकीकृत गरी दिगो विकास गर्ने भनिएको छ । सो नियमावलीमा धेरै अन्य कुराहरु पनि समाविष्ट गरिएको भएता पनि हरेक पल्ट कार्यान्वयन पक्षको कमजोरी नै समस्याको मूलस्रोतको रुपमा देखिएको छ ।

हिजोआज हिमालय क्षेत्र पनि प्रदूषणबाट अक्रान्त बन थालेको रिपोर्टहरु सार्वजनिक हुँदैछन् । टाढाबाट हेर्दा हिउँले चम्केका हिमालहरु जति स्वच्छ र निर्मल देखिने गर्थे आज वायु प्रदूषणकै कारण त्यसमा धमिलोपन देखिन थालेको महसूस सबैले गर्दैछन् । एकातिर वायुमण्डलमा बढ्दै गएको गर्मीको कारणले समुद्रको सतह बढ्ने क्रम जारी छ भने ओजोन तहमा प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पार्ने क्लोरो फ्लुरो कार्वन ग्यासको नियन्त्रणतर्फ प्रकट गरिसकिएको वचनबद्धतातर्फ पनि विकसित राष्ट्रहरु आफैंले ध्यान केन्द्रित गरिरहेका छैनन् । वातावरण संरक्षणका निम्ति गरीब तथा विकासोन्मुख राष्ट्रहरुलाई प्रविधि हस्तान्तरण गर्ने र सोका लागि आर्थिक सहयोग पनि उपलब्ध गराउने भनी दिइसकिएको वचन पनि सम्पन्न औद्योगिक राष्ट्रहरुबाट पूरा भइरहेको छैन । पर्यटन विकासको प्रचुर सम्भावना भएको नेपाल जस्तो मुलुक समेत यस्ता अवसरबाट वञ्चित भइरहेको छ भने माल्दिभ्स जस्ता राष्ट्रहरुको अस्तित्व नै संकटमा परेको छ ।

वास्तवमा हिमाली क्षेत्रलाई पनि विग्रँदो वातावरणले ठूलो असर पार्दै लगेको छ । महत्वपूर्ण पर्यटकीय आकर्षणको केन्द्रविन्दुमा रहेको हिमाली क्षेत्र समग्रमा ३४ लाख वर्ग कि.मि. क्षेत्रमा फैलिएको छ । करीब २० करोड जनतालाई यस क्षेत्रले बासस्थान समेत उपलब्ध गराउँदै आएको छ । हिमाली क्षेत्रका करीब आधाभन्दा बढी जनसंख्या निरपेक्ष गरीबीको रेखामुनी जीवन यापन गर्न बाध्य छन् । नेपालको हिमाली क्षेत्रमा बसोबास गर्ने जनताले पनि अत्यधिक मात्रा गरीबीको सामना गर्नु पर्दैछ । हिमाली क्षेत्रका जनताको गरीबीलाई निमिट्यान्नै पार्न पर्यटनको विकासलाई तीव्रगति प्रदान गर्नुपर्ने टडकारो आवश्यकता छ । नेपालको हिमाली क्षेत्रमा पनि तीव्र जनसंख्या वृद्धि भइनै

रहेको छ। विभिन्न खनिज अन्वेषणहरु पनि गरिदैछ। विकास निर्माणका क्रियाकलापले गर्दा वातावरणमा ठूलो असर परेको छ। अवैज्ञानिक कृषि प्रणाली थप समस्या भएकोछ। वनफडानी र अतिचरणका कारण डाँडाकाँडा नाङ्गो देखिन थालेका छन्। पर्यटकहरुलाई आकर्षित गर्ने नाममा अनियन्त्रित एवं अव्यवस्थित आगमन ठूलो समस्याको विषय बन्दैछ। यी महत्वपूर्ण कुराहरु तर्फ ध्यान केन्द्रित नहुने हो भने पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकास केवल कोरा कल्पना मात्रै परिणत हुनेछ।

वास्तवमा देशको नीति, नियम र विकास कार्यक्रमहरुले नै पर्यटनको विकासको क्षेत्रमा नयाँ आयाम थप्ने गर्दछ। तर यस्ता कामकुराहरु दीर्घकालीन रुपमा असर पर्ने र फाइदामूलक हुनै पर्दछ। आज एउटा नियम बनाएर भोलिनै सोही नियमलई काट्दै पर्सी अर्को नियम कानुन बनाउँदै हिंड्नाले पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकासमा पटक्कै सघाउ पुग्दैन। उदाहरणको रुपमा आर्थिक वर्ष २०५६।५७ को बजेटमा पदयात्राका लागि विश्वका चर्चित स्थानहरु सगरमाथा, अन्नपूर्ण र लाङटाङ क्षेत्रहरुमा पदयात्रा अनुमतिपत्र लिनुपर्ने व्यवस्थालाई पूर्णतया खारेज गरिएको छ। यसबाट अनुत्पादक प्रकारका पर्यटकहरुलाई फाइदा पुगेको छ। तर मुलुक र यस व्यवसायमा लागेका पदयात्रा व्यवसायीहरुलाई भने नराम्रो असर पुग्याएको देखिन्छ। वास्तवमा यतिखेर त्यस्ता क्षेत्रहरुमा पर्यटकहरुको भीड बढेको छ। प्रायः संसारभरि नै पर्यटकहरुलाई यसरी निःशुल्क घुमाउने प्रचलन छैन। बरु पर्यटकहरुलाई आवश्यक सुविधा दिँदै शुल्क किन नउठाउने ? निकुञ्जहरुको रेखदेखका लागि संरक्षण शुल्क लिने गरिए तापनि त्यो अपर्याप्त छ। सन् १९९८ मा मात्रै पनि सगरमाथा, अन्नपूर्ण र लाङटाङ जस्ता चर्चित पदयात्रा क्षेत्रहरुमा एजेन्सीहरु मार्फत पदयात्रा गरे वापत करीब रु. ८ करोड २० लाख ८ सय ७५ रुपियाँ र व्यक्तिगत पदयात्राबाट करीब रु. १७ लाख पदयात्रा शुल्क संकलन भएको थियो। अहिले अधिकांश पर्यटन व्यवसायीहरुले निःशुल्क पदयात्रा गर्न पाउने व्यवस्थाको तीव्र विरोध गरिरहेका छन्। किनभने पर्यटकहरु अनुमति बिना पदयात्रामा जाने भएकाले देशका ४ सयभन्दा बढी ट्रेकिङ एजेन्सीहरुले गर्दै आएको व्यवसाय र दिँदै आएको रोजगारी नासिएको छ। यतिखेर कम खर्चालु प्रकारका पर्यटकहरु आएर विकृति र विसंगतिहरु बढेको तर्फ सर्वत्र चिन्ता बढेको छ। कुरा यतिमात्रै नभएर त्यसरी पदयात्रामा जथाभावी जानेहरुको बसाइँ अवधि कम हुने त छँदैछ भने शान्ति सुरक्षाको प्रश्न पनि अहम् बनेको छ। वातावरण पनि प्रदूषित बन्दैछ। धार्मिक तथा सांस्कृतिक सम्पदामा समेत असर पर्न थालिसकेको छ। तर सरकारले भने प्रशासनिक झञ्झटलाई सरलीकरण गरेको बताइरहेछ।



रक क्लाइम्बिङ प्रशिक्षणमा सरिक आरोहीहरु

यस अतिरिक्त पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकासबाट नै पनि नेपालले आर्थिक क्षेत्रमा ठूलो फड्को मार्न सक्ने कुरा घाम झैं छर्लङ्ग नै छ। अर्बौं डलर सजिलै आर्जन गर्न सकिने यो क्षेत्रको विकासका लागि सरकार नै गम्भीर बन्नु नितान्त आवश्यक छ। सबैभन्दा ठूलो कुरा त सरकारले सम्बन्धित विशेषज्ञ र पर्यटन व्यवसायीहरुसँगै आवश्यक सर-सल्लाह र सुझाव लिएर त्यसलाई तत्कालै कार्यान्वयन गर्ने सोचाई राख्नु पर्दछ। पर्यटन व्यवसायीहरुलाई माइनस गरेर यस क्षेत्रको सुधारको कल्पना पनि गर्न सकिँदैन।

