

An initiative from the participants of the India-Bhutan Youth Summit organized by the CEP, New Delhi and RIGSS, Bhutan.

CENTRE FOR  
ESCALATION  
OF PEACE

CEP



*Indian Independence Day Edition!*

Issue #2 August 2020

# Explore Culture

*India and Bhutan*



**EXPLORE CULTURE**

Exploring India and  
Bhutan, one issue  
at a time.





Bhutan and India are important strategic neighbours. Explore Culture highlights people's stories from Bhutan and India in this Independence Day edition which is published amidst the coronavirus pandemic.



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# FOREWORD

*By Kutsab V Namgyel  
Bhutan's Ambassador  
to India*

*The Ambassador  
of the Kingdom of Bhutan*



## Foreword

I am very happy that the participants of the India-Bhutan Youth Summit are bringing out a magazine called "Explore Culture". I welcome this initiative by our youth.

The India-Bhutan Youth Summit was launched in 2018 when we held year long celebrations in both our countries to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Bhutan and India. The youth summit was an initiative of the Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies (RIGSS) and the Centre for Escalation of Peace (CEP) to bring the youth in our two countries together and forge lasting bonds.

I was very happy to observe the enthusiasm of the young participants from our two countries at the beginning of the programme. It was even more gratifying for me to see how well the participants had bonded with each other by the time it concluded. They had come to understand and appreciate each other much more; the similarities and differences of their cultures and traditions, their aspirations as young citizens of their respective countries and the importance of the very close and mutually beneficial relations between India and Bhutan. I would like to express my deep appreciation to RIGSS and CEP for this important initiative.

India-Bhutan relations are very close and special. This is because we share very close bonds of culture and geography. More importantly, the leaders of our two countries have been committed to building our relations on the strong foundations of genuine friendship and trust.

For Bhutan, India is the land of Lord Buddha and Guru Padmasambhava who brought Buddhism to Bhutan. Buddhism helped to unify Bhutan as a nation state and Buddhism gave meaning and substance to our unique national identity. It is the wish of every Bhutanese to visit Bodhgaya at least once in their lifetime. So it is natural for the people of Bhutan to feel a close bond with India.

As a landlocked country with very high mountains along its northern borders, Bhutan opens up to the plains of India along its southern borders, providing us with access to the outside world. All our trade and commerce is with India or goes through India. Economic ties have reinforced cultural bonds to give strong





*The Ambassador  
of the Kingdom of Bhutan*



substance to India Bhutan relations. At the political level, from the time when India's first Prime Minister and our Third King laid the strong foundations of India-Bhutan relations, all successive leaders in our two countries, cutting across party affiliations, have nurtured and strengthened the exemplary ties of friendship, understanding and cooperation between our two countries.

As Ambassador of Bhutan to India, I am very happy with the excellent state of India-Bhutan relations. I am also conscious that we cannot remain complacent and take our relations for granted because it is so good and special. We must continue to build and nurture this relationship at the political and people to people level. In this regard, it is the young citizens in both our countries who have the most crucial role to play. Our youth is our future and we must look for ways to build close contact between the youth in Bhutan and the youth in India.



V. Namgyel  
Ambassador of Bhutan to India

# FOREWORD

**By Ruchira Kamboj  
India's Ambassador  
to Bhutan**

*The Ambassador  
of the Republic of India*



सत्यमेव जयते

## **Foreword**

I am delighted to learn that a group of 21 youngsters from Bhutan and India have penned down their experiences on their participation in the India-Bhutan Youth Summit 2019 in the Explore Magazine.

India and Bhutan are bound in a singularly unique relationship that epitomizes friendship, trust and understanding that has stood the test of time over decades. It has therefore been a pleasure to read through the articles penned down by our youth that reflect their insights into our linkages across the spectrum of culture, history, economics, lifestyle, entertainment, tourism and of course, politics.

I will add that the candid yet substantive thoughts expressed within the pages of this magazine capture the essence of synergies between our two countries and will hopefully also motivate the reader to imbibe the same spirit of bonhomie and camaraderie that defines the India-Bhutan relationship.



**Ruchira Kamboj**  
Ambassador of India to Bhutan



Crop fields in Ludhiana, Punjab  
Photo by Nimrat Kaur



# From the Editor in Chief's Desk...

Independence Day Edition of the Explore Culture magazine brings together a range of topics like culture, music, cinema, history, travel, leadership, business, politics, economy, sustainability and climate change. All the articles in the magazine focus on the countries: India and Bhutan.

The magazine aims to make citizens in both India and Bhutan more aware about their own culture as well as expose them to interesting knowledge about the neighbouring countries' culture. Since all the articles are written by the youth, Explore Culture is an interesting amalgamation of ideas which reflects on trends among the youth of both the countries. Moreover, it reflects on the global, solution oriented, open minded youth of today which is keen to explore the culture of diverse countries across the world.

The world has increasing problems - climate change, poverty, world hunger, terrorism and many more which require global solutions. The only way forward is to develop a multi faceted understanding about the world and formulate international solutions. The magazine is a step forward by the youth in the direction of fostering a collaborative environment between countries based on the principles of friendship and respect for partnership.

All the articles in the magazine are contributed by the participants of the India Bhutan Youth Summit, 2019 which was organized by RIGSS (Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic studies) and CEP (Center of Escalation for Peace). The India Bhutan Summit was a 10 day long exchange program where youth from both the countries interacted to exchange ideas and learn more about diverse cultures.

We aim to take the vision of this issue ahead by involving a greater number of youth in future editions, adding more topics of interest, featuring more members of bureaucracy in the magazine, interviewing political and business leaders, showcasing their achievements and celebrating the ideas and initiatives of imminent youth from the countries.

We sincerely trust that you will have as much pleasure reading the following edition of Explore Culture magazine as we enjoyed compiling this for you, our dear readers. Happy Reading!

Vidhi Bubna  
Editor-In-Chief  
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## ***About me***

I am from Mumbai, Maharashtra. Having achieved an Economics and Finance degree from Ashoka University, I am interested in understanding business and the workings of diverse economies in the world. Deeply interested by the workings of the government and the role played by bureaucrats in countries, I am currently working on a book titled "The faces of the Indian democracy" which highlights the biographies of the officers of the IAS (Indian Administrative Services, India) I am passionate about learning more about people and bringing their stories to life by my writing. I have also been the head of content for HerCampus' India Chapter, a youth initiative for women empowerment. I was selected as a participant for the Indo Bhutan Youth Summit, 2019 where the idea for Explore Culture magazine was conceptualised. It is my dream to meet the respected King of Bhutan someday and write a biography about him to

strengthen India Bhutan relations and youth initiatives in both the countries.

I am also a digital marketer who has travelled across many countries in the world and has worked with multiple hotels to promote them in the media. Patriot Act is one of my favourite shows on Netflix and I recommend it to everyone who is interested in understanding more about the global world. In my free time, you will find me in my room reading books about business, crime, governance and biographies, or I'll be travelling in some corner of the world.



# Design team



I'm an Architecture student from Gwalior, India. I am delighted to be a part of this effort that aims at creating a bridge between the youths of the two countries. The friends I made at IBYS are ones that I'm sure I'll keep forever and the things I've learned from them will always have an impact on me, as through them I got the opportunity to know about cultures and customs that are different from my own. The magazine includes some great pictures from Bhutan and India taken by various participants of IBYS 2019 and I'm thankful for their input in increasing the magazine's aesthetic potential. I'm sure the readers will enjoy the articles in the magazine and I hope the way the magazine looks is also liked by our readers as it is one of my first works as a graphic designer.

Lakshya Sharma  
Designer, Explore Culture  
lakshya17298@gmail.com

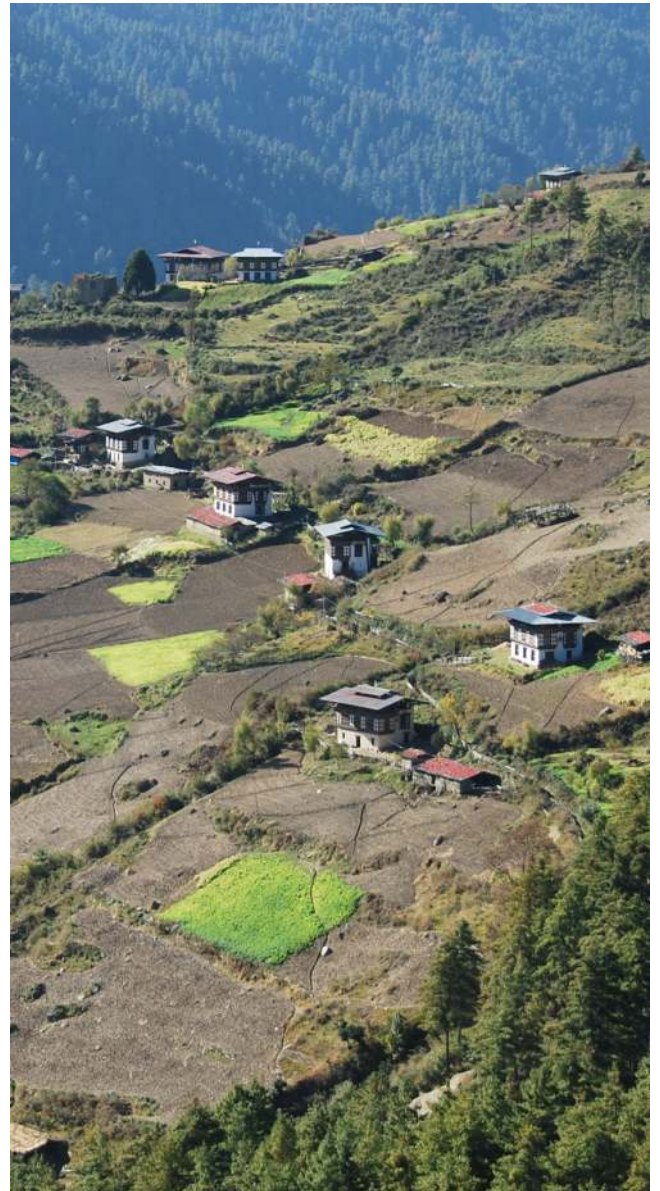


# A Way Forward: Life after the pandemic

*Phuntshok Dechen Yangchen  
Bhutan*

The pandemic has changed that the world as we know it and its effect in Bhutan has not been an exception. For a country whose GDP is highly dependent on the tourism sector, the COVID-19 has had an immense effect on the economy of Bhutan, making it necessary for the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Bhutanese to find new ways to navigate life in every aspect including economic reforms, habits and more. Thousands of Bhutanese are left without jobs as one of the highest earning industries in Bhutan; tourism has been cut off as soon as the first positive case of the COVID-19 last month had been detected. 2020 was supposed to be the year that Bhutan had its highest number of tourists yet it was chosen as the number one country to visit by Lonely Planet. This has been a valuable lesson for us to diversify our economy and not to be overly dependent on one industry.

So what does the Bhutanese economy look like in the future and what are alternatives to tourism that we can take? A field that has huge potential for the Bhutanese can tap into is agriculture. This has also been identified by the government. More than 66 percent of the Bhutanese population is involved in the agricultural industry but the industry as a whole has very less earning ability as Bhutanese farmers started cash farming in the recent years only, before that farmers were growing crops for their own sustenance only. Commercial farming is highly possible as we have the resources and the man power to do so. So, the agriculture front is one of the possible alternatives to tourism.



Bhutanese houses, and farmland.



Another factor that all Bhutanese will definitely see a change in is the education sector and the age old concept of going to the office, to a desk to work. The pandemic has proven to us that we have actually been wasting precious resources. It has shown that much can be achieved with a little. The way that the Bhutanese perceive education and careers as a whole will change for the better.

Bhutan has always been a strong advocate on the protection of the environment and now because of the adverse positive effect lockdowns have had on the environment worldwide has only strengthened the conviction of the Bhutanese that protection of the environment is absolutely essential. Even when the pandemic stops or slows down, an overall positive change that will happen in the world is to look for sustainable ways to live our lives and the Bhutanese will definitely be on the forefront of this sustainable change.

It has been clear that the pandemic has been horrible to so many countries around the globe, but focusing on the negatives will only bring down the morale of people which is why it is the responsibility of all of us to see the light in this darkness and think of ways that we can use this situation as leverage to improve the world for the better.



Tourism has been one of the major strength-givers to Bhutan's economy, but the pandemic has forced Bhutan to look at other options.

# The pandemic and a missed travel tradition: Mussoorie

Vidhi Bubna  
India

My secret getaway with my boyfriend, my first ever solo trip, the keeper of so many of my firsts, Mussoorie is the place which makes me want to quarantine this pandemic. A 283 kilometer bike ride away from Delhi, panning almost 6.5 hours, I reached Mussoorie in no time whenever I went there. The beautiful valleys in the way, and gushing mountains kept me going. Mussoorie was my place of freedom, the space where I openly did everything crazy and story-book like. It's one place where I always felt like the lead character of my own story, a place of escape, which was very distant from all the lost feeling of the city.

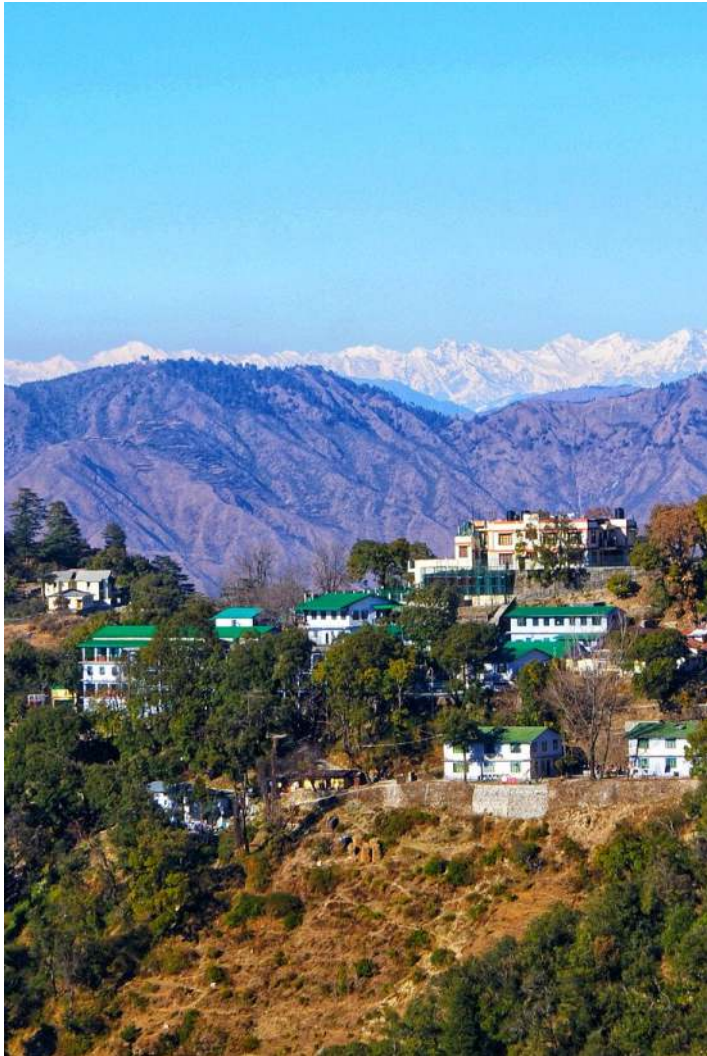
When in Mussoorie, I always stayed at the Rokeby Manor in Landour, from where I could see the city lights shining like stars at night. The property is cut off from all the noise of Mall road and the peaky tourists, giving me my own cosy space to relax and nestle in. Breakfasts were always at Cafe Ivy, a sprawling cafe located at the edge of a cliff, from where I could look at pine trees basking in the sun, as the city of Dehradun opened up in the Valley view right before me. After enjoying my waffle and aglio olio, I would start hiking towards Ruskin Bond's house, which always made me wonder what life of a writer was like. Once, I dared to ring the bell and was greeted by Mr. Bond himself. He wore a grey hat, and around 4 jackets and sweaters despite being at home.

I'd heard he loved children and I wish I could pass as one because of my short height despite being 21. He shrugged me off and asked me to meet him at The Oxford Bookstore at Mall Store, where he went every Saturday to sign books for children.

I spent my afternoons reading a book in the lobby of the Rokeby Manor, right by the fireplace. The woodwork had a calming effect on me and I knew there were my favourite book characters shaped as clouds drifting by as I read my books. Landour Bakehouse is the most mysterious bakehouse in Mussoorie, right at the end of Landour. The bakehouse overlooks pine trees and the Himalayan snow capped mountains. Scones, apple pies, lemon tarts, cookies, honey nut muffins and hot chocolate are some of my favourite things there. Even though I'm 21, I read all the quotes in the bakehouse whenever I visit. "In case you were wondering, there is no wifi here but there is better connectivity". All of Mussoorie defines greater human connection and a step towards the good old times. The scent of wood encapsulates my entire trip and there's little I can explain about what keeps me going back to Mussoorie. It's almost like the place wills me to keep going there every 6 months.

A walk around Mall Road and Char Dukaan was casual and sundry every evening.





During this lockdown, I have passed my 6 month mark, which means it's time to be in Mussoorie again. But sadly, because of the pandemic I won't be able to go. Scrolling through my feed and exploring pictures from my 6 trips to Mussoorie in the last 3 years, I can't help but feel a pang of emptiness. I'm not somewhere I was supposed to be, yet I am somewhere I just am.

Watching the little hill station glow up, as locals removed their bidis in the evening and made smoke clouds in the air, I explored shops at Mall road. Fairy lights outside local shops and cafes started and the valley view below filled with pine trees went into eerie yet somber darkness. Tourists from all across India, students, couples, solo travellers and several backpackers strolled on the streets, often interacting with each other in the local shops and making comfortable conversations. An overall atmosphere of trust hangs in the air of Mussoorie, where you learn to trust the mountains around, locals, fellow travellers, your travel companion and yourself a little more.

Mussoorie, a fairy tale, often like a fresh book which is just opened, with chapters unwritten - has always been a dream place to me. One of the mornings, on one of my many visits, I also explored George Everest, the dilapidated house of the man who measured the height of Mount Everest. Being a trekker, I have been enthused with ideas of climbing Mount Everest, and visiting the house of the person after whom Mount Everest is named is almost like visiting a trekking shrine.





# My Corona Experience

**Karma Yeshi**  
**Bhutan**

In a blink of an eye, the world seemed to be in chaos with this disease claiming lives far greater and the power it held upon us humans. It was in December that the virus outbreak had begun in the city of Wuhan China 2019 and it spread like a wildfire around the world. I wasn't really worried when I first heard about the virus in December because I thought that our medical technologies were far advanced and that it could probably find the cure but I was wrong. We are all now well aware of how much of a threat it is. When the lockdown started, I was ecstatic. My classes in the college were finished early, exams could not be conducted like before and I was happy and confident that I would be okay and everything would be normal. After all, how hard could staying home be? But after a while, reality of the situation started to sink in and how serious and alarming it was becoming.

The constant panic that washed over me after seeing the increase in death tolls every minute in the news forums, the hard and busy life in village because cash was hard to come by and the workload of assignments that were nearing its deadline and I was having a hard time to sleep and cope up with stress and responsibilities I had as an elder son, student, and a citizen. The increase rise in our country's case was giving me panic every now and then. It was a lot hard to cope up with the situation but with the right guidance and instructions from the government, and support from my family helped me to come into its terms.

With the increase in the infected cases and death toll every minute, things are much different than they used to be. I feel the panic from others even from my family, and how hard our leaders are trying to stop the spread of virus from entering the community. I think that the reaction is appropriate and I appreciate everything that people are doing to help stop the spread, no matter how boring it may be. I can confidently say that my life has indeed changed. I am a third year senior in college, after lockdown, I wake up every day and do my work, eat at irregular times due to a lot of work, try to engage myself in useful works and have a positive mind every time. And in these tough times, I was able to help my parents with their daily chores and all the field works. It made me very happy that I was able to help my old parents and it was quite amazing.

I think the biggest challenge for me has been to deal with the stress and pressure of work and assignments. However, over time, I found ways to deal with pressure. I realized that lockdown gave me more time to do the things that I love, and spend more time with my family because I hadn't realized how much I missed them before. I feel so much better compared to before. I understand how difficult this must be, but it's important to remember that none of us is alone. No matter how scared or trapped or alone we feel, things will get better with time. I believe that there is a good in this situation. Take time to revisit the things you love and rediscover yourself and these tough times will eventually pass.

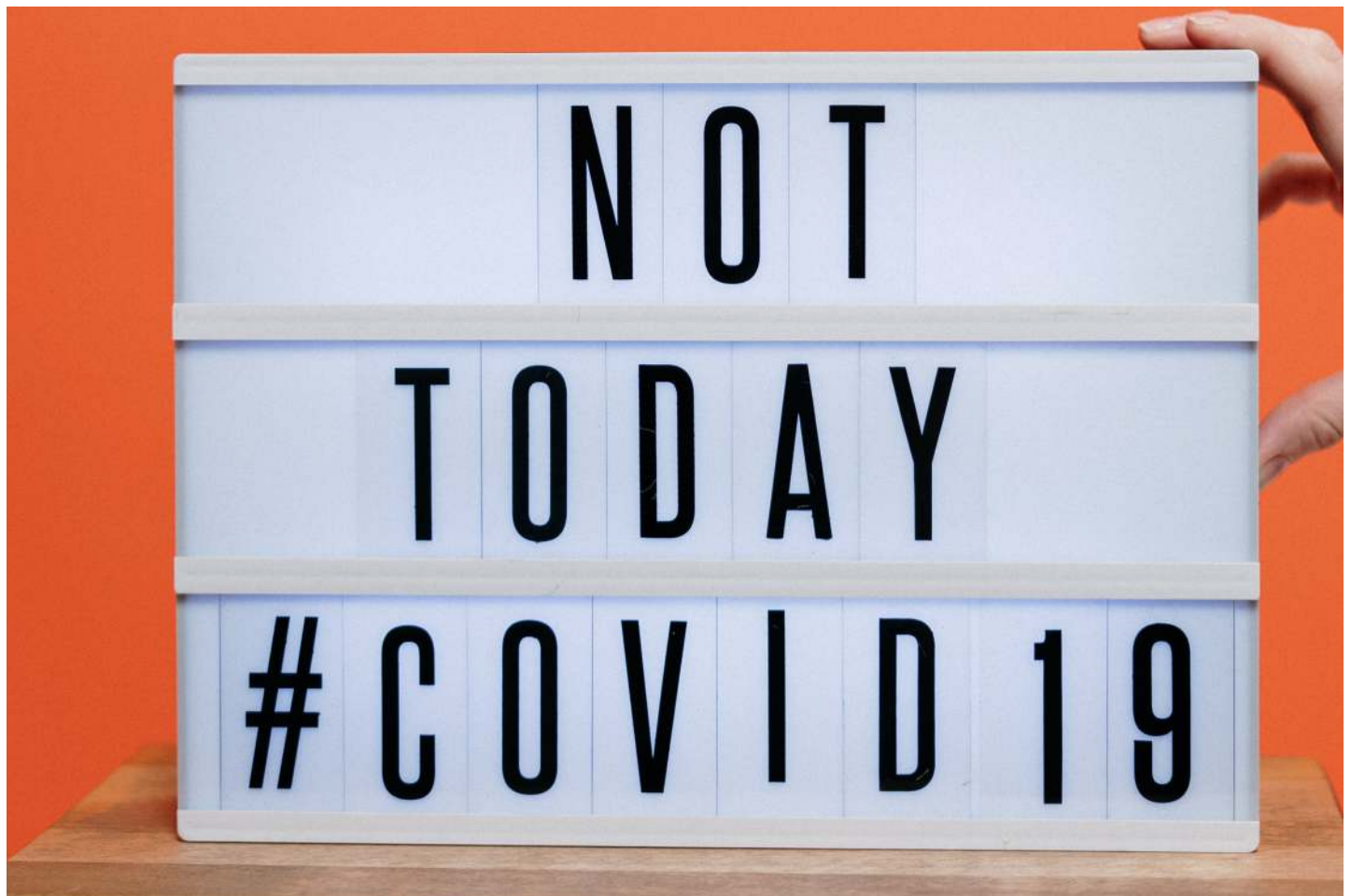
This small gesture of staying at home, looking after ourselves and our loved ones are the things that help the whole nation, by staying safe we are protecting others too from the virus. I believe that the future is uncertain going forward. I always wonder if things will ever go back to normal, I wish it could and hope that I get to do the things that I want in my life.



His Majesty, the king of Bhutan, inspecting the conditions in Corona wards.



Karma Yeshe





# CULTURAL RENAISSANCE IN CONTEXT OF INDIA –BHUTAN RELATION

*Rajesh Ranjan  
India*

Introduction: Indian culture space or greater India is geographically, the area of Indian subcontinent or southeast and south Asian region and historically shares the cultural heritage and legacy of language, religion and traditions. The socio- political and cultural stimulation of ancient period reflects the deep understanding of traditions and culture in both India and Bhutan. Since the inception of Silk route to Modi's look east policy India and Bhutan shares inseparable cultural relations. The question is whether the cultural- ties between these old and natural allies has changed or the religious factor like Buddhism emerged as a bridging link in the changing world order. Modi's rise in power on the back of cultural revivalism and Bhutan's transition from monarchy to political system has also shaped inter- relationship between these two countries. In this short piece I am going to analyse the cultural ties between India- Bhutan and the long standing debate of cultural renaissance in context of India – Bhutan.

## WALKFOR DIVERSITY

India and Bhutan cherished a unique bond of shared diversity, in terms of clothing, food and traditions of family ties. However Religion is predominantly a constant and important factor in cherishing the diversity between these two countries. The advent of Buddhism in 6th century BC first marked the step in this direction and the tradition of cultural exchange and travelling of Buddhist monk has been a continuous phenomenon. Buddhist conferences is a significant step in shaping of the cultural ties. These conferences also became important in reducing communal stress, religious conflicts and enlightening the people through the teachings of Dhamma. Bhutan is a country of Buddhism and this nature of state has shaped the relationship between India and Bhutan. Bhutan is a single country in the world which has Gross Happiness index, and one of which criteria is also cultural preservation. It is to be noted that Bhutan's idea of GNH is also adopted by the UN, which culminated into world's happiness day at 20th March.

However there is a resurgent rise of Hindu nationalism in India due to paradigm shift in concentration of political clout which marked the shift in cultural familiarity of these two nations. It is my strong opinion the foundation of Rajdharma in Bhutan was the re-imagined version of the Ashoka's idea of Dhamma which do not involve the worship of a god, or performance of a sacrifice. The King believed in divine theory, the thought still is a dominating factor in many Constitutional democracies including Britain and Bhutan. The believe just as father owe a duty to teach his children, the King had a duty to instruct his subjects. The appointment of the Dhamma Mahamatta by Mauryan King Ashoka who went from place to place teaching Dhamma to people and disseminating the ideals of Lord Buddha. The religious officer also went to different countries like Syria, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and China. The humanistic approach based on religious harmony is a guiding factor in India- Bhutan relations. Despite the change in a political party ruling the Indian Territory the soft space for Bhutan is visible. The much debated and controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill which excludes the Muslim, and has changed the dynamic between India and other countries including Bangladesh, and Pakistan, but surprisingly includes the Buddhism and Jainism. The soft tool of religion has proven time tested tool to shape the ties. The walk for diversity starts from the path of religion the first Prime minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru wrote in the context of ancient significance of Ashoka's edicts : " His edicts ( instructions) still speak to us in language we can understand and we can still learn much from them".

## CONCLUSION AND ROAD AHEAD

India and Bhutan signed the treaty of friendship in 1968 which later revised in 2007. The friendship treaty also paved the way for establishment of special office of New Delhi in Thimpu. It is also important to note that tourism is also an important factor in creating one to one relationship with people of both the countries. The civilizational link between these two countries can reach to its zenith by cultural renaissance.

The idea of cultural renaissance envisages the invocation of glorious past to shape the present relation. It can be executed in the form of art, culture, folks, and other shared form of cultural identities.

The enlightenment of the masses coupled with the state's positive endeavour to foster the relationship between these two countries can prove to be a mettle. . Amidst the global conflict, the unending debate on the superpower, the continuous attempt of the leading south to project itself as a sole guarantor of peace, the rise of these two countries as a harbinger of peace and cooperation based on the ideals of Buddhism will set a tone and tenor in the Cultural and Civilizational links between the two old and natural Asian allies



HH The third King of Bhutan meeting with Prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru.



# Historical movie: Choegyal Drimed Kuenden – The Prince in Exile.

***Karma Yangchen***  
***Bhutan***

Background: Choegyal Drimed Kuenden is a two-hour movie, scripted from hagiography and directed by Gyem Dorji released in 2014, an incredibly moving movie which illustrates a story of compassionate prince who grew up by doing whatever it took him to give others. This movie has a perfect setting and is so perfectly done to won the heart of viewers. In this feature film presentation, director and writer Gyem dorji brings to life to this legendary tale with stunning visual effects and enthralling scenes, And Chhogyel Drimed Kuenden has become a spectacular show created by Norling Drayang in the Bhutanese Film Industry. Choegyal Drimed Kuenden was a prince of charity, an epitome of selflessness and an embodiment of compassion. His story has been revered and recounted for many generations throughout the Himalayas.

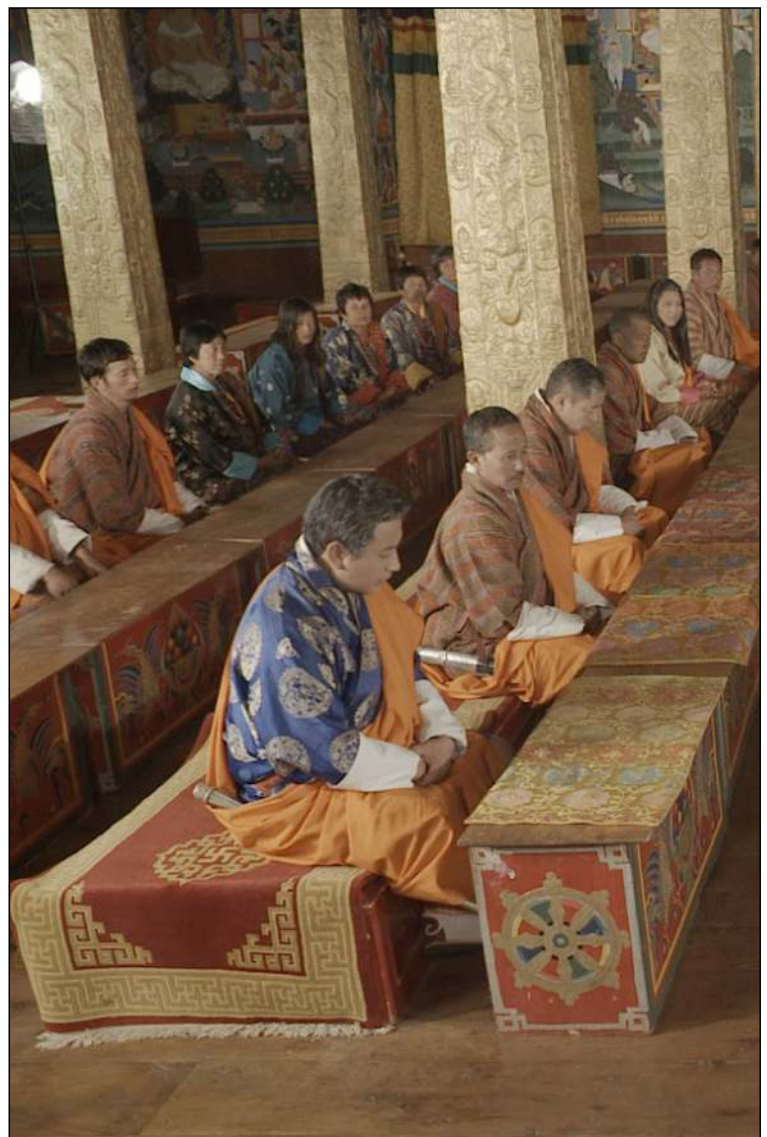
Review: Starring Nidup Dorji who was born as a prince- Drimed Kuenden who showed a deposition for spiritual quest from an early age, who strive to give others what he has-realizing the ephemeral nature of material wealth including the most sacred relic in the palace. And upon discovering this, the king and the ministers exile him into the forest-black mountain who haven't dare to visit for twelve years

Review: Starring Nidup Dorji who was born as a prince- Drimed Kuenden who showed a deposition for spiritual quest from an early age, who strive to give others what he has-realizing the ephemeral nature of material wealth including the most sacred relic in the palace. And upon discovering this, the king and the ministers exile him into the forest-black mountain who haven't dare to visit for twelve years. Though his own niceness took him through turbulent times, he remained calmed and continued his own passion where he gives away his own treasures- his children, his wife and even his own eyes to the vagabonds even though it was very sorrowful to see his own child's and wife being taken away. He never became poor or unhappy by giving what he owned. Lhaki Dolma, showcase her incredible acting as a consort of Drimed Kuenden, serving and shouldering the role as a consort and risking her life to be with the prince abandoning luxurious life at palace which depicts the loyalty as a wife. I should say this movie has actually contributed in adding a factor of enlightenment and sensitivity of dharma in the youth.

What an entrenched difference we had. We make our living by getting what we want but this great prince made his own life by giving what he possessed.



This sincere act of sympathy that surpasses attachment with deeper consciousness that everything in earth is impermanent was what touched my heart the most as I watched this movie. It inspired me to get my life on another track though only time can tell how much I can do. At the end, what made me feel so special was the feeling that I too am living in the same world where a prodigious soul once lived. While the entertainment is guaranteed, the movie Choegyal Drimed Kuenden reminds the audience about the impermanency, sympathy, compassion and the integrity.





# Assertive Women are often looked at negatively in Society: Through the eyes Bulbul

**Srijani Roy**  
**India**

The word, "assertive" means many things to many people. An assertive person is someone who is freely able to express their views, without disrespecting the views of others while at the same time taking a stand for themselves. In today's society, an assertive woman means someone who is able to stand up for herself no matter what the circumstances are.

According to American writer, activist and educator, Paul Kivel, men are expected to conform to a rigid set of behavioral expectations, which he calls the "Man Box". The box for ladies is alarmingly limited. Women are expected to be quiet, submissive, differential to men, helpful and nice. Any woman failing to possess any of the prescribed feminine qualities, is considered to be a threat to the society. Assertive women, thus become a threat to the society, in each and every century. Every attempt is made to clip her wings.

In modern times, an assertive woman is called by different names. Why is she called names? It is because she dares to break free from the shackles of patriarchy. She is been called names in an attempt to curb her flight. Witch, demon-woman, are among the many names that the free-spirited woman is "adorned" with. The torch bearing men in the patriarchal world, consider it to be their responsibility to punish any woman who tpires to go beyond her boundaries.

***"For most of history,  
Anonymous was a woman."***

***- Virginia Wolf.***

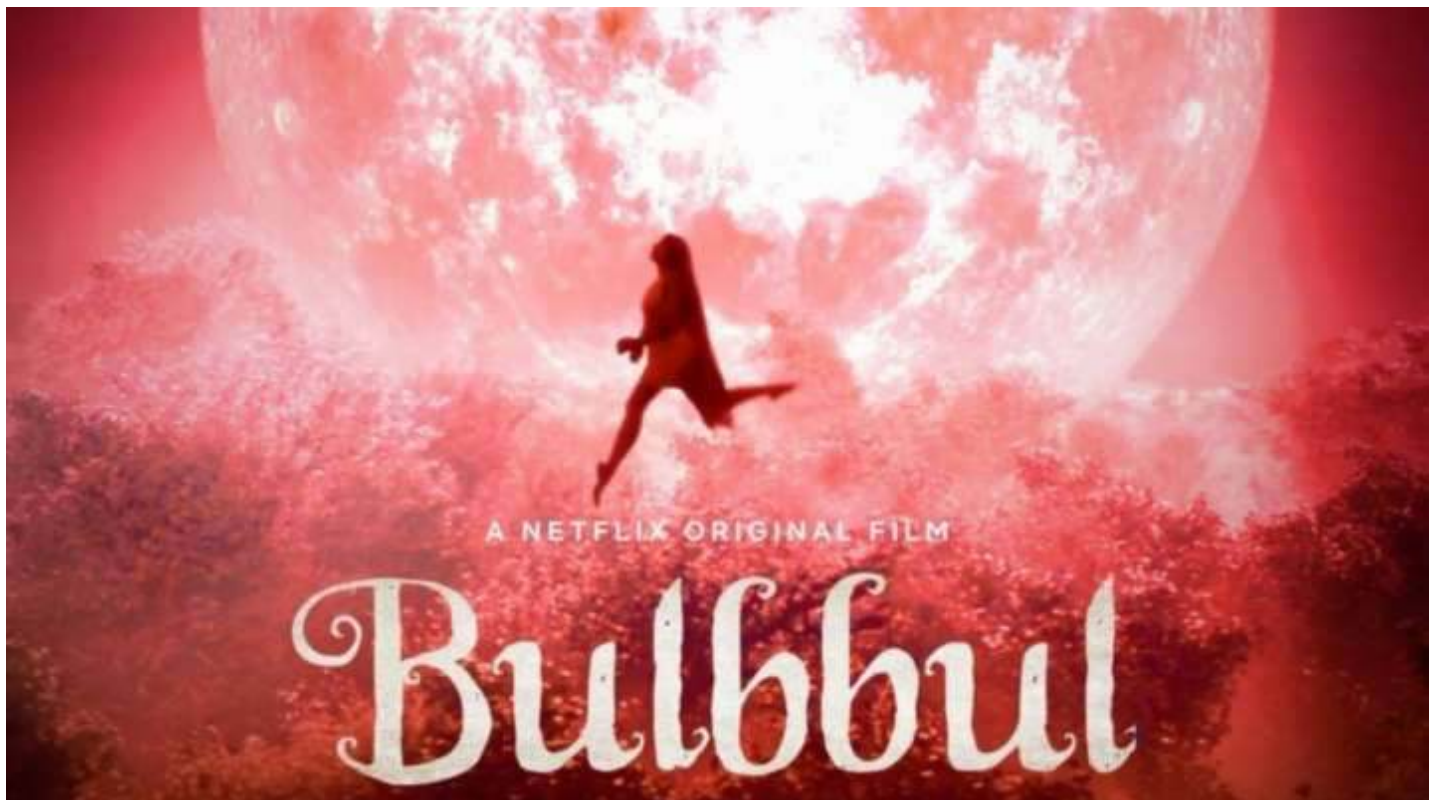
## Who is a “Witch” in modern times?

We find the earliest mention of a “witch” in the Bible. Witches were considered to be women who practiced black magic and harmed people. Witch-hunting began in the mid-1400s in Europe. Usually, it was seen that women who were different, who refused to obey the patriarchal norms, single women suspected of any misconduct, widows were labelled as witches. These witches were brutally punished by the society, and were mostly executed. These witches were actually women who refused to obey the societal norms. In modern times, the situation has not changed much though the names that these women were “adorned” with might have changed.

Bulbul, a Netflix Hindi film revokes our very idea about who is a witch. Set in 1800s at Bengal Presidency the film starts with a child marriage. The main protagonist of the film, Bulbul, a child bride, is being wedded to a much older Indranil (a zamindar). She finds a friend and confidant in her brother-in-law, Satya, who is much closer to her own age. The other two main characters in the film include Indranil's mentally challenged twin brother, Mahendra and his wife Benodini. Bulbul, soon grows up to be a beautiful young girl while at the same time secretly harboring romantic feelings for her brother-in-law.

Satya, is sent to London, to study law by her husband with an intention to cut off the budding romance between the two of them. The film takes a drastic turn, when five years later, Satya returns to his village and finds that his brother Indranil has abandoned his wife, while his other brother Mahendra is no more. On the other hand, the men in his village are being murdered by a “witch”. Who is the witch? Does eventually Satya find the witch? Why is the witch murdering these innocent villagers? All these questions are answered in the film while delivering a very important message to the audience.

The film, Bulbul is a feminist revisionist tale about women who have wronged. The opening scene of Bulbul shows us the feet of a young girl dangling from a treetop. The metaphor of a woman's feet is used throughout the film. The feet of a woman in this film are symbolic of the main protagonist of the film, Bulbul, and her desire to walk free from the normative structure of society (she is married to Indranil, but longs to be with his younger brother, Satya). Young Bulbul screams in pain when her aunt presses a ring against her toe.