तसर्थ विद्यमान विग्रँदो वातावरणीय अवस्थामा व्यापक परिवर्तन ल्याउन सक्ने किसिमका विकास कार्यहरुको तर्जुमा गरिनुपर्दछ। साथै भौतिक क्रियाकलाप अथवा भू-उपयोगको परिवर्तन गर्ने योजनाहरु सञ्चालन गर्ने सम्बन्धमा कैयन प्रस्तावहरु कागजमा तयार पारेर राखिएका छन्। त्यस्ता प्रस्तावहरुको प्रारम्भिक वातावरणीय परीक्षण तथा मूल्याङ्कन गर्दै कार्यान्यनमा पनि त्यत्तिकै र तत्कालै जोड दिनु आवश्यक छ। मापदण्ड विपरीत कुनै व्यक्ति, संस्था वा उद्योगले प्रदूषण तथा फोहरमैला निष्काशन गरेमा सो कार्यबाट प्रभावित व्यक्ति वा संस्थाले सम्बन्धित निकायमा उजुरी दिने वित्तिकै तत्कालै सो बारे छानवीन गरेर पीडित पक्षलाई न्याय दिलाउने व्यवस्था गरिएमा यस्ता नकारात्मक क्रियाकलापबाट मुलुकलाई सजिलै जोगाउन सकिन्छ। फोहरमैला र प्रदूषण गर्ने जो जिम्मेवार छ उसले दण्ड पाउने व्यवस्था गरिनुपर्दछ। यो प्रकारको दण्ड सजाय पट्यारलाग्दो गरी लामो समयसम्म मुद्दा लडेर दिलाउने होइन कि तत्कालै निर्णय हुने व्यवस्था गरिनु जरुरी छ। नत्र भने काग कराउँदै गर्छ पिना सुक्दै गर्छ भन्ने उखान चरितार्थ हुनेछ। देशमा स्थापित सम्पूर्ण उद्योगधन्धा, होटल व्यवसायी, नर्सिङ होमहरु लगायत हिमाली र पर्यटकीय क्षेत्रमा देखापरेका प्रदूषणका कारक तत्वहरुको छानवीन गरेर तत्कालै समस्या समाधानको खोजी गरिनु पर्दछ। नयाँ उद्योग धन्धाहरुलाई प्रदूषण नियन्त्रणको प्रमाणपत्र लिनै पर्ने व्यवस्था गर्नपर्छ। पुरना उद्योगधन्धाहरुलाई पनि समयावधि तोकेर त्यस्तो प्रमाणपत्र लिनै पर्ने बाध्यतात्मक अवस्थाको सिर्जना गरिनै पर्दछ। राष्ट्रिय सम्पदा र वातावरणीय क्षेत्रको संरक्षण आजको पहिलो आवश्यकता हो। त्यस्तै प्रदूषण जाँच गर्न अत्याधुनिक प्रयोगशालाको स्थापना गरिनुपर्दछ। वातावरण संरक्षण कोषको स्थापना र सञ्चालनमा पनि तुरुन्तै ध्यान दिनु पर्ने अवस्था छ। राम्रो गर्नेलाई पुरस्कार, प्रशंसापत्र, क्षतिपूर्ति लगायत निरन्तर अनुगमन र मूल्याङ्कनको लागि आवश्यक दक्ष कर्मचारीहरुको व्यवस्था गरिनु पनि त्यत्तिकै आवश्यक छ। विगतमा यसै विषयमा कैयन गोष्ठी भए। त्यसको निष्कर्षहरु कार्यान्वयन गरिनुपर्दछ। तब मात्रै हाम्रो मुलुकलाई पर्यटकहरुको आकर्षणको केन्द्रविन्दुमा परिणत गर्न सकिनेछ।

पर्यटनको विकास विना राष्ट्रको समग्र विकास सम्भव छैन

पर्यटन तथा नागरिक उड्डयन मन्त्री विजयकुमार गच्छदार सँगको अन्तर्वार्ता



हालै भारतीय विमान अपहरणपछि त्रिभुवन अन्तराष्ट्रिय विमानस्थलको सुरक्षा व्यवस्थालाई अझ बलियो पार्ने प्रतिबद्धता सरकारले जाहेर गरिसकेको छ, सुरक्षा सम्बन्धमा के के कामहरु भएका छन् ?

❐ त्रिभुवन अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय विमानस्थलमा सुरक्षाको कुरा गर्दा हामीले पहिलेदेखि नै इकावाको अर्थात अन्तराष्ट्रिय स्तरको सुरक्षा मापदण्डलाई अबलम्बन गरी तदनुरुप सुरक्षा व्यवस्थालाई कडा गरेका थियौं । कुनै पनि मुलुकमा हवाई सुरक्षाको दृष्टिले अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय मापदण्ड पालना गर्नुपर्ने वाध्यता रहेको हुन्छ, त्यसकारण सुरक्षासम्बन्धी जुन मापदण्ड छन्, त्यसलाई पूर्ण कडाइका साथ पालना गरिएको थियो । तथापि हाम्रो विमानस्थलबाट उडेको भारतीय विमान अपहरण भयो, यो आफैंमा एउटा दुःखद घटना हो । विमानस्थलमा सुरक्षाको मापदण्ड अत्यन्त कडा गरिएका जापान, इजरायल लगायतका विकसित मुलुकहरुबाट पनि विमान अपहरण भएका घटनाहरु भएका छन् । हिन्दूस्तानबाटै पनि कैयौंपटक विमानहरु अपहरण नभएका होइनन् । मूल कुरा जिम्मेवार निकाय सुरक्षाको मामिलामा संवेदनशील छ छैन भन्ने हो । श्री ५ को सरकार त्रिभुवन अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय विमान स्थलमा सुरक्षा व्यवस्थालाई दुरुस्त राख्नका लागि पहिलेदेखि गम्भीर र संवेदनशील रहँदैआएको छ र भविष्यमा पनि त्यस्तो संवेदनशीलतामा कुनै कमी आउन दिने छैन । विमानस्थलमा सुरक्षासंग सम्बद्ध निकायका पदाधिकारीहरुले धेरै पटक बैठक पनि गरिसकेका छन् । अपहरणजस्ता घटनाका कुनै पनि सम्भावना नरहोस् भन्नका लागि अवदेखि यात्रुले एकपल्ट सुरक्षा जाँच गराई बोर्डिङ पास लिइसकेपछि फेरि जहाजभित्र प्रवेश गर्नुअघि उनीहरुको जाँच (स्क्यानिङ) गर्ने व्यवस्था गरिएको छ । यसअघि त्रिभुवन अन्तराष्ट्रिय विमानस्थलमा प्रवेशका लागि जुन व्यवस्था गरिएको थियो, त्यसलाई अझ बैज्ञानिक गर्नका लागि विमानस्थललाई निश्चित क्षेत्रमा वर्गीकरण गरेर निश्चित क्षेत्रका लागि निश्चित खालको व्यवस्था गरिनुका साथै विशिष्ट व्यक्तिका नाममा जारी गरिने पास संख्यामा पनि कटौती गरिएको छ । त्यसैगरी थप संख्यामा प्रहरी अधिकारीहरुको व्यवस्था गरिएको छ । अपहरणजस्ता घटनाको कुनै पनि सम्भावना नरहन दिनका लागि हामी सतर्क छौं ।

विमान अपहरणले नेपाल भारत सम्बन्धमा प्रभाव पर्ने खालका टिप्पणीहरु समाचार खासगरी भारतीय समाचार माध्यमहरुमा देखियो, यसबाट हाम्रो द्विपक्षीय सम्बन्धमा कुनै नकारात्मक असर त पर्दैन ?