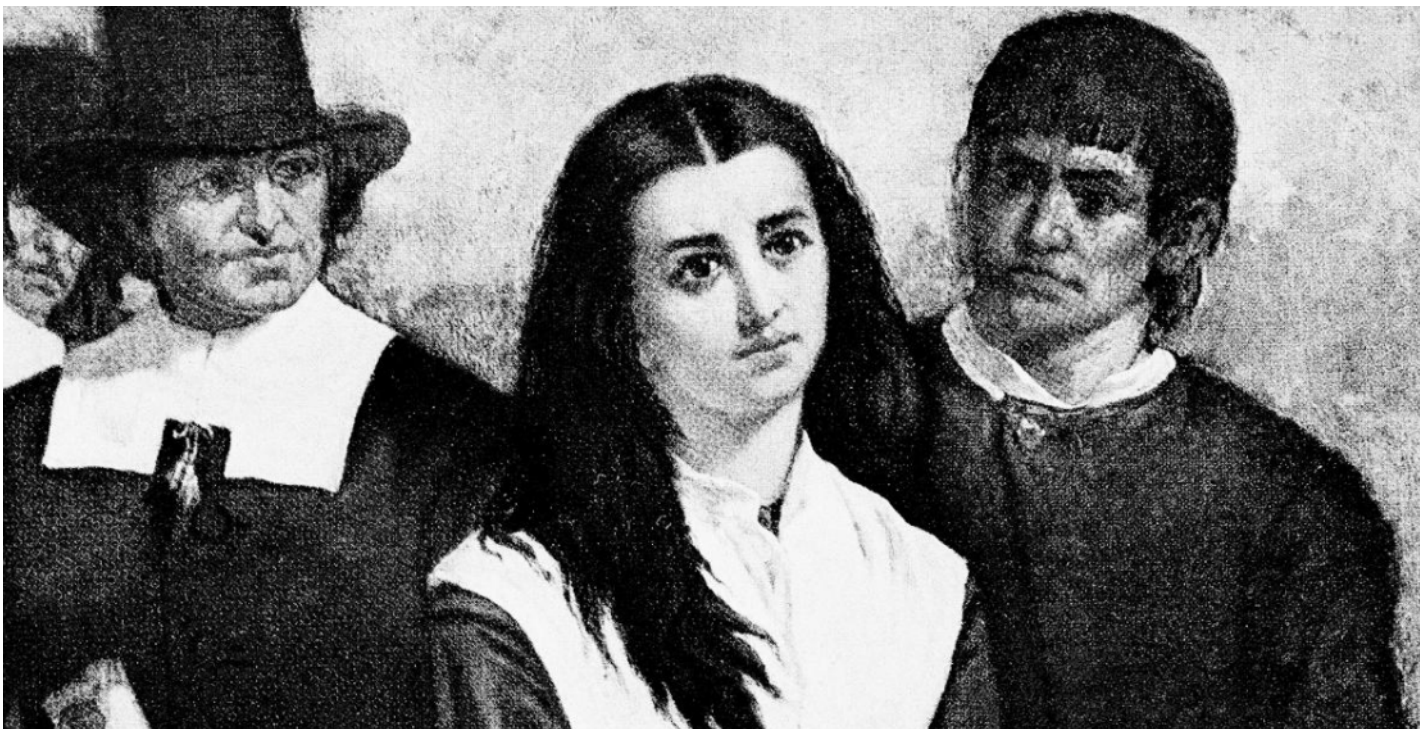
She is told that the purpose of this act is to keep women in control. When her husband, Indranil, attacks her on the belief that she is romantically engaged with his brother, Satya, he attacks her feet. Even when Bulbul is raped, by her mentally challenged brother-in-law, Mahendra, we constantly see her feet till her bandages turn red. The feet of Bulbul are symbolic here because it delivers the message to the audience that her feet should stay within those numerous invisible boundaries that the men have drawn around the existence of a woman. We as audience realize, male violence does not exist in a vacuum. It does operate alone. It is insidious and gradually weaves a shroud of silence, following which it manifests itself in its lowest form, in the form of physical violence.

Benodini, Bulbul's sister-in-law against whom she is often pitted has accepted the shackles of patriarchy. She has accepted that the fact that she is married to a mentally challenged man, she will never have a happy normal married life, but she will be the wife of a zamindar. For her desires to be fulfilled she looks to Indranil, who is her husband's brother. We realize she is herself a victim of the system when in after the rape she comes and tells Bulbul "Bari haveli mei bare bare raaz hoteh hai" (In big houses, big secrets remain)., Bulbul however, is different. She refuses to be caged.

The question that remains is why was Bulbul considered a threat? So much so that her feet had to be broken in order to keep her within the boundaries. The answer is because she has a mind of her own. Domestic and sexual violence is often used as a tool to keep women inside the cage. She refused to accept the norms of society, she had feelings for Satya and never felt shy in expressing them. Bulbul, is the name of a bird and as the name suggests, Bulbul was always meant to be free; she could not be chained. Bulbul takes up the reins of the household when she is abandoned by her husband. She is reminded by her sister-in-law, Benodini when Satya returns that "Thakurian hai app, Thakur maat baniye." (You are the lady of the house, don't try to be the man of the house) She however, refuses to remain within the boundaries set around her, she begins providing justice to the women of the village in her own way. Bulbul teaches us that it is the woman who becomes the victim of systematic oppression: she is forced to become a witch, to fight for herself and others.

*"Each time a woman stands up for herself,  
Without knowing it possibly, without claiming it,  
She stands for all women."*

Maya Angelou



The Salem Martyr by Thomas Satterwhite.

# Soft skills that need to be developed in Bhutanese schools

*Phuntshok Dechen Yangchen*  
*Bhutan*

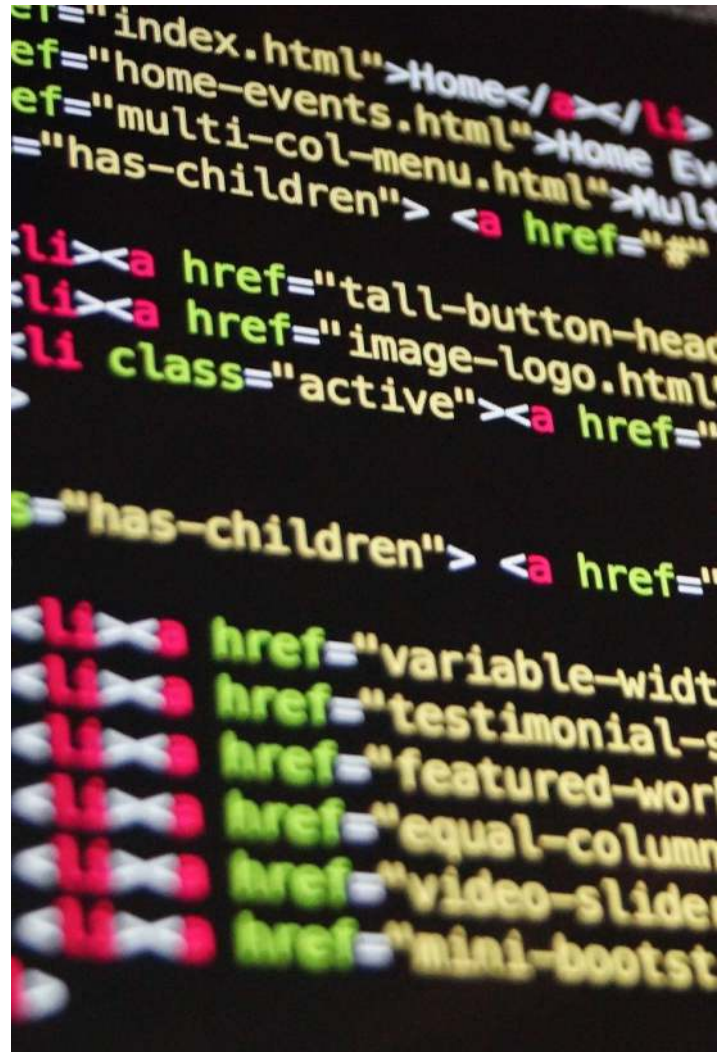
In the advanced working environment, one needs more than specialized aptitudes to be effective in one's profession. The present world of business looks for up-and-comers who can play out their occupations well yet who can likewise fit into the organization culture and collaborate with different workers. So as to do these things effectively, students need to develop soft skills. Building soft skills is one of the essential needs for the students of today for social interactions and their career. So the education system needs to change and the framework that has been offered and the one we will focus on, are Creative thinking, communication, collaboration, teamwork, media literacy and financial management. These are the soft skills that identify with human organization in an innovative, mechanical and consistently evolving economy. These are the skills that will still be in need, even as the machines assume control over the entirety of our other standard employments. Soft skills can provide youth with not only the ability to work in an environment but also the resilience to overcome challenges that come their way. Thus, in order to thrive in modern times, it is essential to develop soft skills.

I believe educators as of now expect to cover these aptitudes, however it's how much we do them unequivocally that I believe that we should do more successfully. So how about we take a gander at the zones where the youthful age will know the need, so as to be engaged and productive residents of the imminent future. As soft skills are a daily practiced aptitude doesn't mean the school needs to explode the instruction framework and dispose of the entirety of the conventional practices we partner with school. Rather, we have to move the accentuation of the work. Instead of school being a spot students get astute, it turns into a spot they ace the fundamental abilities. Each class, from Physical education (PE) to Biology, ought to require coordinated effort. Day by day, students ought to communicate with one another in an expert setting. Data and information ought not to be coddled, however students ought to figure out how to solve it themselves and use it to take care of the problems.

The educational structure in not only Bhutan, but many other countries as well, pivots around the so called, "conventional" idea of what an education really means.



However, may fail to take into account what it actually takes to thrive in the modern day, a contemporary world. Our current system constructs knowledgeable citizens who are well equipped in the various arts and sciences; however they find themselves quite often distressed in certain situations that necessitate other vital skills. Thus, people find themselves quite crippled, as in, they have the necessary means to succeed but it's not quite enough. Having verities of soft skills, means that we are able to juggle whatever comes our way with more efficiency and thus minimize failure and even if we were to fail, we can fail tad bit more wisely. Most of the setbacks people face at work and their life in general stem from a deficiency of 'knowing how to live'. While actually inculcating and incorporating the values of soft skills in our educational institutions will not cause a lot of hassle, it will undoubtedly bring about a great deal of positive change. It is what you might call, "a good investment". People may become more ethical, it may prove to be strong driving force in fixing their moral compasses, it may bring about more responsible citizen and better leaders of tomorrow and of course, without a doubt, better nations.





# Can India and Bhutan be Climate Change warriors in South Asia?

*Yashvi Barot  
India*

According to World Bank "South Asia is home to some of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change." Climate change is a cause of concern for countries across the globe. South-Asian population is equivalent to 24.89% of the total world population. Climate change is a serious threat to the population as it will affect the agricultural sector of South-Asian countries vigorously. Due to increased dependence on agriculture and natural resources, people will be more vulnerable to climate change. South-Asia is also under the threat of storms, frequent cyclones and increase in sea-levels, floods and unprecedented rainfall. Thus, the need of the hour is to mutually discuss on matters of climate change, pollution, waste management for a greener and sustainable South-Asia.

## **India-Bhutan and Climate change:**

According to the biennial Environment Performance Index (EPI) 2020 released jointly by Yale University and Columbia University, ranked India 168th out of 180 countries. In South Asia, Bhutan topped the list with 107th rank, with major changes observed in decrease of carbon emissions, greenhouse gases and sulphur dioxide rate.





Indo-Bhutanese engagement can pave the way forward to take steps to decrease environmental degradation. Bhutan has made several policy changes to improve its air quality and to preserve and protect its biodiversity. Nevertheless, Bhutan is also worried about the threat climate change has posed due to increase in the melting of the Himalayan glaciers. Thus, bilateral engagement is important as both the countries are on the same page on matters concerning environment protection and climate change. Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the two countries for cooperation in the field of environment protection and natural resource management. Areas of cooperation include air, waste, chemical management, climate change, etc. This is a welcome step. On the other hand, India too has some plans in store to ensure an eco-friendly lifestyle like shifting to BS VI vehicles from BS IV, induction of Electric vehicles, creating greener spaces etc. The NITI Aayog has also launched a project - Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies (DTTE), which aims to reduce carbon emissions. Thus, both the countries can invest jointly in cleaner technology as both are rich in natural resources. Indo-Bhutanese relationship has evolved over the years with the countries having smooth bilateral relation in terms of trade, culture and environment as well. Both the countries have the potential to fight climate change, both bilaterally and multilaterally with the South-Asian neighbours. Engagement driven by timely implementation will surely help to achieve the expected results. The current pandemic has led to the understanding that health, environment and economy are intertwined.

South-Asian countries are committed to achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and its goals are: Goal 13- Climate action, Goal 14- Life below Water, Goal 11 – Sustainable cities and communities. These are the goals where most of South-Asian nations have performed fairly. Thus, a shared vision is required for attaining these goals through 3C's- Cooperation, Collaboration and Convergence.

The Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia (CARE) project funded by World Bank, could help the countries with some financial support.

India and Bhutan can play a vital role by forming a "South-Asian Action Plan on Climate Change"-under which every country would set their own yearly targets to reduce carbon emissions and can also venture joint projects bilaterally in areas of renewable energy, production of lithium-ion batteries for Electric vehicle, disaster preparedness and capacity building, etc. Institutions like SAARC, that stand frozen, India being a major power in South-Asia needs to build up a new vision with changing times, especially in area as crucial as Environment. Bhutan, too has taken steps which have proven effective towards environment conservation which other countries can follow too. Bhutan has taken the approach of mainstreaming climate change and resilience in policies on disaster risk management, agriculture, urban transport, hydropower, Information and Technology (ICT) and forest management. In toto, a Indo-Bhutanese synergy coupled with regional cooperation can surely help South-Asian countries achieve their SGD's by 2030, but would also set an example for the world. To accomplish this, regional differences will have to be kept aside.

### Way Forward:

The way forward is optimistic and clear that regional and local efforts are needed to fight climate change and the threats posed by it through local level mitigation and adaptive strategies. Through joint and collaborative efforts the region can prosper both economically and ecologically. Experts say that the best stimulus to both economy and climate are – Clean energy in infrastructure investment, buildings upgrades (energy efficiency), green spaces and natural infrastructure investment and Clean R&D spending. Interestingly, clean energy generates more jobs than fossil fuels. The think-tanks of the countries can also deliberate on such matters.

The bilateral cooperation in areas of environment must continue between India and Bhutan, as both are resources rich countries and have a like-mindedness on the issue. This engagement will further help to enhance Indo- Bhutan ties. Multilaterally too, both the countries can bring the South-Asian neighbours on board and try chalking out a strategy through discussion and deliberation. There is immense potential towards joint collaboration given that the political factors don't intervene. All countries need to reiterate to themselves:

"Ecology is Economy"- Sunderlal Bahuguna.

# 3 Emerging Fronts to Watch Out For, in the Land of the Thunder Dragon

**Bhavya Pandey**  
**India**

The very mention of the picturesque country of Bhutan evokes the imagery of mountains, tranquil valleys, nature, and beauty. As the world takes on the twenty-first century by its horns, Bhutan has also been ushering in the era of globalisation, these past few decades. According to the World Bank, in the 1980s, around eighty-five percent of Bhutan's population was based in rural areas. Come 2020, the number hovers around fifty-five percent - a marked shift due to development, modernisation, and urbanisation. These indicators have especially stood out in the cities of Thimphu and Phuentsholing. While the former is Bhutan's capital city, the latter is a border town which acts as the gateway for commodity-carrying trucks from India, to Bhutan.

Bhutan, as a cultural entity and society, is a great example of how the traditional values of the nation are being amalgamated with the new age ideas of technological evolution, digital transformation, and social entrepreneurship -- to craft a new and better future for its citizens. Here's a rundown of three unique, emerging fronts in Bhutan, popularly known as the Land of the Thunder Dragon, which are gaining momentum by the day;

## **Tech Ecosystem**

In order to facilitate a new way for Bhutanese citizens to work and approach their business, the first Information Technology (IT) Park was set up in 2012, in Babesa, a suburb of Thimphu. The Bhutan Innovation and Technology Centre (BITC) is also making strides towards making this space more accessible to those who want to embark upon the processes of digitization and digitalization. The Tech Park houses many national and international enterprises that offer numerous technological services to consumers -- most of which are the young population of Bhutan. Bhutan and its youngsters have a serious problem on their hands - the students go abroad, a lot of them to India, for education and upskilling. When they come back to Bhutan, they struggle to find any suitable employment. According to estimates, in 2019 Bhutan had around 10,000 English speaking graduates looking for jobs. Integration of initiatives such as the Tech Park are tackling issues such as that of unemployment in case of educated youth, by integrating technological evolution and providing relevant platforms where students can apply their skills, be constructively employed, and



also positively contribute towards Bhutan's nation-building over the long run.

### **Vineyards and Wine Making**

According to a report by Bloomberg, the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan has been emerging as the world's latest and most upcoming frontier for establishing vineyards and undertaking wine making. Bhutan's steep, terraced hillsides and fields have been seen as ideal grounds for setting up vineyards. In April last year, a US citizen and his team planted the first several vineyards in the country on a total of six acres. One of them, Yusipang, is at an elevation of 8,900 feet, with views of surrounding forests and Himalayan peaks. Eventually, the grapes will go into wines under the Thunder Dragon label—or so Michael Juergens, the mastermind behind these plans, hopes.

This opportunity, though unsurprising, was undertaken only in the second decade of the century by nature-enthusiasts and foreign visitors who saw potential in Bhutan's majestic terrain and natural bounty. Seventy percent of the Bhutanese terrain is covered with forests and seven percent of it finds itself beneath glaciers.

### **Tourism Startups**

Be it the looming mountains, the deep ravines or the thick woods, Bhutan's natural scenery knows no bounds. The country has no traffic lights. Smoking as well as tobacco products are illegal, and years ago, the citizen's Gross National Happiness was recognised by the Himalayan country as being more important than the Gross National Product (GNP). Between 2012 and 2016, the number of annual international visitors to Bhutan increased by 24% up to 54,600 in number. American visitors are increasing and the influx of Asian visitors is also booming by the year. As visitors increase, popular visiting spots such as the trail ascending toward the Tiger's Nest Monastery are becoming more crowded—both with people and the ponies that ferry many. There are more hotels, coffee outlets and souvenir stores in the cities, and as a result, many more service providers have cropped up - be it trekking services, government authorised guides, or car rentals.



Bhutanese entrepreneurs in the tourism sector are taking on all the requirements of their guests and providing new ideas to cater for their needs.

With a rich cultural heritage as lineage, and new aspirations of the twenty-first century in mind, the citizens, especially the youth of Bhutan are taking on the new doings of the globalised world.

The emphasis towards peacefulness and tranquility, the affiliation to tradition and heritage, and the energetic and inclusive culture of the Bhutanese people -- all add to the strong social capital of the country.

With sound technological prowess and the tools of entrepreneurship in their hands, Bhutanese citizens of the twenty-first century are all set to make history, for the better.

# Future of healthcare amidst the COVID pandemic

*Sejal Grover*  
*India*

We're in the middle of a pandemic, and right now, it sure seems like the heavens are going to collapse. Everyone's life has been drastically affected, whole nations have come to standstill, like everything else, globalization has its counter-effect also. No noise of trains and buses, no hustle bustle of daily life, as if there is a huge bolster coming in the way of our rat race. Therefore, it is but natural to feel that nothing would be the same again. But, if we think rationally over it, once the worst is over, when the vaccine is made, in post covid times, the world will be normal again. Hard to believe? Let me give you an example. We've all read the story of sleeping beauty in childhood. The princess got pricked from a needle and the whole town fell asleep. Aren't we living the same story? A virus pricked someone in the long unheard land of Wuhan and the world fell into deep deep slumber, right? So what was the end of the story of Sleeping Beauty? A prince woke up the princess and the whole town came back to normalcy, happily ever after. Similarly, when the vaccine is made, the world will become normal again, humanity will also get its happily ever after. And we have history to prove this, the last pandemic of such grave proportions- the influenza pandemic of 1918 shook the world. So what changes took place in the practice of healthcare post the Spanish flu? The flu vaccination was introduced, and the concept and education of the fluseason was started. Does this amount for a substantial change in the practice of medicine?

I don't think so. Having said that, I think, the practice of medicine will alter slightly post covid times, but the most radical change will be in the practice of safety while handling patients. There will be a paramount increase in the safety precautions, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) use by HCWs (Health Care Workers), sanitisation and disinfection.

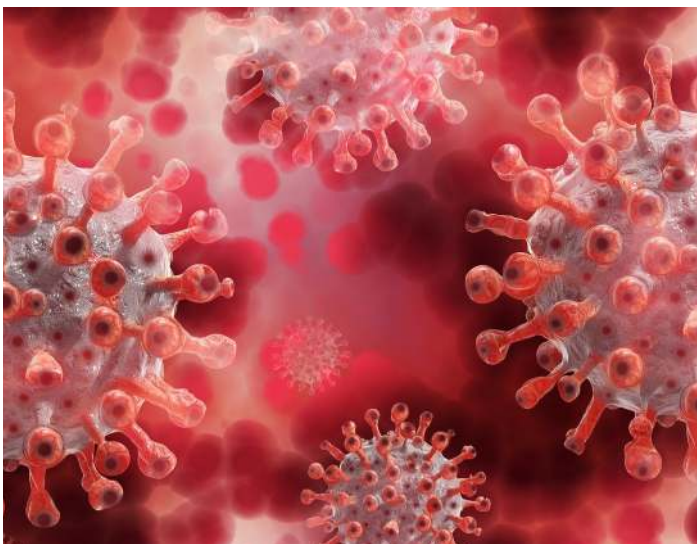




In 1847, Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis proposed meticulous hand-washing to prevent iatrogenic spread of infection. Despite a plethora of researches establishing the role of pathogenic transmission through hands of healthcare workers, the rates of handwashing in them were abysmally low; with some researchers reporting an observed frequency of just 9% (Tibballs et al). The most prominent effect of COVID outbreak is the focus on these safety practices like hand-washing, wearing gloves and PPE. Another major transformation is the shift towards tele-medicine. Till March 25, 2020; there was no legislation on practice of tele-medicine in India. Currently, it has become the most common means of doctor-patient interaction and it is going to be much more common in the days to come. With the younger age-group suffering less frequent complications from this viral infection, new interns have now taken responsibility of intensive screening in the community and patient care in corona care facilities. This has given impetus to development of leadership in the youth of medical fraternity. The focus on epidemiology and preventive care has never been this noted. Active and passive surveillance is operating with wide coverage and quick updates, with immediate action being taken if anyone is suspected positive. Clinics operated by quacks are being rapidly identified and shut down by the government in fear of mis-diagnosis by them. This will be an important step towards strengthening our public health systems and creating checkpoints at every level, so that infectious diseases are identified and treated at the earliest before they take a drastic turn.

Fear, anxiety and hypochondriasis is widely spreading amongst masses. Further, the doctor-patient relationship has taken a hit, with both being fearful of contracting the disease from the other. For the patients who are infected, there is fear of death and of stigma; fear for self and for their families who are forced to quarantine. In this scenario, the role of the doctor as a counsellor and guide has become vital. Empathy is the key. When a patient visits a doctor, the doctor's kind words and assurance cause half the healing, by relieving the anxiety of the patient (which, by the way, would be very important in the post covid world, because the hypochondriasm caused by the virus will last much longer than its pandemic). With increasing development of technology in the healthcare touch, this human touch would be the most important factor preventing doctors to be replaced by robots. In times to come, it will be interesting to observe whether this pandemic will lead to physician burnout or physicians finding a greater meaning in this life of service. So, in the end, in post covid times, public health work will be implemented better, there'll be better implementation of safety practices, governments will invest more in healthcare and global co-ordination in health matters will increase. It is sobering to think that such a tiny, microscopic virus could create such havoc. But let us all remember to keep safe and keep ourselves free from stress, anxiety and negative thoughts. Let's not make a pandemonium out of the pandemic.

( The views of the author are based on interviews with doctors working at LTMGH, Mumbai and private practitioners working in various cities in India)



# A Redefined Idea of Friendship In This Pandemic World

*Anshu Saikia  
India*

Though the course of friendship has been redefined in times of the COVID-19 pandemic- it still stays afloat and surviving. With the upsurge in the usage of 'Zoom' and several video conferencing applications, people have found ways to not just conduct work and studies, but also maintain friendships.

Soon after quarantine hit, digital-platforms for all kinds of activities surfaced. 'Netflix Party'- a feature Netflix introduced to extend the experience of watching a movie together with your friends and chat alongside. Amazon Prime soon followed with their feature called 'Prime Party'. Apart from this- people have found ways to now workout and cook together through video conferencing. Gaming also emerged as an experience that people could enjoy together. With that, education took a leap into the digital platform. With the growing number of registrations in online courses, schools and colleges shifting to online learning, people have had opportunities to meet their class-mates, discuss and learn with their friends online.

As the pandemic put a halt in our lives, many of us have had several opportunities to look back- into the people, relationships and memories from their past. People who have moved on to different places, schools and phases in life, have found this period to reconnect with one another.

'Informative' friendships have sprouted as a result of a number of events ongoing in the political, economical and social spheres. People have found ways to not only discuss and update but also inform and look out for one another, reminding them to remain safe and aware.

There has of course been a huge fallback in many relationships and friendships during this lockdown. As the phenomenon of social distancing hit us all without warning, many were left unprepared to live alone, to not be able to meet friends and family and to go out. For those who earlier found happiness in these things, the current situation posed as one that was hard-hitting. Desynchronisation has played a key role as the enemy of friendship- often appearing in times of scheduling of zoom, phone calls and so on. With change in priorities, work, family schedules and erratic mental settings, keeping up with friends from our homes has posed many problems. Moreover, having nothing to share due to our constant lifestyles adds to the growing distance that might occur in relationships.

Mental health is again a major concern that is playing out within many people. Isolation is often one of the worst situation potentially adding to the sufferings of someone dealing with depression and anxiety.



Often, it has the potential to lead to further segregation from their friends and loved ones as they might not wish to share. With the given situation, physically checking up on them poses as a difficulty.

Another challenge appears as children of ages 4-13 particularly have been finding it difficult to adapt to these new ways to talk to their friends. A pre-school child that is used to playing with their friends, is prone to get tired of video-calls beyond a certain point. Some children find it awkward to stare at each other on screens, when all they want to do is play, draw and do other activities with them. Moreover, for the very same reasons, this even impacts the personality development of many children below the age of thirteen.

These times do pose several challenges for all kinds of people in terms of connecting with their peers and loved ones.

But apart from the many cracks of this pandemic, given times have also presented a number of things to feel optimistic and hopeful about. As factors like the lockdown and social distancing make it difficult for us to physically meet with peers, it also becomes unrealistic to be on call with them 24/7. Quarantine has somewhat compelled us to practice individualism and be more self-reliant. It has made us delve inwards and has forced us to finally give ourselves the time we always needed to take care of ourselves. Many have now started looking after their health by working out and cooking for themselves. Many have also revisited their old hobbies and activities that they always wanted to cater to but ultimately left untouched due to lack of time and other excuses. We have finally learnt to spend time with our family and people we may have taken for granted as they were always home. Revisiting old photo albums and recalling endless stories from the past has helped us explore nostalgia at home. This way, friendship has also been redefined as 'family', as now we have to offer and find companionship in our parents, grand parents, siblings and so on. Finally, it has taught us to make more effort in order to connect with people. Be it calling up that friend or relative that we always wanted to catch up with but could not or reserving time from our day for video conferences with our peers and distant family members.

Socially, this pandemic has united us because of the very fact that we are all affected by it. Uncertainty is something that everyone is facing. Be it through confronting hardships in jobs, graduation, exams, personal lives or through the very fact that we are forced to live different lifestyles than what the ones we were prepared to live. As ironic it may be, we need each other now more than ever. Sometimes, ultimately the only thing that keeps us sane is knowing that we are all in it together. The Covid 19 pandemic may have changed the way we connect and communicate with one another, but it cannot forever dissolve friendships. The pandemic has a numbered life, but the relationships we have built with one another will stay on endlessly.

**Stop the Spread**



**Flatten the Curve**



**NETFLIX PARTY**

Watch Netflix in sync with friends



# The “Digital” Bhutan Movement

**Yoezer Choki**  
**Bhutan**

The world is massively changing with the adaptation of technology in our daily life, without which we cannot imagine our lives. We start our morning with the touch of technology to the end of our day until we sleep. In olden days our ancestors had lived without technology and digital aids but it is not possible for us to do so. Bhutan is one of the developing country in the world infusing ICT as the main stepping stone towards its development. In early 1900's when other country had been in the process of world war and development, Bhutan was under isolation because the vast world would have scrambled us if Bhutan had gone along with the flow, but little did we know that it will affect our development process. As quoted by our clever ancestor it was blessing in disguise, even without much development we are a happy country.

Being said that Bhutan is trying to digitized most of the part of country keeping in mind not to harm our mother nature as we are the first country who try to give more importance to happiness than the wealth. Now Bhutan is blooming and turning new page in its history by embracing change for the betterment of its citizen. Bhutan has introduced television to the citizen as late as 1999 now about 72 percent of the citizen has mobile facility and now all the dzongkhag has been connected with Optic cables (Ethernet connection). Bhutanese government has also introduced many Government to Citizen (G2C) services in the country to make the life of its user easier and have the work done faster.

Various banks in Bhutan has also developed their application and website to have provide better and faster facilities to the customers of the banks. In 2017, Bhutan has also introduced Thimphu Tech Park the first IT-park at Thimphu (Capital, Bhutan) which showed the interest and exposure of its amendment towards digitizing the country. Form the day of its establishment the Thimphu Tech Park it have incorporated many existing IT companies at Bhutan and also had invited many companies form outside Bhutan to open their Franchise companies in Bhutan. In the same year Bhutan had also established Gyalpozhing College of Information Technology – the first IT College, with an aim to bring up more profound and better IT personnel in the developing the digital Bhutan.

Furthermore, in the mid-year of 2018 it have launched the first satellite (a Cube salt) BHUTAN-1 which was built during Kyushu Institute of Technology's Bird-2 program. The satellite BHUTAN-1 was launched into orbit aboard the SpaceX CRS-15. Recently on the event of embracing the fourth industrial revolution Bhutan's Prime Minister has stated that ICT should be the third language Bhutan should learn to keep up with the rapid development in the digital world. Earlier this year Bhutanese government had discussed that Bhutanese students to learn Python (The most adapted Programming Language) in their curriculum. This was the vision of our Fifth Monarch vision to fulfil Bhutan's potential as future hub for IT and innovation.

Bhutan is trying its best to digitize itself to raise the living standard of its citizen and make the life of its citizen easier keeping in mind the impact of technology to the Mother Nature.



# Marketing trends in 2020

**Gayatri Sathian**  
**India**

With the onset of the ongoing pandemic taking over the world and the paradigm shift in work cultures, there have been several trending concepts doing the rounds in the world of marketing. We shall attempt to dissect the same in this article.

## Chatbots and Conversational marketing

Chatbots use instant messaging via AI-based technology which allows you to chat with your customers or site visitors in real-time, without having to spend much consideration to which time-zone your customer resides in.

Consumers are known to be impatient and have short attention spans especially when they seek answers to burning questions like updates on complaints, returns and refunds or sales inquiries. A survey conducted by Mindshare reveals that 63% of the people prefer messaging an online bot to communicate with a business or brand.

Chatbots are a faster and cheaper alternative to customer service representatives as they automate most parts of the process enabling a much more streamlined process and at the same time catering to a huge volume of audience.

A study by Impactbnd states that chatbots are expected to cut business costs by \$8 billion by 2020. Brands like Lyft, Mastercard, Spotify, Pizza Hut and The Wall Street Journal have successfully incorporated the use of chatbot technology in their business operations.

A survey conducted by Oracle stated that 80% of businesses want chatbots by 2020 to scale their businesses. Enhancing the user experience is of paramount importance ultimately through a feedback-driven model which in turn leads to higher engagements and customer loyalty.

Reflecting on how people speak has become a huge part of how marketers need to craft their material. Copy needs to sound natural and conversational as these are the same terms people use while searching for products and content.

## ·Omnichannel marketing

Offering a consistent and smooth experience to customers across various touchpoints has been the need of the hour. Your potential customer hops on a minimum of 2-3 platforms every 5 mins which is why establishing your brand and its presence on various channels and building your community there is crucial.

With the recent ban of Chinese Apps in India, a major platform for influencers – TikTok was wiped off in a day, taking down with it livelihoods of plenty of individuals who spent a great deal of time building their following. This move urged the need for omnichannel marketing multi-fold as celebrities, bloggers and brands have realized the importance of monetizing and leveraging various platforms instead of sticking to building one.

Brands need to ensure cohesive content strategies across all the platforms they are present on to ensure seamless user experience for its customers and persuades visitors to take action, engage and even become purchasing loyal customers.

According to a study done by Omnisend, statistics show that:

Engagement rate: 18.96% on omnichannel vs. 5.4% on single-channel

Purchase frequency: 250% higher on omnichannel vs. single-channel

Average order value: 13% more per order on omnichannel vs. single-channel

Customer retention rates: 90% higher for omnichannel vs. single-channel

Understanding your customer's ideal buying journey and identifying the gaps will help to activate an effective omnichannel approach. Omnichannel marketing relies heavily on targeting and message personalization. Techniques like location-based mobile advertising are used to the right messages to the right audience and through the right channel via the process of automation.

Since omnichannel is a relatively new concept, there is a lot of scope for it to expand in the future.

## Neuromarketing

Neuromarketing in simple words is the practical application of neuroscience to marketing. It involves strategies to predict and understand consumer behaviour.

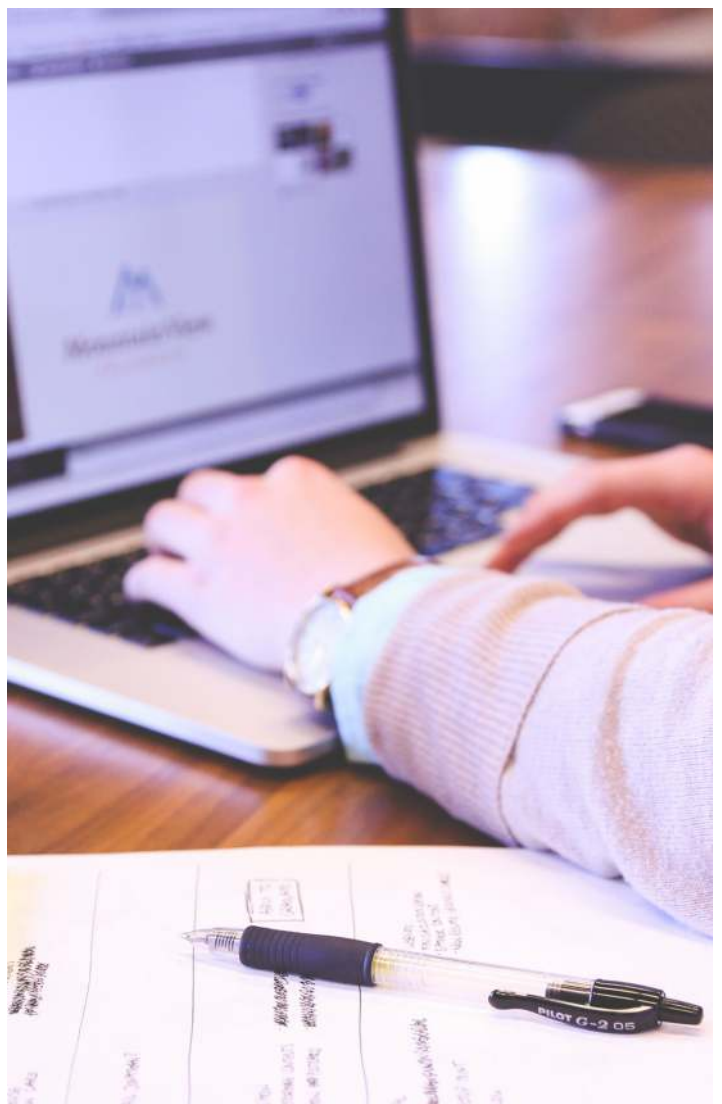
It helps the marketer dive deep into customer motivations and the drive that pushes them to buy a certain product or service. This will further enable the marketer to make creative decisions on pricing, advertising, product development and pricing.

Neuromarketing is touted to be the future of growth hacking as a growing number of startups are employing it to understand the exact content that engages their target audience to efficiently target marketing spends without any trial and error experiments or A/B testing.

A few interesting applications of neuromarketing include eye-tracking technology, neuro-imaging to redesign packaging, employing colour psychology to influence consumer purchase decisions and Emotion Response Analysis (ERA) to identify the emotional response individuals have to an advertisement, product or copy.

Another interesting technique used in neuromarketing is Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI). This technique involves tracking the blood flow as the subjects respond to audio and visual cues using a powerful magnet. This lets marketers gauge what kind of content activates the "pleasure centre" of the brain. Unfortunately, this method is extremely expensive and can cause a great deal to the subject as they have to lay still in a large machine.

Brands like Frito-Lay, Disney, Starbucks, PayPal and Hyundai and already started employing this in their marketing strategies and started seen tremendous growth and results in a remarkably short period





# Untapped Industries in Bhutan

Devanshi Vaidya  
India

The Kingdom of Bhutan has been an ingenious example round the globe. Due credits attend its unique policy of GNH (Gross National Happiness). Bhutan features a set of untapped opportunities to grow its economy and balance billion peoples need for happiness. This involves articulating potential strategies for Bhutan to widen its horizon in industrial growth and become a subsequent trendsetter globally within the fast-growing market. The approaching era is conflicting between two opposite poles where we'd like to specialize in the economic revolution and sustainable development. Darwin, in his evolutionary theory, has stated that "It's the survival of the fittest". In today's days of adjusting trends, this applies to industries also, which evolve with the external environment.

Before we discuss the potential industrial growth in Bhutan we'd like to specialize in a deeper understanding of Bhutan's economy. Bhutan is a unique country in terms of both culturally and environmentally. It has developed the philosophy of Gross National Happiness; where development is measured using a holistic approach of well-being, not only restricted to gross domestic product. Its one among the world's smallest countries is made mainly on agriculture and forestry, Mountains dominate the terrain and topography makes the building of roads and other infrastructure growth difficult and expensive. Every economic program takes into consideration the government's moral duty to guard and restore Bhutan's environment and cultural traditions. Since every coin has two sides in terms of social development Bhutan has achieved remarkable progress.

All children have access to hassle-free education and citizens receive basic and free healthcare. There well being and happiness come at the utmost priority within the country.

However, Bhutan faces some challenges and vulnerabilities within the roadway of fully utilizing its potential industries. This text aims to broaden the trail to ways of thinking on untapped industrial growth in synchronizing with GNH, making Bhutan a robust economy.

## SOLAR ENERGY BASED INDUSTRIES

Bhutan is looking for industrial set up from renewable resources. We'll look into the understanding of the solar power industry potential of the country. alternative energy policy was formulated in 2013 to market the utilization of renewable energy resources for primary energy production the concept of solar industries will align with the stated policy. it'll provide the people of the valley with benefits like 24hours health clinics, better income opportunities, solar cooking, utilizing solar energy for electricity and heating, children could study, getaway dull light, etc. one in every of the major usages of solar energy will be food drying as dried food is a major a part of the Bhutanese food menu. Bhutan has a potential for solar-power based industries which are yet to be utilized till now as compared to hydro energy.

## EDUCATION INDUSTRY

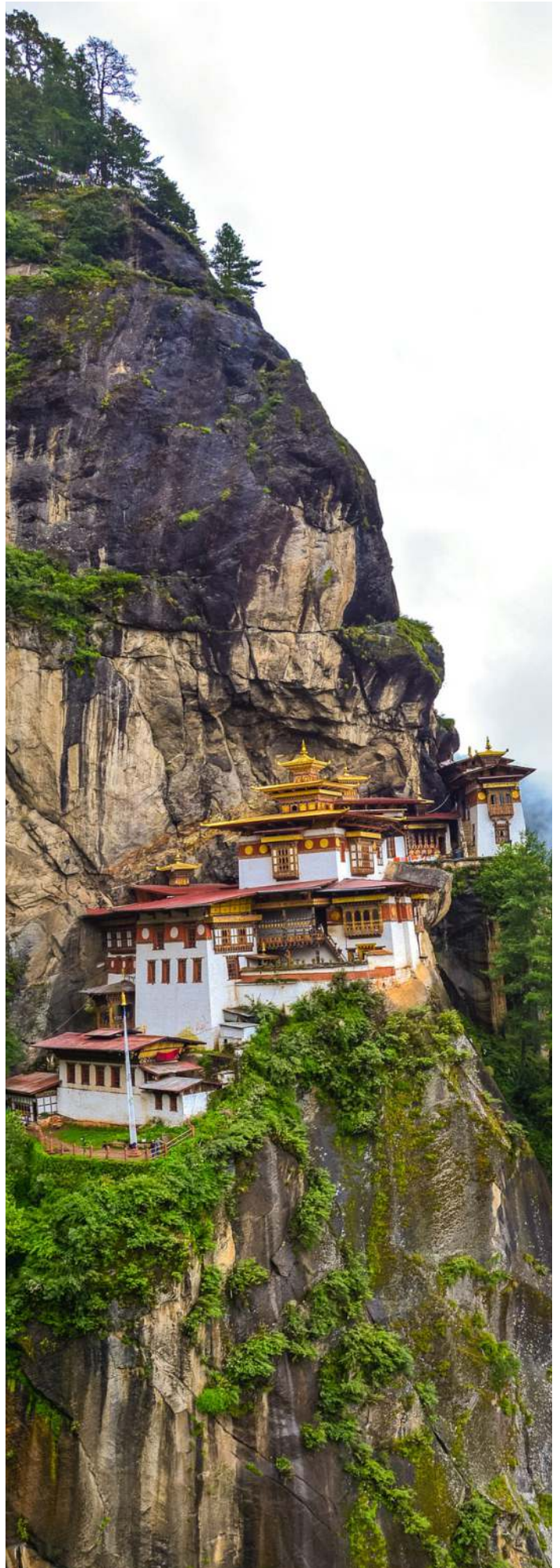
Over the last decade, Bhutan has made significant growth to expand access to education.

the government of Bhutan has been giving priority to improving the standard of education. However, Bhutan still faces a matter of drain and lack of quality at higher levels. Students may need to immigrate to other countries to urge access to effective education and career-building opportunities. It must specialize in future citizens, to thrive in an exceedingly competitive environment with knowledge. While the govt is committed to developing the education system, the progress is constrained by the country's limited resources. The educational infrastructure can be slowly expanded foreign aid. The private sector must be allowed to tap the and opportunities available to create Bhutan self-reliance within the education sphere.