❐ भारतीय सञ्चार माध्यम खासगरी जी टिभीले विमान अपहरणमा नेपालीको संलग्नता रहेको कुरालाई वारम्बार विना कुनै आधार दुस्प्रचार गर्‌यो, असत्य कुरालाई समाचार बनायो, त्यसप्रति हामी दुःखी छौं । तर एउटा जी टिभी र स्वतन्त्र समाचार माध्यमको दुस्प्रचारले नेपाल र हिन्दूस्तानबीच शदियौंदेखि कायम सुमधुर सम्बन्धलाई विगार्न सक्दैन भन्ने कुरामा म विश्वस्त छु ।

विमान अपहरणले नेपालको पर्यटन क्षेत्रमा नकारात्मक प्रभाव पनि पारेको छ ?

❐ विमान अपहरणपछि तत्कालका लागि इन्डियन एयरलाइन्सले काठमाडौंका लागि उडानहरु निलम्बित गरेको छ । तर अन्य विदेशी विमानहरु पूर्ववत् रुपमा काठमाडौंको उडानमा आइ नै रहेका छन् । इन्डियन एयरलाइन्सको उडान निलम्बित भएका कारण हवाइ मार्गबाट नेपाल आउने पर्यटकहरुको संख्यामा तत्काल कमी आए पनि समग्रमा नेपाल आउने पर्यटकहरुको संख्यामा ह्रास आएको छैन । अन्य देशहरुबाट आउने पर्यटकहरुकको संख्यामा कमी आएको छैन । इन्डियन एयरलाइन्सको उडानहरु निलम्बित भएका कारणले भारतीय पर्यटकको आगमनमा पर्नसक्ने सम्भावनालाई दृष्टिगत गरी हामीले भारतमा शाही नेपाल वायु सेवा निगमका थप उडानहरु गरिरहेका छौं । यसले गर्दा भारतीय विमानको उडान निलम्बनबाट पर्न सक्ने असरलाई समाप्त गर्न सकिने कुरामा म विश्वस्त छु ।

विश्वमै एउटा आकर्षक पर्यटकीय गन्तव्यस्थल मानिने नेपालको आर्थिक विकासको लक्ष्य हासिल गर्न पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकास अभियानलाई कसरी अगाडि बढाइरहनुभएको छ ?

❐ नेपालको आर्थिक विकासमा ठूलो टेवा पुर्‌याउन सक्ने कृषि, जलस्रोत तथा पर्यटन यी तीन क्षेत्र प्रमुख हुन् । जलस्रोतको कुरा गर्दा यस क्षेत्रमा लगानी जुटाउन खरवौं रुपियाँ खोज्नुपर्ने र त्यसको प्रतिफल लामो समयपछिमात्र राष्ट्रले पाउने देखिन्छ । जहाँसम्म कृषि क्षेत्रको कुरा छ, यसले जनतालाई हात मुख जोर्नका लागि मद्दत पुर्‌याए पनि मुलुकलाई छोटो समयमा आर्थिक समृद्धितर्फ लैजानका लागि कृषि क्षेत्र त्यति भरपर्दो र सम्भावित देखिइसकेको छैन । तर पर्यटन क्षेत्रको कुरा गर्दा यो एउटा यस्तो क्षेत्र हो, जसलाई आफ्नै मुलुकको थोरै लगानीमा धेरै फाइदा हासिल गर्न सकिन्छ । पर्यटन नै यस्तो क्षेत्र हो जसको विकासको लागि हामीले विदेशी बजारमा भर पर्नुपर्दैन । हामी हाम्रै लगानीमा भर परेर यो क्षेत्रको विकास गर्न सक्छौं । पर्यटनको बजारको कुनै सीमा छैन । हामीले हाम्रा गन्तव्यलाई बेचेर असीमित संख्यामा पर्यटकहरु हाम्रो देशमा भित्र्‌याएर मुलुकको विकास गर्न सक्छौं । र दुई करोड जनसंख्या भएको हाम्रो मुलुकमा आगामी ३०-३५ वर्षमा एक करोड पर्यटक भित्र्‌याउन सक्यौं भने पर्यटनलाई विकासको मेरुदण्डको रुपमा अपनाएर आर्थिक प्रगति गरेका मुलुकहरुको दाँजोमा जानसक्छौं । सिंगापुर, कोरिया, मलेशिया तथा दक्षिण एशियाको मल्दिभ्सले पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकास गरेरै मुलुकको समग्र विकास गर्न सफल भएका हुन् । हामी पनि यो यथार्थलाई बुझेर काम गरिरहेका छौं । तर हाम्रा सामु केही चुनौतीहरु पनि छन् । अर्थात हामीले हाम्रो मुलुकमा बढीभन्दा बढी पर्यटक ल्याउनका लागि शाही नेपाल वायु सेवालाई सक्षम र सुदृढ गर्नुपर्ने आवश्यकता तथा अर्को अन्तराष्ट्रिय विमान स्थलको निर्माण गर्न आवश्यक छ । अब त्रिभुवन विमानस्थलले मात्र पर्यटकहरुको बढ्दो आगमनलाई धान्न सक्दैन । त्यसकारण हामी अर्को अन्तराष्ट्रिय विमानस्थलको खोजी र निर्माणसम्बन्धी व्यवस्थाका लागि जोडतोडका साथ लागेका छौं । यसका साथै नागरिक उड्डयन क्षेत्रलाई अझ व्यापकता दिनका लागि हाम्रो प्रत्यक्ष हवाई सम्पर्क विभिन्न मुलुकसंग विस्तार गर्ने योजनामा लागेका छौं । श्रीलंका, कोरिया तथा अमेरिकाजस्ता मुलुकसंग प्रत्यक्ष हवाई सम्पर्क कायम गर्ने प्रयास गरिरहेका छौं । ग्रामीण पर्यटनलाई विस्तार गर्ने कुरालाई प्राथमिकताका साथ हेरिरहेका छौं भने नयाँ गन्तव्य स्थलहरुको घोषणा पनि गर्न गैरहेका छौं । नेपाललाई विश्वभरि नै एक आकर्षक पर्यटक गन्तव्य स्थलको रुपमा विकसित गर्ने उद्देश्यले नेपाललाई अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय स्तरमा व्यापक प्रचार दिलाउने कार्यक्रमको रुपमा सन् २००२ लाई डेष्टिनेशन नेपाल वर्षको रुपमा

मनाइने छ र त्यससम्बन्धी कार्यक्रमहरु चाँडै घोषणा पनि हुनेछन् । त्यसैगरी यस वर्ष ट्रान्स हिमालयन कार्यक्रम र आगामी सन् २००१ मा स्पोर्टस् हिमालयन कार्यक्रम पनि आयोजना गरिनेभएका छन् । ट्रान्स हिमालयन कार्यक्रममा ४० वटा मुलुकका आठ सय खेलाडीले ११ वटा इभेन्टमा भाग लिनेछन् । त्यो कार्यक्रमलाई १७ वटा अन्तराष्ट्रिय टेलिभीजनले प्रसारण गर्ने भएकोछ । त्यसअतिरिक्त उक्त कार्यक्रम नेपालबाट १७७ घन्टा प्रत्यक्ष प्रसारण पनि हुनेभएको छ । श्री ५ को सरकार यस्ता धेरै कार्यक्रमहरु आयोजना गरी नेपालको पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकास गर्न प्रतिबद्ध छ । अर्कोतिर हामी शान्तिपूर्ण र प्राकृतिक सौन्दर्यले भरिएको मुलुक भएकाले पनि यस क्षेत्रमा नै सभा वा सेमिनारका लागि एक आकर्षक स्थलको रुपमा आफूलाई प्रस्तुत गरी अन्तराष्ट्रिय सभा वा सेमिनार नेपालमा आयोजना गर्नका लागि अन्तराष्ट्रिय क्षेत्रलाई प्रोत्साहित गरेका छौं ।

नेपालमा पर्यटकहरुको संख्या सन्तोषजनक पाइरहनु भएको छ ?