#### FOOD INDUSTRY

Bhutan is an economy for Food Sovereignty and Organic food productive. This involves redefining the food industry and balancing the sustainability goal and agriculture industry. Bhutan's aim to become wholly organic has raised much attention worldwide. Bhutan is blessed with a good range of climate zones during which numerous diversity of untamed and cultivated food and non-food products are often grown or collected. Remarkably, t Access to seeds isn't restricted, and therefore the country has conserved a good range of open-pollinated seed varieties, which carry good genetic diversity, making them climate-resistant this makes Bhutan have whip hand within the food industry. this may require synergies between the agriculture sector. Production on organic food and meeting the demand around the globe will boost the agriculture industry and therefore the economy with this it'll take under consideration the externalities.

The government should come up with initiatives to utilize this untapped sources to facilitate sustainable development within the country. a robust commitment and action plan will expedite the roadway to Bhutan's industrial growth. However, Driven by the exigency, the industries got to develop sustainable models catering to sustainable growth. ought to embrace their work for the longer term and outline the blueprint for the organization to thrive excellence. Creating a sustainable idea and curating it'll cause balancing the long-term impact.





# EXPLORING THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE KEY MONASTERY

***Rishika Sood***  
***India***

A typical day at the Key Monastery in the Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh. As dawn breaks on the Spiti river and the snow cap mountains that surround the Monastery, the monks prepare for a new day. Making their way silently to the prayer hall, they settle for their ritualistic morning prayers. Chanting the sacred Buddhist Tantras, the monks empty their minds of all worldly pleasures and prepare for meditation. Following their daily routine, they then disperse from the prayer hall into the labyrinth of rooms and corridors of the monastery to adhere to their chores. While some monks occupy themselves with the maintenance of the monastery compound, some rush off to the kitchens to prepare meals for everyone. After having their breakfast, the little monks who are merely children leave for the government school nearby to receive their formal education. As they reach the gate, they turn back and sneak a glance at the fort-like monastery; their new home. With square rooms arranged in multiple levels, it reminds them of the buildings that they made at home using Lego blocks; before they were sent here to uphold the legacy of their rich Tibetan culture. The Key Monastery is the oldest Monastery in the Spiti Valley, located at an altitude of 13,800 ft. from the sea level.

It is believed that it was founded by 'Dromton', the disciple of the Buddhist master 'Atisha' in the 11th Century A.D. Despite its sacredness, the monastery's history has witnessed considerable conflict and unrest. In the 17th Century, it was attacked by the Mongols, an East Asian Ethnic group native to Mongolia. Two centuries later, during the wars of Ladakh and Kullu and the invasion of the Dogra army, it was further sacked and ravaged. More damage was inflicted upon the monastery by a Sikh regiment of the Indian Army consecutively. Decades later, the built structure was additionally destroyed by a devastating fire that caused severe loss and destruction. In 1975, it was struck by a violent earthquake that threatened the very existence of the monastery. A few years later, the monastery was subsequently restored by the Archaeological Survey of India with the help of the State Public Works Department. Today it belongs to the 'Geluga' sect of Tibetan Buddhism.

The culture of warfare witnessed by the Key Monastery has played a major role in shaping its architectural style. Unlike other monasteries, it is built of several individual rooms that have been stacked randomly in various levels over the years.



The 'Pasada Style' of Architecture which is characterised by more than one storey like a fort is evident in the built form of the monastery. Influences of the 'Chinese Style' of monastic architecture, that was popular in the region during the 14th Century can also be found in the sacred complex. The building is divided into three main floors; these include the underground, ground and the first floor. While the underground floor is used for storage, the ground floor consists of numerous cells for the monks and an assembly hall known as 'Du-Khang', which is ornated with numerous intricate religious paintings. The monastery is also a repository of several ancient artefacts that were recovered from Tibet. These include sacred idols, paintings, manuscripts and musical instruments such as trumpets, cymbals and drums. These are stored in the oldest part of the monastery, the Old Gumpa which is closed for public access. Some of the rooms in the monastery also house the elaborate 'Thangka' Paintings. Usually painted on cotton or silk, these depict Buddhist deities, scenes or mandalas and are displayed on the walls during religious festivals and ceremonies. The library of the monastery has one of the largest collections of the sacred 'Tengyur' texts.

The Tengyur texts are translated treatises of the Buddhist teachings. Together with the 'Kangyur' text which is the collection of the words by Buddha, it forms the basis of the 'Tibetan Buddhist Canon.'

The Key Monastery is also the largest centre of Buddhist learning in Spiti Valley and the oldest training centre of Lamas. It is home to almost 300 monks aged between 7 to 80 years. The children in the monastery are provided with both traditional knowledge and modern education. After reaching adulthood only a few monks chose a scholarly religious life and advance to the religious fulfilment. The rest of the monks dedicate their lives to sustain the monastery and only indulge in sutra chanting, reciting prayers and meditation.

Besides being an important centre for Tibetan education, the monastery is also a popular tourist destination in the Spiti Valley. With rooms available for accommodation, it charges a bare minimum from the tourists to help them experience the sacred Tibetan culture first-hand.



During the 'Gustar Festival' that is held every year according to the lunar calendar, people from all over the valley flock to the monastery to participate in the religious proceedings. Celebrated to mark the victory of the 'Good over the Evil', the 'Cham dance' is performed. Lamas dressed up as demons are chased by those dressed up as deities in the ritual ground. After the final victory dance, a large butter sculpture of a demon is set on fire and the devotees lay flat on the ground. The lamas dressed up as deities then walk over them ritualistically to cure them of any disease or evil spirit.

This religious ceremony along with several others that are performed in the monastery, throughout the year are integral to the sustenance of the Tibetan Buddhist community in the region. Despite the advancing modernisation in the region, the monastery has managed to keep alive its vibrant culture and indigenous traditions. With new plans of expansion and the support of the administration, this monastery shall continue to grow and thrive, educating the generations to come.



# Vocal for Local Cultural Traditions: Comparing Bhutan and India's Culture of Sex and Fertility

**Shovan Sinharay**  
**India**

While describing the 'Idea of Europe' Anthony Pagden opines that when 'identities' get deconstructed strong 'ideas' take birth. Similarly, India is in a dire need of a strong identity that is rooted in its traditional past. So, if we break the current 'Identity of India' which has made 'sex' a taboo, a strong and sustainable 'Identity of India' can be crafted. History gives legitimacy to any cultural tradition and it is perhaps the right time to make use of that 'tool' to promote interests of India in the world platform. Bhutan and India have been diplomatically connected since 1910 wherein India supports the model of socio-economic development chosen by Bhutan that is the model of Gross National Happiness. The two countries never had any major conflicts which has resulted in a prosperous and thriving relationship between them marked by the flow of resources and official visits. Bhutan came further close to India due to the China factor since it also shares a rough history with the Chinese much like India. Although, Bhutan has its own share of issues related to prostitution and let known culture of Bomena among many others, it also upholds its tradition of worshipping the fertility cult.

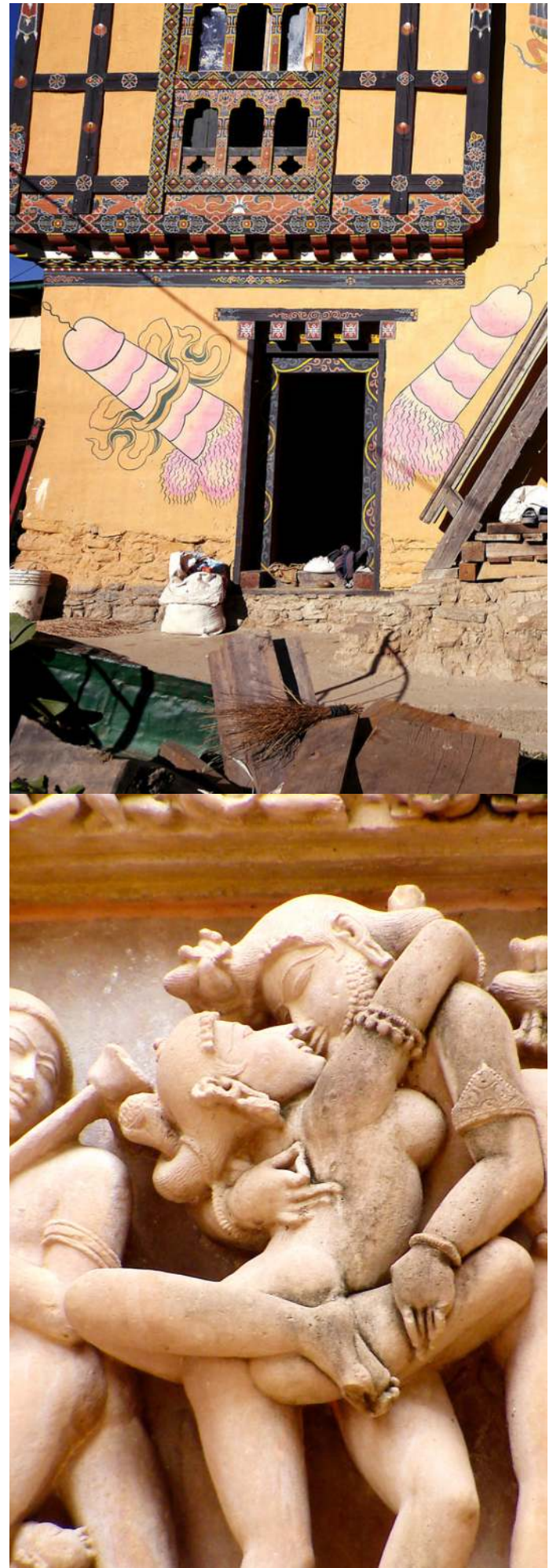
So much so, 'Phallus Temple' also known as the penis temple situated in the Punakha district stands tall and celebrates fertility as a gift of God. The temple holds a wooden 10inch phallus and the villages surrounding the temple can be spotted with paintings of phallus all over the outside walls. It has become a part and parcel of their lives. Different mythological annotations are propagated related to the formation of the temple and the culture itself but nevertheless all versions of it converge at 'sex' and 'fertility' or 'procreation'. The temple attracts many people from different parts of the world and is a must-visit destination when in Bhutan. Thus, sex and fertility has been embraced by people as a natural process at least in this part of the world. Historical traditions have taken a front seat creating a strong identity of Bhutan that goes hand in hand with the quotient of 'Gross National Happiness'.

According to the past, the cultural traditions was not uniform throughout India in its practice. For example, among the majority patrilineal societies there exist matrilineal societies of the Khasi and Nayar tribes in Meghalaya and Kerala respectively.



Also, while some parts of Southern India like Tamil Nadu celebrate a girl's first menstrual cycle. It is a big festival locally known as the Manjal Neerattu Vizha. Even in Sikhism menstruation is not considered as a bad omen or a pollutant but there are certain Hindu areas where it puts a lot of restrictions on women which cannot be backed by scientific logic. Thus, India reflects itself as a land of diversity and it has enormous potential to significantly use the tool of history to establish its new identity. While the world is at awe with temples like Khajuraho and Kama Sutra India is trying to move away from its bewildering and progressive culture. India should embrace its tradition with an open heart and be vocal not only about its local business but should be equally vocal about its local cultural traditions. It should be proud as a country to have shown the world the importance of emotions, a balanced life and more importantly a society which could think of such innovations so many years ago. India showed the world to be innovative in art and culture, literacy, education, women empowerment and emotional sensitivity. The country should be promoting its culture even more because characteristics like emotional sensitivity and individual subjectivity what romanticism upheld in the 19th Century CE has been introduced in India way much before in the 2nd Century CE. No society is without flaws and it is for this very reason history becomes an important instrument as it offers a window of opportunity to help societies evolve and achieve its best possible version by omitting those traditions which does not fit in the present society and upheld those which makes it a sustainable one.

To conclude, India should talk more on things like 'sex' and 'fertility' so as to equip the teenagers undergoing puberty with the required information and make them feel comfortable in life. The teenagers can be taught the concept of 'consent' which will further help reduce cases of sexual assaults, address the population growth issue, female foeticide, STDs, etc. It can perhaps think about introducing sex education in schools which will allow the subject of 'sex' to come out of the tabooed genre. By doing so it will create a new identity of India globally which will be a sturdy and sustainable one.



# Seeing Bhutan: Five Books that Provide Insight Into the Buddhist Kingdom

*Nandita Chandrasekhar*  
*India*

It is more often than not that Bhutan is looked at as an inaccessible, utopian, nation that those of us in bustling cities can only imagine and long for. Beyond the beautiful landscape and monasteries, there lies a country with a rich historical, political and cultural background, which most of us are unaware of. It is important to contradict the idealistic narrative about Bhutan in the international media with more realistic accounts of the nation's relatively new democratic system, economy, and traditional society. Bhutan encapsulates diverse elements ranging from history told through myth and folklore, rich biodiversity, and strong religious principles to progressive policies and sustainable development. These various elements must be publicised and analysed more objectively to portray a more honest account of contemporary Bhutan. Listed below are 5 books that capture the true essence of Bhutan while educating their readers of the country's history, philosophy, politics, and society.



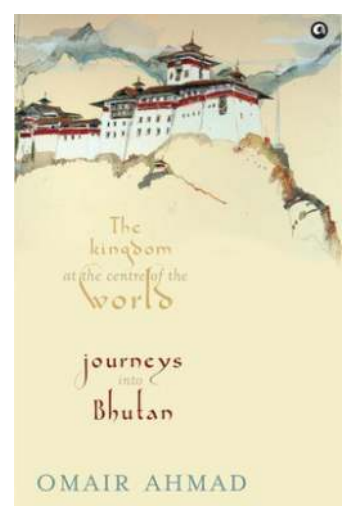
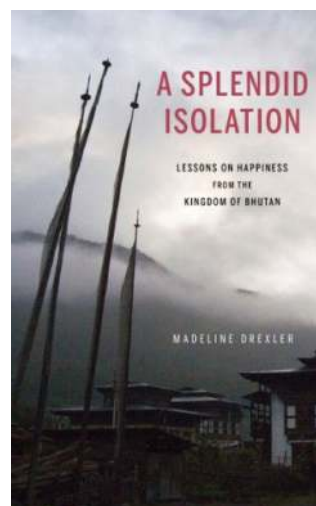
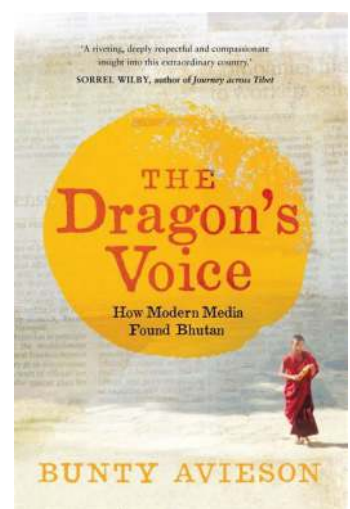
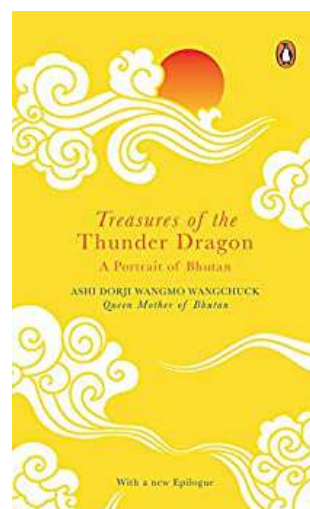
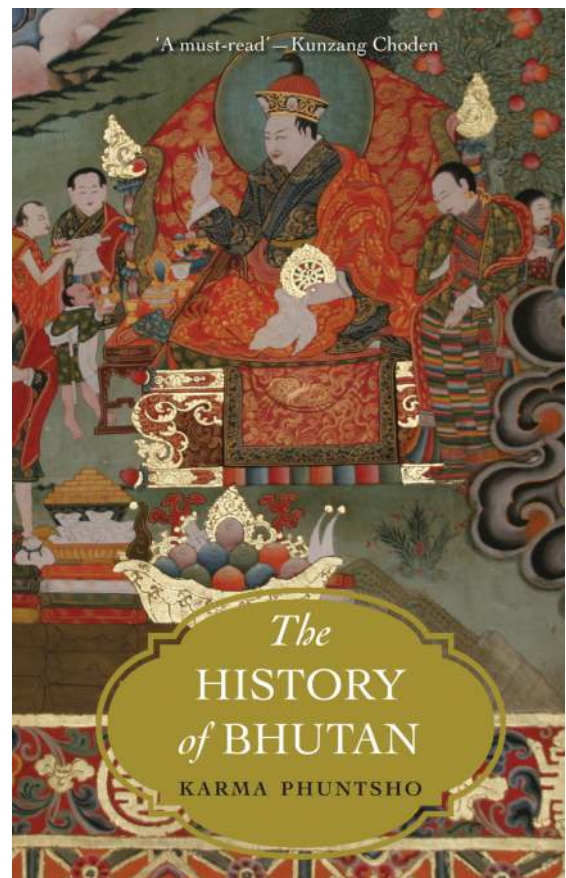


### The History of Bhutan by Karma Phuntsho

Deemed to be the first book to offer a comprehensive history of Bhutan in English, *The History of Bhutan* written by Bhutanese scholar and social worker, Lopen Karma Phuntsho, tells the story of Bhutan with numerous citations and translations from earlier writings. The account of the Himalayan nation's history, since its inception in 1651, is told through a realistic lens. The book recounts the significant events of the country over the centuries with a detailed and academic analysis in a blend of traditional and modern perspectives. The book communicates to the readers, the progression of Bhutanese society over the years amid conflict and armed battles. The book also includes significant discussions of Bhutan's geography, culture, society, and various ethnic groups that live in modern Bhutan. It is a suitable read to gain an incisive introduction to the country.

### Treasures of the Thunder Dragon: A Portrait of Bhutan by Ashi Dori Wangmo Wangchuck

This book is an amalgamation of folklore, social commentary, and a travelogue written by the former Queen of Bhutan. The book presents a descriptive account of the former Queen's childhood in a western Bhutanese village and a realistic account of the nation's culture and tradition captured through her travels on foot to remote parts of Bhutan. Wangchuck provides vivid glimpses of life in Bhutan's highland villages, serene monasteries wreathed in myth and legend, and the rainforests in the south. The book highlights the reality and plight of the people in remote villages as experienced by Wangchuck through her humble encounters. This book features specially commissioned illustrations by young Bhutanese artists and photographs from the author's family album. The book also highlights the changes witnessed when Bhutan ended its isolation and transformed from a medieval kingdom into a modern nation within the space of a decade.



### **The Dragon's Voice: How Modern Media Found Bhutan by Bunty Avieson**

This is a memoir of Australian journalist, Bunty Avieson, that chronicles the time she spent in Bhutan as a consultant to a local newspaper, Bhutan Observer. The book vividly captures the intricacies of a nation transitioning from a monarchy to a democracy. It is a contemporary tale that analyses the evolution of the role of media in tandem with Bhutanese tradition and philosophy. The book highlights the importance of Bhutanese media reportage in understanding how modern Bhutan, with issues like any other nation, continues to develop and democratize. A personal account and a political commentary, *The Dragon's Voice* paints a comprehensive picture of a country on the cusp of revolutionary change.

### **A Splendid Isolation: Lessons on Happiness from the Kingdom of Bhutan by Madeline Drexler**

A non-fictional essay, written by award-winning journalist and author Madeline Drexler that explores the radical Gross National Happiness (GNH) policy of Bhutan. The essay describes Drexler's visit to the Himalayan nation and her understanding of how this audacious policy guides the developing Bhutanese society where Buddhism is deeply rooted. The essay features accounts of travel, history, personal insights, and constructive dialogue with top decision-makers, artists, and citizens. As Bhutan's popularity and accessibility increases, the essay analyses if the nation can continue to maintain the idealistic principles guided by GNH. This is a fitting book for those fascinated by travel, progressive policies, Buddhism, and the study and practice of happiness.

### **Bhutan: The Kingdom at the Centre of the World by Omair Ahmad**

A unique tale about Bhutan's politics and history, this book by Indian author Omair Ahmed offers a fresh perspective on the role of the nation in some of the most significant events of Asian and world history. *The Kingdom at the Centre of the World* tells the story of Bhutan's emergence as an independent Buddhist nation in the seventeenth century.

Ahmed argues that Bhutan is experimenting with some of the most progressive methods of governance and policymaking. The crux of the book lies in the rambling narrative that through myriad stories discovers how Bhutan not only survives but thrives in its tough neighbourhood. On the contrary to the idealistic image of Bhutan, this book does not hesitate to discuss the problems of Nepali refugees, Bhutan's quest for international recognition of its sovereign existence. Despite the pragmatic tone of the book, it does not fail to convince the reader of the enchantment of the Land of the Thunder Dragon.

Bhutan's stories must be told through more than just a one-dimensional lens. Discussions on how a shift in the narrative can facilitate the development of dialogue to improve systemic practices must be encouraged. We could all benefit from a more holistic reportage of the country that epitomises national happiness.





# Not only a writer but a frequent traveler of Bhutan! Young Druk in the cyber race!

*Varnit Aggarwal  
India*

Bhutan is popular mostly by its self-concocted measure of the country's national happiness, GNH (Gross National Happiness) and its untouched serene beauty. As we started to get familiar with its offbeat demographic measure, we may have skipped the evolution of the factors that affect the results of it.

In the 20th century the country had a high GNH owing to the simple life it gave to its people and the government just working on ways to make life easier for them. Fast forward to the 21st century, technology moving at the speed of light, everything possible just by a touch. Not only did the technology change but so did the priorities of people seeking to boost the national GNH. Bhutan saw a surge in the demand of smartphones and being the complements that they are, apps too saw a similar surge in demand in the country.

It was high time since foreign countries ruled the tech market in Bhutan just when the Bhutanese took the matter in their own hands. The country hasn't looked back in the race to success since then:

## **BHUTANews:**

What screams modernism more than being updated about the world to the millisecond. Bhutanews is the quintessential application that the country needed and was promptly served by the publisher Xuboya. The application fully made in Bhutan provides people with the thing they need the most, domestic as well as global updates via local media houses such as BBS (Bhutan Broadcasting Service), Bhutan Observer, Keunsel and The Bhutanese.

Last but not the least, the app attracts even a better following by the additional perks it offers. Adapting to the global online news standards, BHUTANews even presents the top Bhutanese blogs including Tshering Tobay (The personal blog of Bhutan's prime minister), Passu (Bhutan's most popular blogger), Namgay Zam (the kingdom's top media personality) and Thimphutech.com (the leading technology blog). The app is available on the Play Store and is yet to be launched on the App store.

## Explore Bhutan

As spiderman says, the best way to learn is under extreme pressure. The participants of the Thimphu tech park's innovation technology center took spiderman's advice too seriously. The explore Bhutan app was a result of a 21-day intensive training program of 'Android based mobile application development with Java'. The app acts as the perfect catalyst to Bhutan's incomparable tourism. The app developer Sangay Wangdi says that the app was for the tourists to discover nearby places and attractions. "A list of the nearest dzongs, monasteries and other sites will be displayed with details", he adds. The app is available on the google play store.

## Happy Ride:

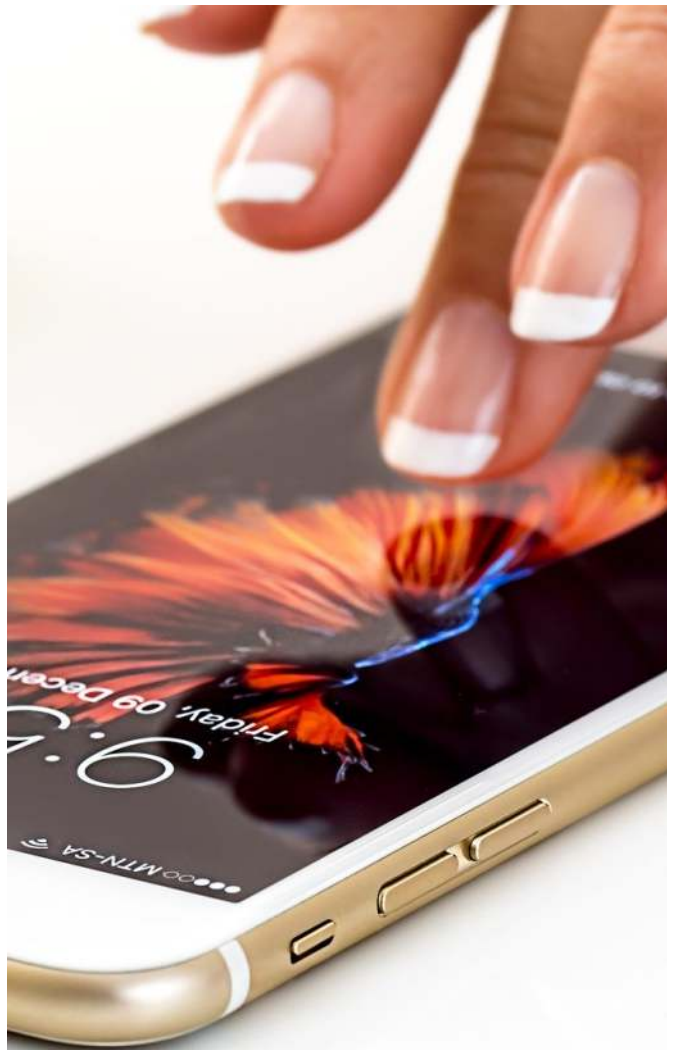
This app is another milestone to boost the GNH of the country by providing ease in the daily lifestyle. The app provides information about bus timings, bus stops and ticketing agents. Happy ride sought technical assistance by the Ministry of Information and Communication. This app exempts Bhutan of going through all the fuss of finding the bus timings, booking them through agents and finding the appropriate route. The story doesn't end there, Happy Ride is not just a sigh of relief for the passengers but the bus drivers too. The bus drivers have to use the app which is different from that of the users. It was launched by the Bhutan Postal corporation limited on the 23rd of March, 2018.

## Dzongkha for kids

It's not uncommon for people to find their end goal in life and then working on the goal from the initial stage. This app is the perfect example of just that. The Dzongkha learning app uses audio and visuals to make the learning of names and pronunciations of Dzongkha words easy to learn and fun at the same time, says The Dzongkha Development Commission's ICT officer, Tenzin Namgyel. "The App was developed targeting students of sixth standard". The creator also wants to incorporate more categories. Long story short, the app accommodates the best of both worlds mixing it in a perfect blend of learning and fun. A must download for people who have kids of the same age-group this app aims to help.

## Bhutanmade:

Some creators were followers of the saying, 'The answer lies within'. Bhutanmade is a government led portal which provides the local Bhutan producers a platform to sell their 'Made in Bhutan' products in the international markets. What's better for a nation than to be self-reliant, this app is the perfect stepping stone for achieving that far-fetched endeavour. Bhutanmade is expected to add to the exports of the country by boosting the sales of the world-famous Bhutanese artefacts, natural food products, Thangka paintings and the list goes on. The best part which gives Bhutanmade the 'it' factor, is that it eliminates all the middlemen thus, the sellers on the app are the direct beneficiaries of their sales. Bhutanmade is a win-win from every vantage point.





# STOCK MARKET and NATURE IN BHUTAN: Complementing or Converging?

**Manish Chandra**  
**India**

Land with natural beauty blooming all over and tourists flocking it all around the year to get a firsthand feel of it, Bhutan never fails to amaze anyone.

Enough content is available on the internet praising the unique way of measuring GDP or growth, adopted by Bhutan. The index is named as Gross National Happiness (GNH), which has acquired much limelight, but the question arises here is whether the cultural or classical approach is still working in this age of technological and economic advancements. Is economic/financial advancements in Stock Market converging with happiness index or complementing each other? We will deep dive into this aspect.

## **Out of Cocoon**

When the term "Gross National Happiness" was coined in 1979 by then Bhutan King, no major economic thought was gone into it.

Still, the index gained momentum and worked for the people of Bhutan. As years rolled on, there was a need felt for rolling real capital in the market, without hampering the happiness index goals, therefore, the Royal Government of Bhutan established Royal Securities Exchange of Bhutan Limited (RSEBL) in August, 1993 and was opened for trading in October, 1993. To open up the investment and development opportunities, Stock Market was set up as Capital Market play a very significant role in the economy. It is headquartered at Thimphu, with current listing of 22 companies, being considered as one of the world's smallest stock exchanges. The capital to set up stock exchange was provided by 5 national organizations. The financial trading in stock market comprising of conventional development policy is not a counter action or activity to the principles of Gross National Happiness Index, rather government believed administration of Stock Market would be a smooth task when combined rationally with the traditional belief, pervasive strength and cultures of Buddhist land.



Even after years, there are hurdles like financial literacy, large set of paperwork for companies listing, small incentives and other regulations by government which do not promote stock market of Bhutan on global competitive index. Still, the government has been doing great to literate their population about stock market and its benefits on the overall growth of country. To be noted, in all this happiness index has not been forgotten by the people and government. A major plus point.

Core of modern development policy in any developing economy is the role of a market-based system and specifically the establishment of stock exchanges, facilitating the raising of much needed development capital for domestic industrial growth, provide investors and capital issuers with risk diversification opportunities. The society comprising of Buddhist culture and leaning towards nature to the core, found it difficult in starting to bring major economic developments in terms of stock market. As time has passed, it has grown gradually, but is still in the infant stage.

Development policy centering on the establishment of stock markets focuses on their purported benefits as defined by neoclassical economics, which Bhutan was adopting. This as per their planning and execution will envisage the synergy of Gross National Happiness with Stock Market.

### In the open Breeze

The current valuation of all the stock on the Bhutan Stock Exchange was near Nu 50 bn at the end of March, which resulted with some loss in valuation due to Coronavirus pandemic. The economic policies or major economic activities based on development are somewhat resembling to that of Indian and UK law.

Even after almost three decades of opening up to the outside world through stock exchange establishment, it is very distinctive as there is selective actions taken up by national organization and no major private entity putting all hands into it. This isn't a downward motivation, but more risk taking capacity is what Bhutan should focus on.



On a positive note towards trading advancement, the Royal Securities Exchange of Bhutan launched the Bhutan Stock Index (BSI) in Thimphu in February, 2020. The stock index launched shows the direction of security price movements and reflection of market sentiments through it. Market sentiment refers to the overall attitude of investors and financial experts toward a particular security or financial market. Financial institutions are holding up 50% of stock market, whereas other big but few industries are holding up the rest. This shows, what major setback it can have even if few of them loose their capital holding, therefore crashing the stock market of Bhutan.

The slight downward slope of valuation at March end isn't a big thing to worry, as it happens sometimes at the end of every financial year. There is still the need of liquidity to sell the shares and gain something out of loosing market capital, but that isn't the approach when some industry or organization is looking at long term benefit. Bhutan development plans as suggested by the bureaucracy are on positive sides for every finance and trading enthusiast company. Problems such as low frequency of trade, lack of active participation from companies and public, liquidity problem and financial literacy still exist, but there are resolutions planned out for them, which are tried and tested by other countries. The only task is to implement them in Bhutan.

Keeping inflation and other countries economic pressure, the finance development is the need instead of choice. Analyzing the fall at the first quarter of 2020, it is surprising to see the fall, even when majority of the shares are held by institutions who are under no pressure to sell. Foreign stock markets where a large portion of the shares are traded by stock brokers on a daily basis, the situation at Bhutan is different, majorly dealing with no or meagre interest in stock market by public and brokers. Happiness report isn't affected released by Bhutan by any economic development, but vice versa should be same, hence increasing the synergy between the two.

### In the sky and flying

The road ahead is full of opportunities for people and government of Bhutan related to investment

in capital market and infrastructure development. The happiness index became successful because one of the major reasons was beautiful nature they have been blessed with. This scenic presence can be an option to be tapped upon for stock market development.

Outside companies are looking at it to capsize that market, like fabhotels, OYO and many more. Domestic industries there should look for expansion in tourism sector so nature can compliment economy. This will ultimately result in more interest of people in financial activities and trading on stock market. Moreover, the index launched recently is a high spirited good news. Investors could now use the index to allocate funds rationally among stock portfolios and will evaluate its performance in the market. Index also focuses on the individual performance of companies, hence making a room for more companies to enter the Bhutan Stock Market, which currently stands at listing of 22 companies. Convergence is nowhere to be seen between happiness index, nature and stock market of Bhutan, but still a better policy formulation and more financial education is the need to make these all run into a proper synergy.



# Policy, Governance and Law for Artificial Intelligence in India

*Sukriti Sanjay Agrawal*  
*India*

When one initially sees the words 'Artificial Intelligence', then many believe it means 'robots'; this is due to films & books that depict such content. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the synthesis of science and engineering, culminating in the development of an intellectual computer that reacts and solves problems such as humans. Some scholars argue that AI has the capacity to logically reason and function, while others do not have similar perception of its abilities: to function like mortals and reason.

## **Artificial Intelligence and Governance in India**

AI will help to free government labor by computerizing routine processes leading to accelerated speed of interactions in the delivery of government services and correct assessment of policy alternatives. AI has tremendous promise in numerous public sectors such as "education, physical infrastructure, transportation, telecommunications, computer protection and administration, banking, healthcare, research and development, policy-making, legal and justice systems," and it is crucial that policymakers

realize the above to enhance citizens' standard of livelihood and governance.

Many policy realms such as the commercial, financial, and telecommunications can be technically changed using AI technologies that will offer tremendous benefits to public institutions in all governmental spheres. AI can also be used in data processing, safety and regulation, which is one of the key issues of all people and governments led by a rise in data storage. However, such data may also be utilized by the authorities for monitoring purposes to increase consciousness among the population and to promote the effective involvement of people in the government sector.

India, with the world's second-largest population, does indeed have the fastest growing economic system. Involvement in the AI transformation is crucial. NITI Aayog already set up a board and subcommittee to tackle the issues after analysis in AI. At India's biggest international event and AI Summit recently organized by the All India Robotics & Automation Council (AICRA), Dr. Manoj Kumar Pateriya, Director of CSIR-NISCAIR,



said that the event centered on a real-world framework to examine the different ways AI can impact personal lifestyles and enterprises. He also advised Indians to be extremely careful & practical when shaping matters relating to all potential ventures of development in the region.

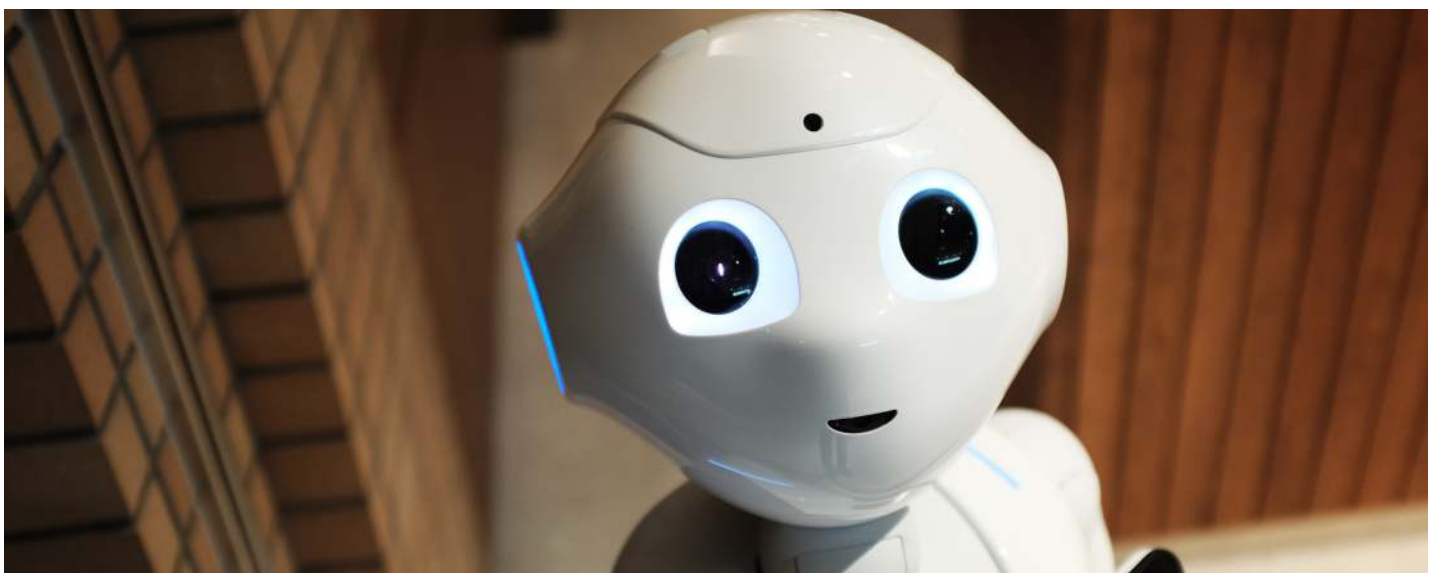
Intelligent public policy aims to encourage the protection of democracy and the sustainable advancement of technologies to guarantee the equality of citizens. AI can be adopted by the government in strategy and legislation formation, where decision-making is among the dynamic mechanisms taking place in today's fast-changing conditions and affecting the three factors of sustainable cultural, social, and environmental growth. Every particular government policy is made in response to a certain social tension that passes waves on cultural, technical and political aspects. A variety of AI strategies can theoretically enhance the method of policy implementation, including strategies for automation and judgment making, information, thought processing, game theory and simulation dependent on the officers. AI already has a part to perform in the legal system because it has a significant influence on prosecutors, judges and regulatory agencies where techniques that endorse debate, use sentencing-based methodology, or deductive reasoning to combat fraud and often offer digital legal advice at reduced expense. The most important use of AI is the implementation of spotless electorate with the aid of automated voting that may preclude more study on ballot monitor efficiency; nationwide ballot registry systems; innovative polling technologies that

could include the use other electronic tools; and strategies for enforcing machine consistency and user interface precision.

### **Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property Law in India**

Copyright in India is regulated by Indian copyright Act 1957, which describes copyright as a unique right to execute or approve specified activities with regards to initial, imaginative, literature, theatrical, instrumental plays, movie and audio clips. A certain concept that expresses itself in a concrete medium is safeguarded. The thought applied in computing, is not covered. Nevertheless, applications designed for computer functions are used for literary activity, which, although machine-generated, entitles the maker of the project.

In India, patents are regulated by the Indian Patent Act, 1970, which describes patent as a unique right given to a citizen on any innovation, and capacity of imagination in business. India does not accept any discovery created by computer operations or algorithms. It is proposed that the Artificial Intelligence (Data Security & Regulation) Act should be designed to interact with the inventions or works created by AI alone and to control them adequately.



# Lives Versus Livelihoods: Returning To Our Roots As The Last Ray Of Hope

*Annanya Chaturvedi*  
*India*

We face an existential threat from the alien virus that shows scant respect for any race, religion, or even national boundaries that are humanity's futile obsessions. As the spread and far-reaching impacts of Covid-19 dominate the world news, we have all been witnessing and experiencing the parallel spread of worry, anxiety, and instability. Despite claims that Coronavirus is biologically indiscriminate, it's becoming increasingly clear that its social and economic impact will not be. Ranging from employment to livelihoods, everything has taken a 360 degrees turn. Among other things, Bhutan witnessed a significant migration of its people who had been previously working abroad for better job prospects, especially in the middle-east and the oil-rich Gulf countries, now returning to their homeland. Various reasons including forceful termination, compulsory retirement, voluntary unpaid leave, or resignation, and some completed their contract term can be cited for the same.

Among 15,000 to 16,000 Bhutanese, about 2,604 Bhutanese from 25 countries, including migrant workers, professionals, and students working abroad for higher education and career

Among 15,000 to 16,000 Bhutanese, about 2,604 Bhutanese from 25 countries, including migrant workers, professionals, and students working abroad for higher education and career prospects, mostly from Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Oman have returned since March.

A large number is still to return, as soon as the situation improves. Now, as we proceed towards unlocking and working on our way forward, there is a lot of apprehension and uncertainty in the minds of the returnees, pertaining to their livelihood and future prospects. While some want to return, many said they have not decided with the best bet staying back and looking for jobs or starting a business. His Majesty The King has commanded the government to look into creating job opportunities for such Bhutanese. The government is working along this line and as far as possible, creates enough opportunities for them to stay back.

A National Resilience Fund has been established on Royal Command to provide relief to those who lost their livelihoods or sources of income.



They have also been provided with monthly subsistence allowances as the Kidu. The ambit of the Kidu, which usually carries a cash grant, has been expanded to include the accommodation of students undergoing treatment in foreign countries and conveyance costs of students stuck in a foreign land wishing to return back, but can't afford. Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering said that His Majesty is concerned and commanded the government to tap the potential of these returnees equipped with experience and skills of working abroad. Although nothing has been finalized, the government is looking into areas where the returnees are trained for startups. The government would build on current plans like CSI flagship, startup programmes, and agricultural entrepreneurship. They could become employers with the experience they have gained abroad. Many returnees see self-employment as the key for survival and even income generation if they stay back.