❑ विश्वमा पर्यटकहरुको औषत वृद्धि दर हेर्दा ४ प्रतिशतभन्दा केही बढी र पाँच प्रतिशतभन्दा केही कम रहेको छ । हाम्रो मुलुकमा आएका पर्यटकहरुको संख्या हेर्दा सन् १९९८ मा यो संख्या ५.८ प्रतिशतले वृद्धि भएको देखिन्छ । यो औषत वृद्धि दरबाट म पूर्ण सन्तुष्ट नभए पनि सन्तोषजनक अवस्था भने रहेको छ । यद्यपि हाम्रो प्रयास भने नेपाल आउने पर्यटकहरुको संख्यामा अझ ठूलो वृद्धि गराउनेतिर केन्द्रित छ ।

व्यवस्थापकीय कमजोरी तथा आर्थिक अनियमितताका कारण बारम्बार चर्चामा आउनेगरेको शाही नेपाल वायु सेवा निगममा सुधार ल्याउन सरकारले के कस्ता प्रयास गरिरहेको छ ?

❑ चालिस वर्षको इतिहासमा शानेवानिले धेरै उतार चढाव भोगेर पनि नेपालको पर्यटन क्षेत्रमा निगमको खास योगदान रहँदैआएको छ । विगतमा निगमभित्र कमिशन र भ्रष्टाचारका धेरै सवालहरु आए, मैले पर्यटन मन्त्रालयको जिम्मेवारी सम्हालेदेखि त्यस्ता कुराहरुलाई निरुत्साहित गरेर निगमलाई सुदृढ र सक्षम विमान सेवाको रुपमा विकास गर्न पूरा ध्यान दिएको छु । राष्ट्रको चिनारीसंग जोडिएको यसको ध्वजालाई उचा राख्नका लागि निगमका कमजोरी हटाउन तथा व्यवस्थापकीय संरचनामा आवश्यकता अनुसार परिवर्तन तथा परिमार्जन ल्याउनका लागि हामीले गम्भीर प्रयास गरेका छौं । यही प्रयासको फलस्वरुप निगमभित्र भ्रष्टाचारको दाउमा रहनेगरेका तत्वहरु अहिले निरुत्साहित भएका छन् । सबभन्दा महत्वपूर्ण कुरा निगम सक्षम र यसका सेवाहरु समयमै संचालन हुनुपर्‌यो । जहाँसम्म उडान समयमै हुनुपर्ने प्रसंग छ, त्यो भएको पनि छ । अहिले आन्तरिक उडान धेरै हदसम्म व्यवस्थित भएको छ । नेपालमा बढ्दो संख्यामा पर्यटकहरु भित्र्याउनका लागि शानेवानिका अन्तराष्ट्रिय उडानहरु विस्तार गर्न जरुरी छ । जसका लागि निगमलाई वाइड बडीका जहाजहरु आवश्यक पर्छ । निगमले आफूसामु रहेको यही चुनौतीलाई सामना गर्नका लागि वाइड तथा मध्यम स्तरीय (मिडल रेन्ज) जहाजहरु किन्ने साहसिक निर्णय गरेको छ । सम्पूर्ण प्रक्रियाहरु पूरा गरेर निगमलाई आवश्यक जहाजहरु किनिने छ । जहाँसम्म निगमलाई सक्षम संस्थाको रुपमा विकास गर्ने प्रसंग छ, श्री ५ को सरकारले यसलाई तीन चरणमा सुदृढ गर्ने योजना अन्तर्गत काम गरिरहेको छ । पहिलो चरणमा निगमको व्यवस्थापकीय संरचनासम्बन्धी सुधार, दोस्रो चरणमा उपकरणसम्बन्धी सुधारको प्रक्रिया रहेका छन् । यसरी निगम आत्मनिर्भर भैसकेपछि तेस्रो चरणमा निगमलाई अन्य सक्षम अन्तराष्ट्रिय विमानसेवासंग संयुक्त लगानीमा संचालन गरिने हाम्रो सरकारको सोचाइ छ । तर त्यो काम निगमको राष्ट्रिय ध्वजामुनि नै हुने छ । अर्थात निगमले फहराउँदैआएको राष्ट्रिय ध्वजालाई कायम नै राखिने छ । (साभार : गोरखापत्र)

ट्रान्स हिमालय २०००

नेपालको पर्यटनलाई अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय क्षेत्रमा प्रवर्द्धन गर्न "ट्रान्स हिमालय २०००" ले यहाँ आयोजना गरिने भएको छ । पर्यटन तथा नागरिक उड्डयनमन्त्री विजयकुमार गच्छदारले सो विषयमा कार्तिक ११ मा आयोजित पत्रकार सम्मेलनमा २१ सौं शताब्दीमा पर्यटन क्षेत्रको विकासका लागि सो प्रतियोगिता ऐतिहासिक घटना हुने बताउनु भयो । फ्रान्सको रेड गुलवाज संगठनद्वारा आयोजना गरिने सो समारोहमा चीनको स्वशासित क्षेत्र तिब्बतदेखि नेपालसम्म ट्रेकिङ्ग, हाइकिङ्ग, माउण्टेन बाईकिङ्ग, रक क्लाइम्बिङ्ग र ह्वाइट वाटर प्रतियोगिताहरू गरिने छ । चालीस राष्ट्रका ५० वटा टोलीका ३५० खेलाडीले भाग लिने सो प्रतियोगितामा ६०० देखि ७०० कि.मि. सम्मको दूरी १० दिनसम्ममा तय गर्नेछन् । नेपालका लागि फ्रान्सका राजदूत मिशेल लुमोले सो प्रतियोगिताबाट नेपालले आफ्नो प्राकृतिक सौन्दर्यको पूर्णरूपमा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय क्षेत्रमा पहिचान गराई पर्यटन प्रबर्द्धन गर्ने अवसर पाउने धारणा व्यक्त गर्नुभयो ।

पर्यटन तथा नागरिक उड्डयन सहायकमन्त्री नारायणसिंह पुनले सरकार पर्यटन प्रबर्द्धनका लागि निजी क्षेत्रसँग समन्वय गरी कार्य गर्न तम्सिएको बताउनुभयो । समारोहमा आयोजक संस्थाका अध्यक्ष पेट्रिक ब्रिग्नोली, निर्देशक एलेन गइमार्डले नेपालको भौगोलिक अवस्था यस खेलका लागि उपयुक्त रहेको यस यसबाट साहसिक पर्यटन क्षेत्रमा नेपालको सम्भाव्यतालाई विश्वसामु प्रस्तुत गर्ने धारणा व्यक्त गर्नुभयो ।

पाटनमा पर्यटक प्रवेश शुल्क

ललितपुर उपमहानगरपालिकाले उपमहानगरपालिका भित्रका सात महत्वपूर्ण ऐतिहासिक ठाउँहरूमा १ जनवरी २००० देखि लागू हुने गरी जनही रु. दुईसयका दरले पाटन पर्यटक प्रवेश शुल्क शुरु गरेको छ । ती स्थानहरूमा केशवनारायण चोक, मूलचोक, सुन्दरीचोक, रुद्रवर्ण महाविहार, कुम्भेश्वर मन्दिर, महाबौद्ध र अक्षेश्वर महाविहार छन् । शुल्क लगाउन थालिए फलतः पर्यटकहरूलाई सूचना केन्द्र स्थापना गरी ती स्थानहरूमा मार्ग निर्देशन, नक्शा, आकर्षक पोष्ट कार्ड, गुणस्तरीय पथ प्रदर्शक, वृद्ध तथा असक्त पर्यटकको लागि रिक्सा सुविधा, योग्य शौचालयजस्ता सुविधा प्रदान गरिने छ । हाल पाटनमा वार्षिक तीनलाख पर्यटकले घुम्ने अनुमान गरिएको छ ।

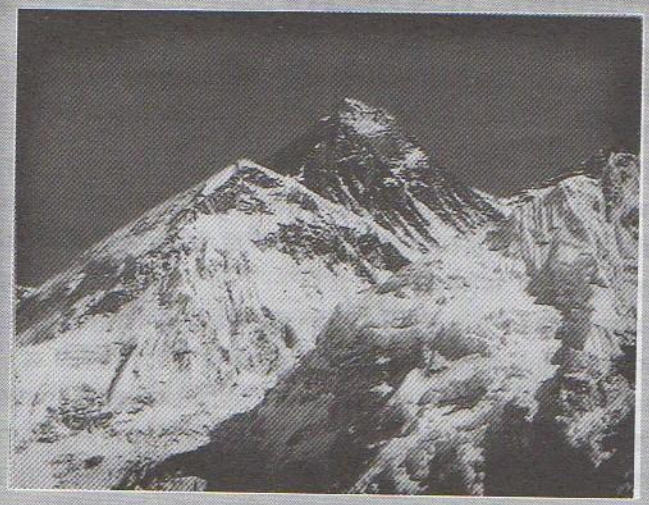
बाबु छिरी शेर्पा अभिनन्दित

नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघद्वारा पुस २३ गते विख्यात पर्वतारोही बाबुछिरी शेर्पालाई अभिनन्दन गर्न आयोजित कार्यक्रममा पर्यटन तथा नागरिक उड्डयनमन्त्री विजयकुमार गच्छदारले विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथा आरोहणमा नेपाली युवाहरूको वीरता र साहसको विश्वव्यापी कदर हुनुपर्छ भन्नुभयो ।

नवौं पटक सगरमाथा आरोहण गरिसकेका बाबुछिरी शेर्पाले २१ घण्टा सगरमाथाको चुचुरोमा बिताई कायम गरेको नयाँ कीर्तिमानको सम्मानमा नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघले श्री शेर्पाको अभिनन्दन गर्न सो कार्यक्रम आयोजना गरेको हो । संघले प्रदान गरेको एकलाख २१ हजार १२१ रुपियाँ पनि मन्त्री गच्छदारले कदरपत्रका साथ श्री शेर्पालाई हस्तान्तरण गर्नुभयो । त्यस अवरमा बाबु छिरी शेर्पाले नेपालीहरूको सहयोग, समर्थन र प्रेरणाले मुलुकको इज्जत र गौरवको निम्ति आफूले सगरमाथा आरोहणको दुई बेग्लाबेग्लै कीर्तिमान कायम गरेको बताउँदै आफू अरू कीर्तिमानका निम्ति अवसरहरूको पर्खाइमा रहेको बताउनुभयो ।

गत वैशाखमा नवौं पटकको आरोहणमा २१ घण्टा सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथाको चुचुरामा बिताएका श्री शेर्पाले पाँच वर्ष अघि उत्तर (तिब्बती) मोहडाबाट १४ दिनमा दुई पटक सगरमाथा आरोहण गरी नयाँ कीर्तिमान कायम गरेका थिए ।

कार्यक्रममा संघका प्रथम उपाध्यक्ष आङछिरिङ शेर्पाले नेपाली युवाहरूले सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथाको आरोहणमा नयाँ-नयाँ विश्वकीर्तिमान बनाई धन, यश र कीर्तिका साथै मुलुकलाई विश्व पर्यटनमा चिनाइरहेको चर्चा गर्नुभयो । संघका द्वितीय उपाध्यक्ष विक्रम पाण्डेले साहसी आरोहीहरूलाई सम्मान गर्न पाएकोमा संघ गौरवान्वित भएको छ भन्नुभयो ।



हिमालय आचार संहिता

हिमालयको वातावरणीय स्वच्छता नेपालीहरुको मात्र होइन विश्वभरिकै प्रकृतिप्रेमी तथा पर्वतारोहीहरुको सरोकारको विषय बन्न पुगेको छ जापानमा नोभेम्बर १९९१ मा सम्पन्न पर्वतीय वातावरण संरक्षण सम्बन्धी अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय भेलाद्वारपारित "हिमालय आचार संहिता" ले त्यही अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय चासो र प्रबिद्धतालाई प्रतिविम्बित गर्दछ। त्यो 'संहिता' को पूर्ण विवरण :

- ☐ क्याम्पिङ्ग गर्ने ठाउँ सफा राख्नोस्। तपाईंले क्याम्पिङ्ग गरेको ठाउँ छाडेर गएपछि अरुले पनि प्रयोग गर्नेछन् भन्ने कुरा नबिर्सिनोस्। त्यसैले त्यस ठाउँलाई पहिलोको भन्दा सफा र सुग्घर पारेर मात्र छाड्नुहोस्।

- ☐ वन विनास रोक्नोस्। खुल्ला ठाउँमा आगो बालेर ताप्ने नगर्नोस् र अरुलाई पनि त्यस्तो गर्न भरसक नदिनोस्। पानी उमाल्न दाउरा बाल्नु पर्ने ठाउँमा थोरै पानीले काम चलाउनोस्। सम्भव भएसम्म मट्टितेलको स्टोभ वा कम दाउरा चाहिने सुधारिएको स्टोभ बाल्ने, लज वा होटेलहरुमा मात्र वास बस्नोस्।

- ☐ फोहोर जलाउनोस् वा गाड्नोस्। आफै सडेर नजाने वस्तुलाई भने आफूसाथ फिर्ता लैजानोस्। अरुले बाटामा फ्याँकेका रद्दी वस्तु फेला पार्नु भएमा तिनलाई पनि टिपेर ठीक ठाउँमा पुऱ्याउनुहोस् वा तह लगाई दिनुहोस्। आफ्नो खानेकुराहरुलाई स्थायी झोला वा थैलामा अथवा सजिलैसित गलेर जाने वस्तुले बनेका प्याकेटहरुमा पोको पारेर लैजानोस्।

- ☐ खानेपानीको श्रोतलाई दूषित नपार्नोस्। खोला वा कुवामा सावुन जस्ता हानिकारक वस्तुको प्रयोग नगर्नोस्। पानीको मुहान वा पानी भएको ठाउँबाट घटीमा पनि ३० मिटर परतिर गएर मात्र शौचआदि कार्य गर्नोस् र फोहरलाई माटोले पुरिदिनोस्।

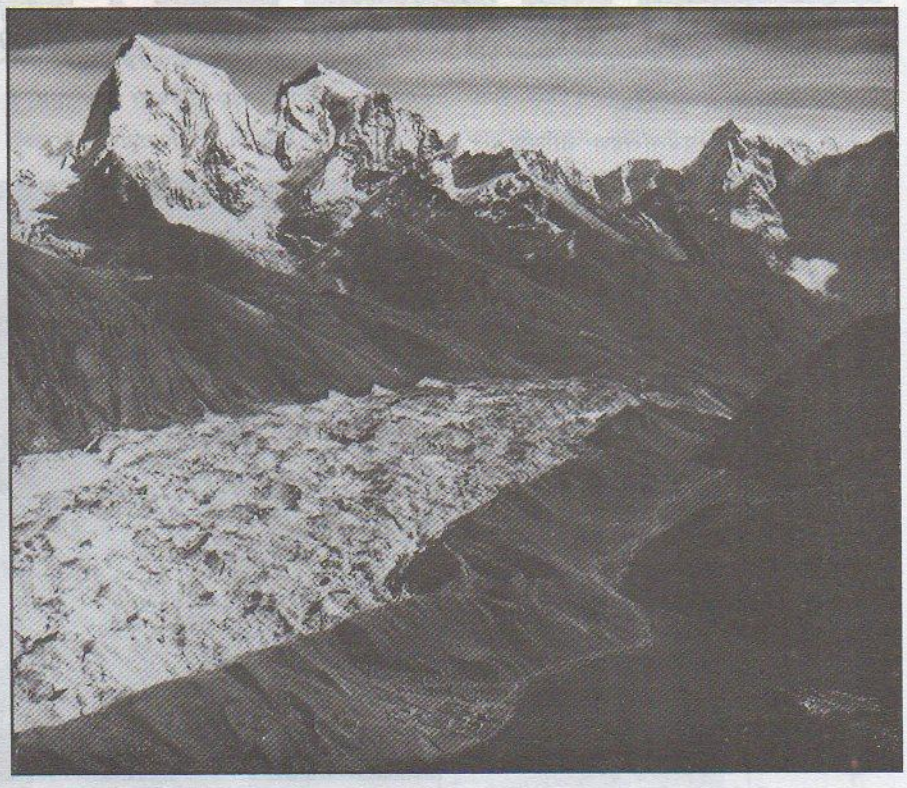
- ☐ फूल विरुवा अछुतो रहन दिनोस्। तिनको बीज वा जरा निकाल्ने अथवा कलम काटी लैजाने काम नगर्नोस्।
- ☐ तपाईंको साथमा जाने भरिया अथवा पथ-प्रदर्शकलाई पनि वातावरण जोगाउन के के गर्नुपर्छ, त्यो सिकाउनोस्। भान्से र भरियाहरुलाई छुने या चलाउने काम नगर्नोस्। मन्दिर भित्र पस्तु अघि जुत्ता अवश्य फुकाल्नोस्।