It's time to wake up and behave like one species sailing on a single ship, the Earth. As we adapt to the "new normal" we cannot afford to become complacent, irresponsible, or reckless. In times like these, it becomes imperative to foster physical and emotional well-being through trauma-informed care and resilience. The whole community approach, as reflected in the spontaneous outpouring of support in cash, kind, and volunteerism by the people of Bhutan from all walks of life, is a matter of great pride. It bears testimony to our deep-rooted values and principles of compassion, unity, and service to the nation in times of need. Though in different boats, we are all sailing under the same threat here, and so, returning to our roots may be our only hope left. In a bid to revitalize the rural economy, generate employment opportunities, and focus on sectors like tourism, agriculture, and infrastructure, investments have been frontloaded for implementation of 12<sup>th</sup> Plan activities. Covid-19 pandemic has taught us a good lesson, of creating opportunities within. Domestic tourism is now beginning in earnest. Reportedly, close to 80 entrepreneurs showed their interest in investing in the development of domestic tourism. It is all the more critical because domestic tourism is resilient to external factors. Bhutan is a country endowed with rare natural beauty and profound spiritual and

cultural history and now that the opportunity has presented itself before us, let it not be just a passing romance with it. We are talking about economic resilience and employment creation in one of the most significant revenue-generating sectors in the country. Continuous tourism could be the new theme of Bhutan's economic development.

The nation looks up to the 'close friend and neighbor' India to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic. As a demonstration of the 'special ties' that the two countries enjoy, Prime Minister Modi agreed to the reprioritization of activities and projects supported by India under the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan. India has provided assistance of Nu. 4,500 crores and additional Nu. 400 crore for transitional trade support facility. Besides medical donations, India has ensured the supply of goods and essentials despite the lock-down in the neighboring country and has assured Thimphu that it would continue to stand alongside Bhutan, fighting the pandemic. Thus, Bhutan's cultural exuberance and neighboring ties shall aid it to foster resilience and come out stronger and better eventually.



# Surviving the uncertainty

**Riddhi Savla**  
**India**

COVID – 19, one of the most unbelievable things that happened to each and every one of us around the globe. This pandemic has surely been a rollercoaster ride for all of us. It all started with the nation-wide lockdown which was announced on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. All of us were somewhere super excited about getting work from home, kids getting holidays in school. Little did we know that we would be stuck in this lockdown for more than 3 months.

Social distancing has become the new normal! Staying away from family, friends has not been an easy task. This lockdown has surely bonded a lot of people, has made us realise the value of staying home, giving time to ourselves and our closed ones. However, with this, staying home has not been an easy task. Most of us have been going through physiological or psychological problems.

Here are the issues most of us have been facing: physiological problems – due to the lack of movement, our body has lost its flexibility and ability to function in a comfortable manner. Most of us sit at one place – be it working from home, binging on movies/series. There has been a lack of walking, moving around, working out which has led to body aches, weight gains, etc.

Moreover, it has largely taken a toll over our mental health. Being stuck at home, in the closed atmosphere, has been frustrating for most of us. Being a part of the millennial family, we are very familiar with having our weekends outside, exercising and doing physical activities outdoors. We are the ones who spend most of our day outdoors.

There also has been a drastic change in the economy.

It has become very difficult for the youth to find good internships, there is a slowdown in hiring people for jobs. People who already have a job are bundled up with extra work every day, even on weekends and then there are some who have been laid off. Many of us are studying and digital learning has been a boon for a lot of us but has been a disaster too for people who are very familiar and accustomed to offline, class learning.

Being stuck at home has not only been a disaster for us, but also for our parents, families. Dealing with each other 24x7 has not been easy. None of us have been able to get space for ourselves since all of us are together. It definitely has got our parents closer to us, but sometimes it is very frustrating when 5-6 different minds are dealing together locked up in the house.

This professional as well as personal atmosphere has caused a toll on our mental health. Most of us have been dealing with anger, frustration, depression, stress, anxiety. This has in turn led to sleeping and eating disorders. We all have deteriorated our health somewhere and caused mental problems for ourselves.

No doubt what we go through, every problem has a solution. Since most of us are youths and I could relate to most of you all, here are some simple changes/ practises I've carried out as the lockdown has passed by. It has not only eased my mental problems, but also made me happier and helped me accept the current situation and deal with it on a positive note.

Firstly, I have started smiling as soon as I wake up in the morning. It makes you realise that no matter what the world is going through there is always something you could do for yourself to make your day happy.



It moreover helps you start your day with a positive mind-set.

Meditation – I'm sure most of you all know how cliché this word is. But I have just been closing my eyes for 15 minutes and letting the thoughts flow randomly and trying to brush away the negativity. This helps me not only concentrate but also be mindful about everything I have been doing.

Exercising – It has been a crazy period where most of us can't go down for a walk with some fresh air. Most of us can't go to the gym (gym freaks, we know how tough it is for you all), can't play sports. But exercising at home – some yoga, or a small workout, does not cause harm at all. In fact, it helps you to get all negativity and stress out through some sweat. Also, it keeps you healthy.

Household chores – Most of us are not very used to doing any household chores. But this is the best time where we could all learn some household chores – cooking, decluttering, cleaning up our spaces/rooms. It helps you to kill time and also will make your mom happy.

New Skill - All of us have our bucket lists, where we would want to develop some new skills – like a small course, a new language. This is the best time – where you don't have to rush from one place to another to learn something now. All you need is some motivation to get up and do it.

Hobbies – All of us are passionate about something or the other – be it art, music, cooking, dancing, etc. Also, most of us do not get time because of our busy schedules. But I am sure we all can remove a bit of our time to do what we love. Also, this is the best time to get your creativity out.

Sleep – All of us probably have ruined our sleeping schedules. But lately I force myself to sleep on time and get a good sleep of 7 – 8 hours' which keeps me active and productive during the day!

Thus, I conclude that every problem has a solution, and let's not create a negative impact on ourselves. Always remember we all are together in this! And we all will get through this together being better human beings!



# How Bhutan's 20-year-old Film Industry is Taking a New Turn

**Muskaan Gupta**  
India

When Bhutan's first feature film—Gasa Lamai Singye hit the theatres in 1989, local filmmakers and producers had a daunting path paved ahead of them. The film industry of this monarchical kingdom was established in the mid-90s and has come a long way since then.

Bhutan's film industry has been producing an average of 20 films a year since 2010 and has a large appeal among the locals- for one, they're made in Dzongkha, the local language.

Often, the rise of its commercial film industry is linked to Tshering Wangyel's Rewaa, 1999, a story of two boys who fall in love with the same girl. It was released at the same time as when the country was introduced to television and internet. Since then there have been many local hits like Jig Drel, Travellers & Magicians, Bakchha and many more.

Landlocked between two culturally dominant giants, Bhutan has had its fair share of neighbourly influence. Bollywood films were a primary source of entertainment till the early 2000s. They later continued to mould the narratives of local productions. Bhutanese plots featured catchy songs and melodramatic themes since it was difficult to sell realism or experimental styles to an audience that demanded light comedic films.

While local films are still etched with Bollywood styles, a new wave of filmmakers has emerged. At Thimphu's Mountain Echoes literary festival in 2011, Tshering Gyeltshen questioned "How many of our films can we really call Bhutanese?" It was

true that most Bhutanese movies were adaptations of Indian films.

The growth of this parallel cinema remains slow but such dialogues have incited independent thinking and creativity. Movies have started to voice out social issues, cultural stigmas and themes of sexual awareness while still revolving around mysticism, folklore and superstitions.

Tashi Gyeltshen's The Red Phallus, a 2018 feature film revolving around a girl's confusion about her rural existence provided a new narrative. It was screened at the Busan International Film Festival in South Korea and later invited to the Berlinale.

However, this film industry as a whole is still taking baby steps as Bhutanese filmmakers are slowed down by logistical shortcomings. Boiled down funds lead to a lack of equipment. Producers have had a long history of renting filming equipment from Indian institutes.

Apart from the occasional international funding, the making of a film is a collective effort. Money is pooled in by producers and families, homes of friends are used for

filming. But the quality of production remains low due to the lack of film institutes and experience of the crew. For independent films with narratives revolving around taboos, finding



Bhutan houses just around 15 theatres across the country and makeshift screenings are set up in schools and auditoriums. But the overwhelming turn-out is what exalts this homegrown socio-cultural industry. Surprisingly, Bhutanese movies are widely popular in Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and in few areas of West Bengal. In pursuit of gross national happiness and a fear of stagnation of the art and revenue, branding the industry by giving it an identity was deemed necessary. After over a decade of this industry's presence, in 2013, the government finally laid a national policy to strengthen and uplift its nascent development.

The Land of Thunder Dragon, with its snow-capped mountains, exquisite architecture, scenic rivers and valleys provides extensive cinematographic potential. So, it only made sense to put revenue into this show business. Bhutan keenly looks forward to building its 'film city' in Thimphu which would heighten the country's charm.

With an aim to set a global image, Bhutanese culture, traditions and history are being amplified through their movies with larger insights into the routine lives of the people.

The idea is to share the glories of the Happy Kingdom and stir a cultural bout— attract tourists, foreign filmmakers and investors. Plans for outreach and promotions are also included in the policy to push the growth.

After several international successes of movies like *The Cup*, 1999 which received a critical acclamation overseas and *Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom* which left a 'lasting impression' at the 25th Kolkata International Film Festival, the industry has also started to animate. Based on a Bhutanese folklore, *Ap Bokto* became the first full length 3D animated film to be made locally in 2014. Two years later, *Drukten-The Dragon's Treasure*, was released as the first 2D animation movie.

Foreign film screenings are gradually reducing and the local films in Dzongkhka have taken precedence. The love for local films has allowed filmmakers to think big. Every year with new advancements, the core of this Bhutanese industry strengthens. With evolving ideas, wider acceptance and of course, the logistical development, the future seems rampant for the local filmmakers.



# Class of 2020: Launching into a Pandemic

*Cyril Cherian*  
*India*

The developed world had witnessed its deepest recession since the post-war period, in the early 1980s.

A 1973 oil crisis, followed by an energy crisis in 1979, led to a debt emergency across Latin America and had crippled the American economy to a point of stagflation. The recession had affected a young generation in ways one could have never thought of.

Graduates and technicians launching their careers in the early '80s were the worst affected. A study of those in the US, who graduated during the deep recession of 1981-82, showed a heightened mortality between 30 and 50 years of age, compared to their juniors or seniors who had entered the market slightly ahead or a few years later. Such individuals were less likely to be married, had a higher rate of childlessness, and were more likely to get divorced. The data further suggested that the cases were linked more often than not to heart diseases, lung disorders, cancer, or a drug overdose.

Yale School of Management economist Lisa Kahn's research is most cited during and after every major economic slump, where the job market is particularly involved. Kahn's report pointed out that those having to graduate during a recession earned 7 to 8 percent less than their counterparts who were out at a better time. It referred to a December 1982 case study where the unemployment ratio was at a 10.8 percent, a typical graduate would earn 23 percent less in his first year out of college, and up to 6.36 percent less 18 years after, than someone who had graduated in May 1981 when the unemployment rate was at a 7.5 percent.

For those graduating this time around, the unique 'Class of 2020,' the lockdown has further dampened their spirits. Unlike those in the US and other parts of the world, students in India, especially the ones in Kerala had to leave campuses on very short notice.

The Kerala Government had initiated a partial lockdown in early March as the number of infected cases peaked and schools, colleges, religious centers, and all public gatherings had so been shut.

It seemed like a breather in between the internals, assignments, and the projects. But then the days turned to weeks and weeks turned to months, and this now seems eternal.

The Directorate of Technical Education had insisted on colleges across the state to begin online classes for the remainder of the semester to cope up with the academic loss due to the subsequent lockdowns.

Lakshya Sharma, a fourth-year student of architecture at Madhav Institute of Technology and Science, Gwalior believes that the present situation will hasten the shift towards getting things online.

"I've been putting some thought into how the courses at graduate schools would change as the need to be physically present wanes. Remote work would be encouraged by companies and the intervention of Artificial Intelligence would force industries to lay off more employees. Since physical interactions have been limited, and people have grown increasingly cautious, online courses might be the way forward. Platforms such as edX and Coursera which have stepped in to offer additional skills to users might go on to become real substitutes for college degrees in the future."

The biggest names in tech have been preparing for a post-pandemic world for some time now. Silicon Valley giants such as Microsoft, Apple, Facebook, and Twitter have all formulated measures for remote work even after the COVID-19 phase passes. Such a shift would provide future recruits with the right talent to work within the confines of their homes, without the hassle



of waiting for visas and relocating to a foreign environment.

Some idealists believe that jobs in the core sectors will need a considerable amount of human intervention to function. The coronavirus scare might hinder the association of people in closed quarters for quite a while but things might turn to normal in a short period, they say.

A massive retrenchment is taking place in India and around the world in the garb of the Covid-19 crisis. Uber, Ola, Swiggy, and Paytm had laid off hundreds of their employees in the months between February and May 2020. Fresh graduates will have to be content with what the employer offers and will not have much leverage on necessities such as pay and incentives.

The pandemic has severely affected economies around the world with relatively modest reserves and natural resources.

Fresh graduates say that they've got themselves into a predicament with the ongoing situation, but there exists no other option than to move on.

The market is in a scenario today where hundreds are competing for a single position. Wary that they won't be paid according to their skill set, they've chosen to get on the job train rather than stand idle and lose an opportunity. They are of the opinion that the bargaining power rests with the employer over the employee in the type of situation we're in today.

Rangjung Dorji, a final year Power Engineering undergraduate at Jigme Namgyel Engineering College in Bhutan is unsure of what lies ahead in the aftermath of the pandemic.

"I was hoping to graduate on time but completely forgot the notion I'd be unemployed. A considerable number of graduates move out of the country for higher studies to countries such as India, Australia, and South Korea but the same won't be the case this year as Bhutan remains among the safest of nations concerning the coronavirus situation."

The Himalayan nation of Bhutan has had the lowest recorded cases of coronavirus in the Indian subcontinent as the Kingdom laid much emphasis on its healthcare services.

There is a growing sentiment among the youth today around the world that the governments have let them down. Besides the inefficiency of administrations to handle the health pandemic, policies haven't been

At least 14 crore workers had lost their jobs in March alone according to data by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, catapulting India's unemployment rate from 8 percentage to an unprecedented 26 percentage. The economic frailties of the Great Depression were eclipsed by the war effort and the rapid progress that came soon afterward. The early 1980's recession was followed by a phase of rapid recovery. After the Great Recession of 2008, a rise in stock markets in the subsequent years slowly helped a crippled economy. But the future looks bleak this time with the coronavirus pandemic tagging along.


French economist Thomas Piketty had equated India's glaring inequality of wealth and income in 2017 to that of the British Raj. This is an India looted left and right of its manpower and natural resources amidst the Great Bengal Famine. It's high time we retrospect on what went wrong down the line. In any growing economy, exponential development is expected as the years go by. Bad economic policies by the government had brought businesses to their knees. SME's and Kirana stores which were slowly recovering from the effects of demonetization were struck by the GST bill, the final nail in the coffin. As entrepreneurs ran out of money, workers lost jobs and unemployment rates soared.

India's agricultural sector accounts for 18 percent of India's GDP and employs almost 50 percent of the country's workforce.

The agricultural sector has been devastated. Farmers have been deprived of their wages. Unless swooping changes are made at grassroots levels, there will be no visible growth in the domestic product. The middle and lower-middle classes constitute a major chunk of the economy. Their pleas are to be addressed. Money should be placed directly in their hands. Sadly, the pandemic has hindered all hopes of a resurgence.

Pronab Sen, a former Chief Statistician of India in an analysis published in 'Ideas for India,' notes that the Indian economy will contract this fiscal year, as well as for 2021-22. He goes on to say that 2021-22 period would witness a GDP growth rate of -8.8 percentage, which in actuality would mean to be the biggest depression in India's independent history. The United States' Congressional Budget Office had signaled that the US economy would take almost a decade to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

Experts suggest governments begin a major revival scheme to eradicate mass unemployment. Erstwhile American President Franklin D Roosevelt enacted a series of programs, public projects, and financial reforms in his 'New Deal' policy soon after the Great Depression, which called on the youth to plant

The background of the page is a faded, low-angle photograph of a large group of graduates in black gowns. They are all looking upwards with expressions of joy and excitement, and many of their hands are raised in the air. Several black graduation caps are captured mid-air, having been tossed by the graduates. The scene is set outdoors under a bright sky. The entire page is framed by a thick orange border on the top, right, and bottom edges.

trees and maintain parks and gardens. Millions of young Americans were ultimately employed as part of the program.

The Indian Army has proposed a three-year internship opportunity for young people, citing a growing renewal of “nationalism and patriotism” while at the same time, acknowledging that “unemployment in our country is a reality.”

Most of the young people, called Generation Z weren't politically aware, but the pandemic has made them think otherwise. These young men and women caught in the middle will be greatly involved in everything from health, environment, economics, and policy issues. They might grow on to become a generation that is resilient and unbeatable, sane to believe that nothing would be handed down on a silver platter.

Now if the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that life is riddled with uncertainties. What truly matters is how we cope to live with them in a fresh reality.



# How Indian Matchmaking depicts the ugly side of Indian arranged marriages

Jenissa Paharia  
India

When I first heard of the show 'Indian Matchmaking', I was weirdly excited about it. My friends were buzzing on and on about how it had elements of humor, but at the same time was deeply problematic. As a teenager, I need my daily dose of entertainment and that was what I was expecting from this show when I first started watching it, simply some light humor and fun during the quarantine.

After watching the eight-part series that Netflix so proudly calls a "Netflix Original" I was quite shocked. Watching Sima Tapari, a matchmaker from Mumbai use her upper-class contacts to match individuals and eventually have them married I realized how negatively this show was trying to idolize men and trying to fulfill all their needs and wants.

Arranged marriages in India have been around for decades and it is no secret that it involves casteism, colorism, wealth, and patriarchy. The show not only demeans women and undermines the fight millions of us have been battling against gender inequality and patriarchy. Furthermore, it intensifies the baffling truths about Indian arranged marriages.

Taparia proudly talks about how women need to "compromise" in order to have a successful marriage. A marriage is supposed to be a fundamental understanding between two individuals where they are equal partners in life. Throughout the show, Taparia is seen talking only about women with regards to their physical appearance, and in no manner does she support their choices of working and focusing on themselves. Taparia openly points out the deep-rooted insecurities of her clients, mostly the female ones. She outright judges women for being independent and regards them fickle for rejecting men who only want women that are 'fair, tall, slim and trim'. When Aparna, one of Sima's clients boldly shares her thoughts about the kind of guy she is looking for, Taparia calls her "stubborn, demanding, arrogant, and rude". Aparna herself is a lawyer and wishes to work and stand on her own feet, although Taparia constantly calls her out for her firm attitude.

According to Sima, she is doing god's work while casually telling women how they need to be 'adjusting, compromising, and flexible' in order to find a boy for themselves, but continues to bring

abundant matches for Pradyuman, who had already rejected over 150 women because they just weren't appealing enough. While Sima could have been an individual that supports women empowerment, she is only deteriorating the handwork that a female has put into building her own life and completely ignoring the struggles of breaking the corporate glass ceiling.

A statement that was endorsed over and over again was "marriage is about families and not just two individuals". Caring about your family and your loved ones is crucial and there is no denial in that, although when Taparia only makes it seem like the girl has to adjust to the family, it puts immense pressure on the person and makes marriage seem like a business deal. While Taparia worked with Akshay, a 25-year-old boy from Mumbai, it was made clear that Akshay only wanted his wife to stick to household chores and look after their children when they would come along..

Akshay made it clear that he would not like his wife to work and rather reduce the workload of his mother by helping out with the homemaking. The fact that Sima continues to work with certain clients depicts the negligence that she has towards women having the choice of working and carrying forward the wrong idea of marriage

When a person looks for a partner, yes the background of that person is crucial and to some extent may determine their personality. Just because a woman is divorced and has a child from her first marriage, does not mean she will not be accepted into society. While Taparia was working with such a client, she made it absolutely clear that finding her a match would be extremely difficult and that no family would accept the girl easily. Additionally, it puts forth the wrong idea about how families in India are.

We really need better shows in India which empower women more strongly.





# South Asian Women and the Spaces of Cricket

**Kuber Bathla**  
**India**

History tells us that the boundaries of sport have been drawn by men who created spatial rules for different games, in order to define spatial limits of the same. Through such limits, certain bodies were excluded from sport because of their gender and/or race identity.

Patricia Vertinsky, a research scholar from the University of British Columbia, argued that male construction of sport determined who counted as an athlete and who did not. Similarly, John Bale argued that women were considered to be spectators and consumers of sport, and not as individuals who could participate in a similar capacity like men.

In her thesis submitted to the University of Toronto, Razack Sabrina argues that these inequities continue in the present era where there are invisible barriers for women in sport spaces. They have been victims of continuing masculinist discourses within sport spaces.

For the purpose of this article, the focus shall be on South Asian women, since they experience double-jeopardy through obstacles in the form of gender and culture. While Sabrina's paper talks about the experiences of South Asian women in Canada, an idea of their struggles can be deduced from it.