- ☐ केटाकेटीलाई खानेकुरा वा पैसा बाँडेर मागी खाने प्रवृत्तिलाई प्रोत्साहित नगर्नोस्। केही चन्दा वा दान दिनु नै छ भने कुनै पाठशाला, स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र वा उपयोगी आयोजनालाई दिनुहोस्।

- ☐ रैथाने मान मर्यादाको पालना गर्नाले तपाईंको आफ्नै इज्जत बढ्छ। त्यसैले सानो कट्टु वा अंग प्रदर्शन हुने किसिमका साऱ्है कसिला वा पातला पहिरन नलगाउनोस्। सबैले देख्ने गरी हातेमालो गरेको वा म्वाई खाएको गाउँघरमा निको मानिदैन भन्ने सम्झनोस्।

यस हिमालय आचार संहिताको प्रमुख हस्ताक्षरकारीहरुमा हुनुहुन्छ- श्री एडमण्ड हिलारी (न्यूजील्याण्ड) श्री क्रीस बोनिङटन (बेलायत) श्री सि फान चुन (चीन) श्री मोरिस हरजोग (फ्रान्स) डा. पियट्रो सेगान्तिनी (अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय पर्वतारोहण महासंघ) श्री एडवर्ड मिस्लोभस्की (पूर्व सोभियत संघ) श्रीमती जुन्को तावेई (जापान) श्री टेकचन्द्र पोखरेल (नेपाल) क्याप्टेन एम. एस. कोहली (भारत) तथा जनरल जेड. ए. मिर्जा (पाकिस्तान)

महिला सहस्राब्दी सगरमाथा आरोहण अभियान



सुषमा कोइराला मेमोरियल ट्रस्टले नयाँ सहस्राब्दीमा महिलाको लागि केही गर्ने दृढ इच्छा बमोजिम चारजना उत्साही शेर्पा युवतीहरूलाई सगरमाथा आरोहण गराउने साहसी अभियान प्रारम्भ गरेको छ ।

आधा शताब्दी अगाडिदेखि विश्वको सर्वोच्च शिखर सगरमाथामा स्वदेशी तथा विदेशी धेरै पुरुष तथा महिलाहरूले पाइला टेकी राष्ट्रिय तथा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय कीर्तिमान राखिसकेको सन्दर्भमा नेपाली महिलाको इज्जत राख्ने साहसी महिला पासाङ ल्हामु शेर्पा सगरमाथाबाट जीवित फर्कन नसकेको दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटनाले इतिहासमा उनको नाम स्वर्ण अक्षरमा लेखिएको छ । हिमालयको काखमा रहेको देश नेपालमा सगरमाथाको सफल आरोहण गर्ने महिलाको अभाव निरन्तर रहिरहेको पीडादायक अवस्थामा नेपाली महिलाहरूको गौरव श्रीवृद्धि गर्न तथा उनीहरू पनि विश्वमा कोहीभन्दा कम छैनन् भन्ने कुरा प्रमाणित गर्नको लागि चार सदस्यीय नेपाली महिला "सहस्राब्दी सगरमाथा आरोहण अभियान, वसन्त २०००" प्रारम्भ गरिने छ। २६ वर्षीय लाक्पा शेर्पाको नेतृत्वमा सगरमाथा आरोहण गर्न जाने सदस्यमा २३ वर्षीया डोल्मा शेर्पा र २१ वर्षीया दावा याङ्जी शेर्पा तथा मिङ्मा याङ्जी शेर्पा रहनुभएको छ । उहाँहरू आगामी अप्रिल ७, २००० मा काठमाडौंबाट त्यसतर्फ प्रस्थान गर्ने कार्यक्रम छ ।

आम नेपाली महिलाहरूको गरिमामय भूमिकाप्रतिको प्रतिबद्धतालाई साकार पार्ने यस कार्यका लागि आवश्यक पर्ने सम्पूर्ण भौतिक साधनहरूको चाँजो-पाँजो मिलाउन तथा नेपाली महिला सहस्राब्दी सगरमाथा आरोहण अभियान, वसन्त २००० लाई सफल पार्न सुजाता कोइरालाको अध्यक्षतामा पुस २१ गते सञ्चालन समिति गठन गरिएको छ । यसको उपाध्यक्षमा आङछिरिङ शेर्पा, सचिव भूमिलाल लामा, कोषाध्यक्ष पुष्प थपलिया र सदस्यहरूमा वीरेन्द्र रावल, डा. तिलक रावल, मित्रसेन दाहाल, आङ ग्याल्जेन शेर्पा, रिन्छेन योन्जन, टासी शेर्पा तथा लेखबहादुर राई हुनुहुन्छ । यस्तै आरोहण सफल सञ्चालन गर्न वीरेन्द्र दाहालको अध्यक्षता तथा डा. तिलक रावल, मित्रसेन दाहाल र पुष्प थपलिया रहेको आर्थिक समिति, आङ छिरिङ शेर्पाको अध्यक्षतामा व्यवस्थापन समिति तथा रिन्छेन योन्जनको अध्यक्षतामा जनसम्पर्क तथा सञ्चार समिति गठन पनि गरिएको छ ।

नेपालका संरक्षित क्षेत्र दुर्लभ वन्यजन्तुका लागि स्वर्ग

जैविक विविधता संरक्षण क्रममा नेपालले सञ्चालन गरेका केही कार्यक्रमहरू विश्वका लागि नै उदाहरणीय बन्नपुगेका छन्। विश्व वन्यजन्तु कोष अन्तर्राष्ट्रियका अध्यक्ष सैयर बबर अलिले हालै चितवनमा चालू रहेको पर्यावरणीय पर्यटन तथा समुदायको अगुवाइमा अन्नपूर्ण संरक्षण क्षेत्रमा एकीकृतरूपमा सञ्चालित संरक्षण र विकास कार्यक्रमहरू विश्वकै लागि नमुना कार्यक्रमहरूका रूपमा देखापरेको बताउनुभयो ।

सन् १९६७ देखि नेपालको संरक्षण क्रियाकलापमा सक्रिय सहभागी रहँदै आएको विशव वन्यजन्तु कोषको नेपाल परियोजनाले हाल अन्नपूर्ण संरक्षण क्षेत्रको रणनीति तयार गर्ने, राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण विभागलाई संस्थागत सहयोग उपलब्ध गराउने, उत्तरी पहाडी संरक्षण परियोजना, बर्दिया एकीकृत संरक्षण परियोजना, सगरमाथा प्रदूषण नियन्त्रण परियोजना, कञ्चनजंघा संरक्षण क्षेत्र परियोजना, वन्यजन्तुको व्यापार अनगुमन कार्यक्रम, अब्राहम संरक्षण पुरस्कार कार्यक्रम, बाघ संरक्षण र स्थिति सर्वेक्षण, बाघ गैंडाको वासस्थान विस्तार, संरक्षणका लागि वैकल्पिक इन्धन हिउँचितुवा संरक्षण परियोजना, शाही बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज विस्तार परियोजना आदि कार्यक्रमहरू सञ्चालनमा सहयोग गरिरहेको छ ।

उहाँले नेपालका संरक्षित क्षेत्रहरू बाघ, गैंडा तथा अन्य दुर्लभ वन्यजन्तुका लागि सुरक्षित स्वर्ग रहेको उल्लेख गर्दै सन् १९७० को दशकमा नेपालमा गैंडाको संख्या एक सयभन्दा कम रहेकोमा हाल आएर चितवन तथा बर्दियामा गरी छ सय नाघेको जानकारी दिनुभयो ।

मुलुकको कुल एकलाख ४७ हजार १८१ वर्गकिलोमिटर क्षेत्रफलमध्ये २४ हजार ७१७ वर्ग किलोमिटर क्षेत्रफल संरक्षित क्षेत्रका रूपमा घोषणा गरिएको छ ।

खेलकुद पर्यटन वर्ष- २००१

नेपाल भ्रमण वर्षको सफल आयोजनपछि खेलकुदका माध्यमबाट पर्यटन प्रवर्द्धन गर्न तथा पर्यटनको माध्यमबाट खेलकुदको विकास विस्तार गर्न सन् २००१ लाई खेलकुद पर्यटन वर्षका रूपमा मनाइने भएको छ । सन् १९९८ लाई नेपाल भ्रमण वर्षका रूपमा मनाउने अवधारण प्रस्तुत गर्नुहुने वरिष्ठ पर्यटन व्यवसायी कर्ण शाक्यले "खेलकुद पर्यटन वर्ष- २००१" आयोजनाका लागि श्री ५ को सरकारसमक्ष एक विस्तृत प्रस्ताव पेश गर्नुभएको छ ।

खेलकुद आयोजना हालका वर्षहरूमा विश्वका अधिकांश राष्ट्रहरूमा रंगशालामा मात्र सीमित नरही विद्युतीय सञ्चार माध्यमबाट विश्वभर प्रत्यक्ष प्रसारण गरिने भएकोले "स्पोर्ट हिमालय इअर- २००१" आयोजना गरिएमा नेपाल भ्रमण गर्ने पर्यटक संख्या तीव्र रूपमा वृद्धि गर्नसकिने कुरा सो प्रस्तावमा उल्लेख छ ।

नेपालले हालसम्म पदयात्रा, जलयात्रा र पर्वतारोहण गतिविधिलाई पर्यटकीय "प्रडक्ट्स" का रूपमा बिक्री गरिरहेको सन्दर्भमा यी सम्पदालाई अब विश्व खेलकुदकै रूपमा प्रवर्द्धन गर्नुपर्ने तथा देश विदेशका खेलाडीहरूका सहभागितामा सन् २००१ भर खेलकुद महोत्सव आयोजना गरिनुपर्ने सो प्रस्तावमा उल्लेख छ ।

श्री शाक्यले खेलकुद पर्यटन वर्ष- २००१ का बेला लुम्बिनीदेखि अन्नपूर्ण भूभागसम्म शान्ति मार्च, ट्रान्स-हिमालयन माउन्टेन वाइक, परम्परागत खेलहरू कवड्डी, क्यानोइङ, उच्च क्षेत्रमा खेलिने खेल प्रतियोगिता लगायत देशमा विलुप्त हुँदैगएका तथा नयाँ खेल कार्यक्रमहरू आयोजना गर्न सकिने र यसले दक्षिण एसियासमेत अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय क्षेत्रमा नेपाललाई सुपरिचित पार्न टेवा पुग्ने बताउनुभयो ।

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिकाका ३१ प्रतिशत पर्यटकहरू विश्वका विभिन्न राष्ट्रहरूमा "एक्स्ट्रम स्पोर्टस" मा सहभागी हुनेगरेको तथा युरोपमा पनि परम्परागत पर्यटनको धारणामा निकै परिवर्तन देखापरेकोले नेपालमा खेलकुद हिमालय वर्ष- २००१ आयोजना गरिनु अपरिहार्य भइसकेको कुरा सरकारसमक्ष प्रस्तुत प्रस्तावमा उल्लेख गरिएको छ ।

नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघ

नवनिर्वाचित कार्य समितिको पहिलो ६ महिना : के काम भए ?

पर्वतारोहण प्रशिक्षण

क. आधारभूत पर्वतारोहण तालिम : संघबाट वार्षिक रुपमा संचालन गरिँदै आएको आधारभूत पर्वतारोहण प्रशिक्षण तालिम यस वर्ष पनि संघको मनाङस्थित पर्वतारोहण स्कूलमा गत अगष्ट २५ देखि अक्टोबर ३, १९९९ सम्म सफल रुपमा संचालन गरिएको थियो। उक्त तालिममा ६ जना महिला, १ जना बेलायती नागरिक सहित जम्मा ३० जना प्रशिक्षार्थीहरु लाई ६ जना नेपाली प्रशिक्षकहरुले तालिम दिनुभएको थियो।

ख. संघले ईको हिमालसंग मिलेर गत वर्ष संचालन गरेको दुई वटा उच्च पर्वतारोहण तालिममा तालिम लिएका विद्यार्थीहरुलाई बालाजुमा मिति अक्टोबर ३१ देखि नोभेम्बर ४ सम्म ५ दिने एक Refreshment Course प्रदान गरेको थियो।

ग. कोरियन अल्पाईन फेडेरेशनको सहयोगमा मिति २० डिसेम्बर १९९९ देखि एक हप्ता सम्म दक्षिण कोरियामा ४ जना नेपाली पर्वतारोहीहरुलाई पर्वतारोहण तालिम उपलब्ध गराईएको छ। उक्त तालिमको लागि कोरियन अल्पाईन फेडेरेशनले नै सम्पूर्ण सहयोग उपलब्ध गराएको थियो।

घ. हङ्ककङ्ग माउन्टेनियरिङ्ग युनियनद्वारा मिति २७/२८ नोभेम्बर १९९९ मा हङ्ककङ्गमा आयोजित Hong Kong Sports Climbing Championship 99 मा नेपाली पर्वतारोही तथा संघका प्रशिक्षक र प्रशिक्षण तथा पर्वतारोहण अभियान समितिका सदस्य श्री प्रेम बहादुर गुरुङ्गले भाग लिनुभएको थियो।

ङ. संघले स्कूल तथा क्याम्पसका विद्यार्थीहरुलाई प्रदान गर्ने रक क्लाईम्बिङ्ग तालिम आगामी फेब्रुअरीमा संचालन गर्दैछ।

बैदेशिक सम्बन्ध विस्तार :

क. Himalayan Trust of Japan (HAT - J) को गत १९९९ को अगष्ट २२ देखि अगष्ट २८ सम्म पाकिस्तानमा आयोजित कार्यक्रममा संघका कार्यसमिति सदस्य श्री ल्हाक्पा दोर्जी शेर्पाको नेतृत्वमा ३ जना नेपाली स्कूले विद्यार्थीहरुको प्रतिनिधिमण्डलले भाग लिएको थियो।

ख. गत २४ देखि २६ सेप्टेम्बर १९९९ मा ग्रीसको ओलम्पियामा सम्पन्न UIAA को वार्षिक साधारण सभामा संघका अध्यक्ष श्री टासी जाङ्गबु शेर्पा र प्रथम उपाध्यक्ष श्री आङ छिरिङ शेर्पाले भाग लिनुभएको थियो।



साधारण सभाको एक झलक

ग. यसै गरी ईटालीको मिलानमा सम्पन्न पर्वतारोहणसंग सम्बन्धित विश्वका सर्वोच्च व्यक्तित्वहरुको सम्मेलन मिलानामोन्टाना २००० मा नेपाली पर्वतारोहीहरु श्री काजी शेर्पा र श्री बाबु छिरी शेर्पा को नेतृत्व गरी संघका अध्यक्ष श्री टासी जाङ्गबु शेर्पाले सहभागिता जनाउनुभएको थियो।

घ. UAAA को महासभा गत मिति ९ देखि ११ अक्टोबर १९९९ मा मंगोलियाको उलानबटारमा सम्पन्न भएको थियो। उक्त महासभामा संघको महासचिव श्री भूमिलाल लामाको नेतृत्वमा संघका कोषाध्यक्ष श्री गिरधारी शर्मा सम्मिलित टोलीले भाग लिएको थियो।

ङ. स्पेनको बार्सिलोनामा मिति १२ देखि १४ नोभेम्बर १९९९ मा सम्पन्न यूआईएए एक्स्पिडिसन कमिशनको बैठकमा संघका द्वितीय उपाध्यक्ष श्री विक्रम पाँडे र सचिव श्री आङ देण्डी शेर्पाले भाग लिनुभएको थियो।

प्रकाशन तथा प्रचार प्रसार

संघले गरेका कार्यहरुलाई सार्वजनिक रुपमा व्यक्त गर्ने माध्यमको रुपमा संघको प्रकाशन तथा प्रचार प्रसार कार्य अन्तर्गत यस वर्ष नेपाली पर्वत एक अंक प्रकाशित गरिएको छ। यसै गरी गत वर्ष संघको रजत महोत्सवको अवसरमा आयोजित देशव्यापी कविता प्रतियोगितामा प्राप्त उत्कृष्ट कविताहरुलाई "हिमाल हाम्रो सम्पदा - पर्वतारोही हाम्रा गौरव" विषयक कविता संग्रहको रुपमा छपाई गरिएको छ।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय पर्वतीय संग्रहालय

सन् १९९६ देखि पोखरामा निर्माण कार्य शुरु गरिएको अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय पर्वतीय संग्रहालयको छाना छाउने कार्यको लागि सिङ्गापूरस्थित बिलम्याट कम्पनीबाट उत्पादित Hi Rib Profile को छाना लगाउन सम्झौता गरिएको र यसको लागि ४८४५४ अमेरिकी डलरको L.C. खोलिएको छ। साथै छाना छाउनको लागि आवश्यक पर्ने ट्रस निर्माणको काम सकिएको र निकट भविष्यमै छाना छाउने कार्य सम्पन्न हुने छ। संग्रहालयको उत्तरी हातामा थप काँडेतार लगाउने कार्य सम्पन्न भएको छ।

संग्रहालय निर्माणको लागि विभिन्न मुलुक, संस्था तथा व्यक्तिहरुबाट आर्थिक सहयोग जुटाउने कार्यमा प्रयासरत रहेको व्यहोरा अवगत गराउँदै यसको लागि पत्राचार, सभा सम्मेलनमा संग्रहालय सम्बन्धी प्रस्तुती आदि कार्यहरु गरिएका छन्। फलस्वरुप हामीलाई कोरियन अल्पाईन फेडेरेशनबाट

अमेरिकी डलर पाँच हजार, UAAA का नवनिर्वाचित महासचिव श्री ईन जोङ्ग ली बाट अमेरिकी डलर एक हजार, जापान अल्पाईन क्लव सेनिन ब्रान्चका अध्यक्ष श्री मासामोतो किक्कावा बाट अमेरिकी डलर दुई हजार, एशियन एयरलाईन्सबाट रु.१,०१,१११।-, एशियन ट्रेकिङ्गबाट रु. १,०३,७७७- तथा संग्रहालयका ठेकेदार ग्लोबल आशिष ज्वाईन्ट भेन्चरका श्री के.डि.अधिकारी बाट रु. १,००,१०१।- को थप आर्थिक सहयोग प्राप्त भएको छ। संग्रहालय निर्माण सहयोगको लागि जापानमा गठित सानपाकु नामक संस्थाबाट पनि थप अमेरिकी डलर ४० हजार उपलब्ध गराउने जानकारी प्राप्त भएको छ।

यसैगरी संग्रहालयको प्रचार प्रसार तथा अर्थ संकलन गर्ने उद्देश्यले गत सेप्टेम्बर १०, १९९९ मा एक डिनर बल कार्यक्रमको आयोजना गरेको थियो। पूर्व प्रधानमन्त्री तथा नेपाली कांग्रेसका अध्यक्ष श्री गिरिजा प्रसाद कोईरालाको उपस्थिति रहेको उक्त कार्यक्रममा विभिन्न देशका राजदूत, कूटनीतिक नियोगका व्यक्तिहरु तथा उद्योगपतिहरुको समेत उपस्थिति रहेको थियो। उक्त कार्यक्रमबाट संग्रहालय निर्माणार्थरु. १,०१,४८०।- को खूद आम्दानी भएको छ। हालसम्ममा विभिन्न चरणमा गरी संग्रहालय निर्माणको लागि रु. ३१,५१४,५५०।-१६ खर्च भैसकेको छ।

कल्याणकारी कार्यहरु तथा चन्दा सहायता

क. मृतक पर्वतारोहीका बालबालिकालाई छात्रबृत्ति प्रदान गर्ने सिलसिलामा थप एक जना समेत गरी जम्मा ४ जना लाई छात्रबृत्ति प्रदान गरिएको छ र Benoit Chamounix Foundation बाट नेपाली मृतक पर्वतारोहीका दुई जना विद्यार्थीहरुलाई छात्रबृत्ति प्रदान गर्ने सहमति भएको छ।

ख. श्री आङ रिता शेर्पा अस्वस्थ हुँदा संघबाट विशेष हेरचाह प्रदान गरिनुका साथै वहाँको स्वास्थ्योपचारमा लागेको खर्च उपलब्ध गराईदिनको लागि श्री ५ को सरकारसंग अनुरोध गरिएको छ।

ग. नेपाल हिमालयन पथ प्रदर्शक संघले गोक्यो र लोबुजेमा निर्माण गर्न लागेको पौवा को लागि संघले रु. ३ लाखको सहायता उपलब्ध गराइएको छ।

घ. चौंरीखर्कको बाटो पहिरोले पुर्दा मर्मतको लागि सहयोग रु. १ लाखको सहायता उपलब्ध गराईएको छ।

वातावरण संरक्षण कार्यक्रमहरु

क. वातावरण पत्रकार समाज द्वारा आयोजित वातावरणीय कार्यशाला गोष्ठीको लागि रु. २१ हजारको सहायता प्रदान गरिएको छ।

पर्वतीय उद्धार

क. पर्वतीय उद्धार सम्बन्धी कार्यको लागि एक नेटवर्क नै बनाउने लक्ष्य लिई रेडियो सेट तथा आवश्यक अन्य जानकारी प्राप्त गर्ने कार्य भईरहेको छ साथै उक्त कार्यको लागि सहायता प्रदान गर्न ईच्छुक रहेको Benoit Chamounix Foundation CN2-k - Italian Project संग पहल भैरहेको छ। यसैगरी पर्वतीय उद्धार सम्बन्धि तथ्यांक राख्नको लागि विभिन्न क्षेत्रबाट हिमालमा भएका दुर्घटना विवरणहरुको संकलन गर्ने कार्यहरु समेत भैरहेको छ।



मनाङस्थित पर्वतारोहण स्कुल

सचिवालय भवनको मर्मत सम्भार

संघको सचिवालय भवनको बैठक कोठालाई आकर्षक रुपमा मर्मत गरिनुका साथै पर्वतारोहण, पर्वतारोहण तालिम, संघका चुलीहरु, ककनी पर्वतारोही स्मृति उद्यान, पोखरा संग्रहालय लगायत संघका अन्य गतिविधिहरु र अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय क्षेत्रमा भएका पर्यटन गतिविधि समेत लाई भल्काउने उद्देश्यले एक Information Center को विकास गरिएको छ।