Cricket originated in the West, and as a result, the ideologies associated with it are often incompatible

with South Asian culture and social realities, which is amplified in the case of women. For instance, a South Asian Woman, apart from her gender identity, is weighed down by a dominant culture that demands her to stay home in a 'protected environment'. This problem increases in the case of cricket as matches are long, most of them lasting for three or more days.

The spaces of cricket have been historically dominated by white males from the West, donning a white attire which indicates their privileged status. John Bale, a research scholar, argued that the colour white signifies purity, innocence and cleanliness, and is a representative of cricket's idealist status of being a gentleman's game. Such spaces are therefore dominated by the ideals of colonialism, race and imperialism. Historically, women were supposed to dress in their finest clothing and reach avenues to watch matches, and their role was limited to sipping tea with elegance.

Such spaces were the breeding grounds for the rules of cricket. Naturally, the rules that emerged from the aforementioned characteristics of these spaces were masculine in shape and effect. The rule book encouraged the supremacy of physical strength and force, which are historically attributed to men. Women, on the other hand, do not find a home in these rules, and neither are they supposed to, as per societal standards. Such spaces depict production and reproduction of power as well.





In South Asia, cricket spaces have always been dominated by men, who have been extensively covered by the media as well. Women's cricket, on the other hand, is seen as a game of weaklings. I believe this happens due to two reasons. First, Women's cricket is largely overshadowed by Men's cricket in the media and elsewhere. Second, Men's cricket, which has sheer popularity among South Asians, shows women in a certain light that makes their identity subordinate to men, especially when it comes to the idea of power. For instance, women commentators, apart from being rare, aren't expected to give insights on the game, and they naturally assume their role as hosts. Their presence then becomes an attempt to bring 'glamour' to the set. In terms of culture, South Asians are quite accustomed to the term 'Generation Gap'. Owing to exponential growth in the past few decades, a cultural clash is evident between the elders and the young. The emergence of this cultural clash was parallel to the growth of Women's cricket in these nations. As a result, women had to, and continue to, face binaries of unattainable expressions where they are expected to negotiate with their identities to exist within these binaries. As Sabrina puts it, 'A modern working woman is encouraged to fulfil expectations of both a traditional and non-traditional woman'.

Scholars believe that equity within such spaces can be brought by challenging the exclusionary practices of the game, among other things. Having conversations about such practices can be the entry point for such changes. For instance, having a woman as the next President of India's cricket board might lead to a change in the perspective of people towards Women's cricket. This, however, does not ensure the removal of exclusionary practices.

Cricket might change with its viewers. Taking a cue from Aamir Khan's *Lagaan*, South Asian place their aspirations heavily in the game of cricket, as the spaces symbolize colonial oppression, and the rival teams outside Asia are associated with the idea of colonialism. It is linked to the idea of destinies. When the game is associated with things like physical strength and prowess by its own viewers, the dominance of men continues. A change in the perspective of viewers, perhaps by regarding female players as challengers of colonial oppression may bring a much-needed change.



# Lokatantra and digital democracy

Tannisha Avarrsekar  
India

The first step to holding our leaders accountable is being accountable for our own votes- with that philosophy in mind I founded Loktantra.in, in March last year. What started off then as an attempt to help out some friends figure out how to vote and who to vote for, has today blossomed into an online platform that simplifies political processes for thousands of Mumbaikars.

Lokatantra connects leaders and citizens, and answers all voting-related how, when, where, and who questions. With no affiliations to any party, person, or ideology, the site promises you honest and unbiased information to help you make the most of your right to vote.

The communication gap between governors and those being governed creates an environment of mistrust and inefficiency. And Lokatantra promises to try to bridge this abyss one stone at a time, for society can only thrive when all of its members actively participate in its progress.

We do extensive research to collect all the information that voters need to know about their candidates and the voting process, verify its authenticity and then organize it in a manner that makes it quick and easy to understand. On the flip side, we collect data on citizens' opinions on key issues through polls and surveys, and then analyze and publish the results, to aid in the decision-making process of leaders.

The subject matter on all of Lokatantra's platforms consciously stays clear of providing any opinion in its reporting and thus appeals to users looking to be made abreast of the country's complex political landscape with facts bare of political ideology. Unlike most usual news agencies, the content on Lokatantra presumes unfamiliarity of the reader with the topic, thereby being more encouraging for novices. With our primary focus on accuracy, we also provide a feature known as "Fact-Tantra" which checks and calls out alternative facts. All the information shared on the portal is thoroughly corroborated and referenced to ensure correctness and reliability.

Some of the Lokatantra's flagship campaigns have included the "The Loka Dictionary" which is a glossary of political terms, and "The Loka" which is a collective of stories of the heroes that drive our democracy. We frequently partner with likened NGOs to employ our burgeoning influence to advance important social causes such as children's education, and women's safety.

The Lokatantra.in website & mobile application prides itself on its treasury of information about each and every candidate from the Mumbai City district. This extensive material includes details about these candidates' educational qualifications, past political affiliations, career highlights, controversies, criminal records, and standpoints on critical debates.

The platform also allows users to ask candidates questions, as well as rate them so as to help other voters from their constituency make their choice.

Before an election, Lokatantra interviews all the candidates standing, with a uniform questionnaire to gather their opinions on issues that play a key role in deciding who to vote for and are yet often not a part of mainstream discourse. The answers from these interviews are then fed into an algorithm, which allows voters to answer the very same questions, and then ranks the candidates in their constituency based on how much their political opinions match. What makes this quiz truly extraordinary is the fact that it takes into account the nuances of one's answers, by letting you weigh how much each issue affects your vote.

Built on the principle and passion for democracy, we have designed our features including this one with the intent to level the playing field for independents, by giving them the same amount of value and attention as candidates from major parties. This encourages new people and fresh ideas into an industry, that is otherwise not welcoming of newcomers.



So much of youth today is chastised for being idealistic when we believe that we can make a difference. But ideals are visions of a better world that are meant to be fostered not crushed, and Lokatantra strives towards one of good governance where leaders and citizens can meet each other halfway.

India has 600 million people under the age of 25, making us the country with the largest number of young people in the world. You're really telling me we can't change something if we want to?



# India & Bhutan: A Tale of Exemplary Friendship

**Utkarsh Dixit**  
**India**

Bhutan is a landlock country located in Eastern Himalayas which shares its boundaries with India and China. In 1910, Bhutan became the protectorate of the British India after signing the Treaty of Punakha, but when India gained independence in 1947, Bhutan was among the first nations to recognise it, and since then, the relationship between both the countries has remained sturdy.

In 1949, both the nations signed the Indo-Bhutan Friendship Treaty where both the countries laid down the free trade agreement, extradition protocols, assistance in foreign policy of Bhutan, amicable settlement of any dispute and also decided that both the nations shall not interfere in their respective internal affairs. In 1958, the First Indian PM Jawahar Lal Nehru visited Bhutan for strengthening the bilateral ties and he assured Bhutan of its continued assistance and publicly stated that any offence committed against Bhutan would be seen as an offence against India.

Since last many decades, both countries have shared mutual trust, cooperation and admiration that have characterised the exclusive and special friendship,

anchored in mutual understanding, reinforced by a shared cultural heritage and strong people to people links between India and Bhutan. Due to this strong bilateral relations, Bhutanese PM Tshering Tobgay attended the swearing-in ceremony of the Indian PM Narendra Modi in 2014. Meanwhile, Bhutan was among the first nations to be visited by PM Modi after getting elected in 2014 and 2019.

In 2014, PM Modi visited Bhutan for inaugurating the Supreme Court building which was constructed with the assistance of Indian government. He also agreed to fund the construction of hydroelectric dams through a 70 per cent loan and a 30 per cent grant by the Indian government.

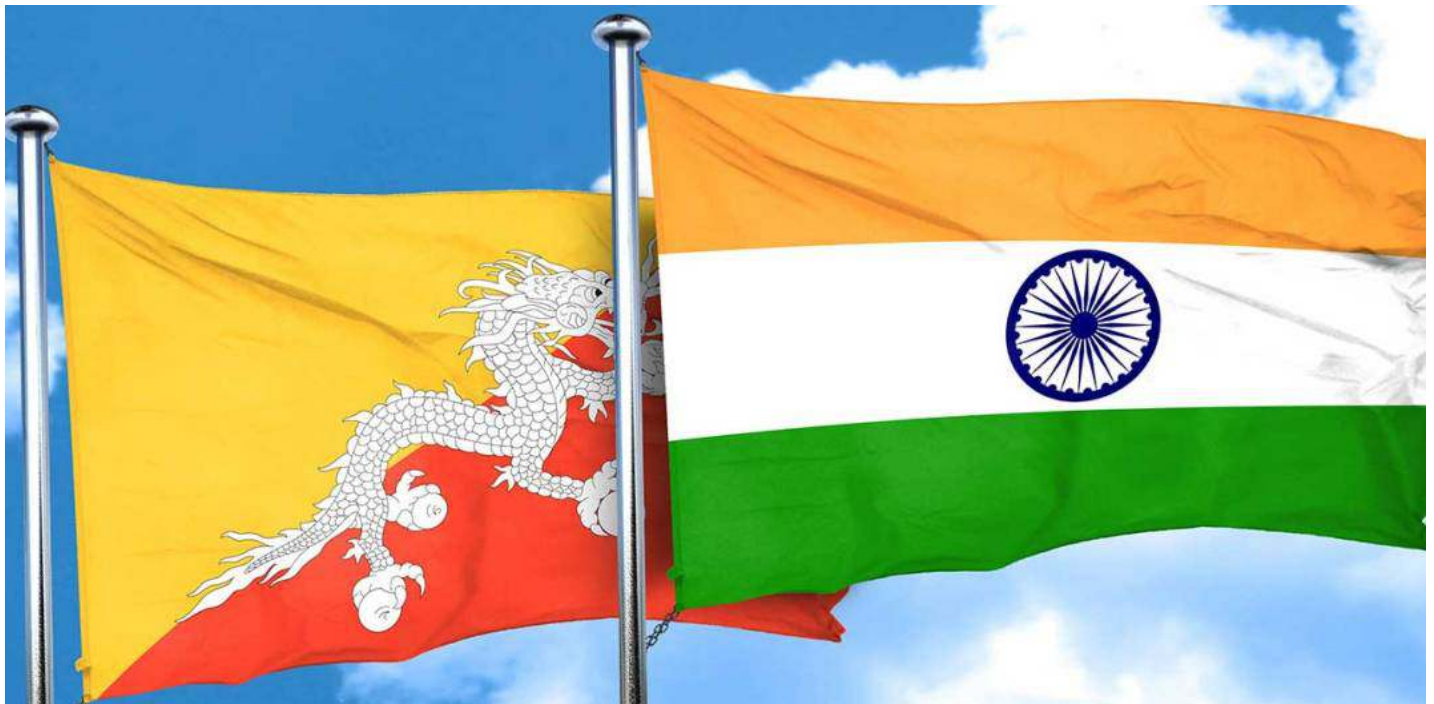
After winning the 2019 elections, PM Modi visited Bhutan under 'Neighbourhood First' policy and made a remark about the Indo-Bhutan relations that, "Who will not want a friend and neighbour like Bhutan". He also promised that India will keep supporting the trade facilities in Bhutan by offering special financial assistance.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> SAARC summit, India mooted the idea of use of South Asian Satellite (SAS) for the SAARC nations to boost entertainment, banking, education and disaster management sectors. Accordingly, a satellite tracking and data reception centre was also built in Thimphu by the Indian government with the assistance of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Moreover, in continuation to the Indo-Bhutan Friendship Treaty of 1949 and 2007, recently, India and Bhutan took a major step by signing a concession agreement for the 600 MW Kholongchhu Indo-Bhutan joint venture hydroelectric project in the virtual presence of External Affairs Minister of both nations. This agreement paved way for the commencement of construction and other works by Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited, a joint venture company between India (Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited) and Bhutan (Druk Green Power Corporation). It is the first Joint Venture Hydroelectric Project between India and Bhutan.

With this, four hydroelectric projects of bilateral cooperation (336 MW Chukha HEP, 60 MW Kurichhu HEP, 1,020 MW Tala HEP and 720 MW Mangdechhu HEP), have been built in the last 30 years totalling a capacity of 2,100 MW and another two are under construction. By 2021, India would help Bhutan in installing 10,000 MW of hydroelectric capacity.

The traces of the strong bonding and friendship between India and Bhutan was evident when Bhutan helped in clearing the blockage of informal irrigation channels into the Indian fields in Assam, the Doklam issue, India's supply of hydroxychloroquine to Bhutan during the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, the help of Royal Bhutanese Army against ULFA, China's OBOR initiative etc. According to a recent data of the Tourism Council of Bhutan, more than 65% of the total tourists in Bhutan are from India. Moreover, the value of the Bhutanese currency Ngultrum is tied to the Indian Rupee which proves the deep and strong friendship ties between the nations.





Bhutan is a praiseworthy nation in several aspects. Their policies and initiatives can be adopted by every country. Bhutan, the happiest and most peaceful nation in the world, doesn't measure its progress by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but by Gross National Happiness (GNH) which was coined by the fourth king of Bhutan His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck in 1972. Unlike GDP, GNH stresses the importance of living harmony with nature and traditional values. It has four pillars namely, sustainable and equitable socio-economic development, environmental conservation, preservation and promotion of culture, and good governance. Later, the United Nations Organisation introduced this idea in 2011, encouraging its member nations to follow the example of Bhutan, and called happiness a "fundamental human goal".

Similarly, Bhutan is one of the many biodiversity conservation hotspots in the world dedicatedly pursuing the commitment to the maintenance of its biodiversity. It is reflected in its decision to maintain at least 60% of the land area under forest cover as per the Constitution, to designate more than 40% of its territory as national parks, reserves and other protected areas, and most recently to identify a further 9% of land area as biodiversity corridors linking the protected areas, making Bhutan the first and the only carbon negative country in the world.

In spite of having numerous mineral deposits, the country prefers environmental conservation over making mining legal in the country. Moreover, Bhutan follows the policy of "high value, low volume" in tourism. To protect its ecology, Bhutan imposes a Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) which makes it one of the most exclusive destinations in the world. For international tourist, Bhutan charges \$250 as minimum charge per day per person (which includes \$65 Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) as well as \$40 visa charge), and recently SDF has been extended even to the citizens of India, Bangladesh and Maldives at Rs. 1200 per day per person.

Bhutan has not shied away in adopting policies like restricting smoking in public and making sale of tobacco illegal, providing free education and healthcare to all its citizens, imposing ban on the use of plastic and killing of birds and animals, etc. Such decisions are indicative that Bhutan is leading the world through its examples. It is not just extraordinary in nature and praiseworthy, but are models that can actually be adopted by countries all across to make a deep impact at a global level. By following the example of Bhutan, we shall not just secure our today but shall also leave a better world for our tomorrow.



# Re-defining India

The job, which our community respects the most, that of the police officers is to ensure that the citizens feel safe and reassured. The trust and faith they had built with the society is slowly dying out. This is where I come in the picture; I propose a plan to change the look of the police station, in turn changing the working environment. This is what India needs, what our community needs.

The police deserves better infrastructure and facilities to fight the crime and keep the citizens safe. I believe that this will be a uniting factor, something which can act as a gesture of restoring the faith back in the system. According to a very credible video documentary ' *Police Station :The View From Outside* ', the conditions are so horrible that a commoner like me and you feel like we are "being punished" after entering a police station. Very little research has been done on the public use of police stations, but it is still used by people for a couple of reasons which mainly include reporting a crime. Research shows at least one person out of three has visited a police station every year. These numbers are quite high yet these spaces are not designed to accommodate the public.

In India, the police stations have not been designed; rather they are usually a rectangular building where the police officers, offenders and public have no segregated spaces. We are yet following the designs of people who ruled us for several years. Do you want India to dwell in the past and not look forward to the future? I know that we are yet a developing country but this is exactly the reason we should take more initiatives compared to the other developed countries to compete with them. With newer technological advancements, there needs to be assigned spaces for the equipment. Even the police officers do not feel a sense of belonging to the police station. Providing better infrastructure with improved designs including nature lighting, spatial planning and other requirements can help boost the efficiency and morale of the police. According to case studies done by me in one of my academic studios, I mapped down all the police stations in Mumbai. In one case, the police station was the ground floor of a residential building. This really affects how the public and the government perceives the police system.

Engaging the public via neighbourhood policing will not only bring down the crime rate but also help break down the barrier between the public and the police. This will also lead to a lot of interactive sessions and help address the issues faced by the people and make the entire process transparent in comparison to the current one. This will also bring down corruption. Creating further activities which involve interactions which the police will allow the residents of the area to get to know their police forces on a more personal level and will reduce this fear and the stigma against the police. Designing the building to be less intimidating and authoritative is also a step forward. The entrances to the building need to be of a human scale and welcoming and the building in general should be more outward looking so that people do not shy away from the police. Currently, police stations have no provisions for the officers. During the case study we found that most of the police stations do not have separate rooms where one can rest for a while or even spend the night since officers are constantly required to stay back for night shifts. Some stations offer a single bed placed in the inspectors room. PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder) is a mental health condition triggering anxiety or nightmare triggered by terrifying events. A lot of officers suffer from PTSD from years spent in the service yet nothing has been incorporated in the design to attain this problem. The people who diligently serve our country should not even have a thought about suffering from a mental illness. Are you willing to place your loving life in the hands of a mentally unfit person? Do you think officers who risk their lives protecting ours should go through this? I certainly disagree and strongly believe that the current circumstances have led us to bring new changes. This is why police stations must have therapy rooms, open spaces with tranquil environments and meditation rooms where the officers can take a break. Providing these few changes and better infrastructure to the police, would not only keep the mental stresses at check but also enhance the efficiency of the police. Hence, they would be able to serve the citizens better which is not only their duty but also the right of the citizen.

**Sanskriti Jaain Nainutia**  
**India**

**Explore Culture**



# Eco-living! a comic

Shailesh Gupta  
India

Shailesh wrote this comic when he was in Odisha as part of the India Fellow fellowship program.

IT'S BEEN NEARLY 2 MONTHS, I JOINED INDIA FELLOW AND LIVING AMIDST OF MOUNTAINS IN KASHIPUR, ODISHA.

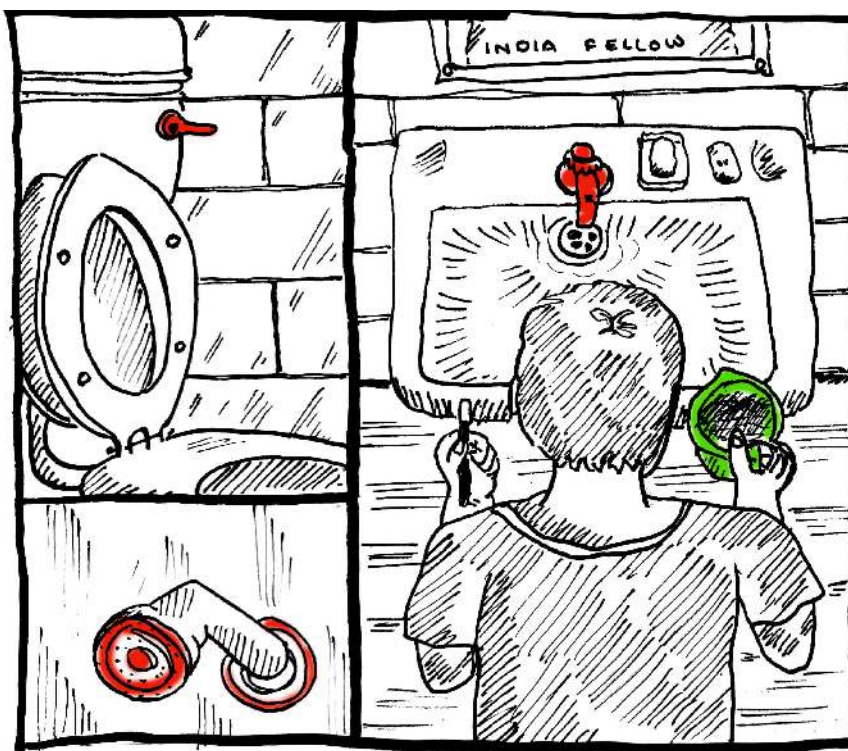
IT'S ALSO CALLED SECOND KASHMIR OF ODISHA. THAT ANALOGY IS FUNNY BUT WE HUMANS ARE FUNNY ANYWAYS.



"WE PRAY INVISIBLE GOD WHILE DESTROYING LIFE-GIVING NATURE."

\*PSST. I COPIED THIS FROM WHATSAPP\*

SO HERE IS MY ECO-FRIENDLY INADVERTENT EARTHLING EXPERIENCE TO YOU MY FELLOW EARTHLINGS.



NO WASTING "WATER"

NO SHOWERS, DITCHING RUNNING TAP WATER AND NO FLUSH, SAVING NEARLY 2 LITRES AND MORE EVERYDAY.

(45 DAYS IN KASHIPUR, SAVED 90L ALREADY)

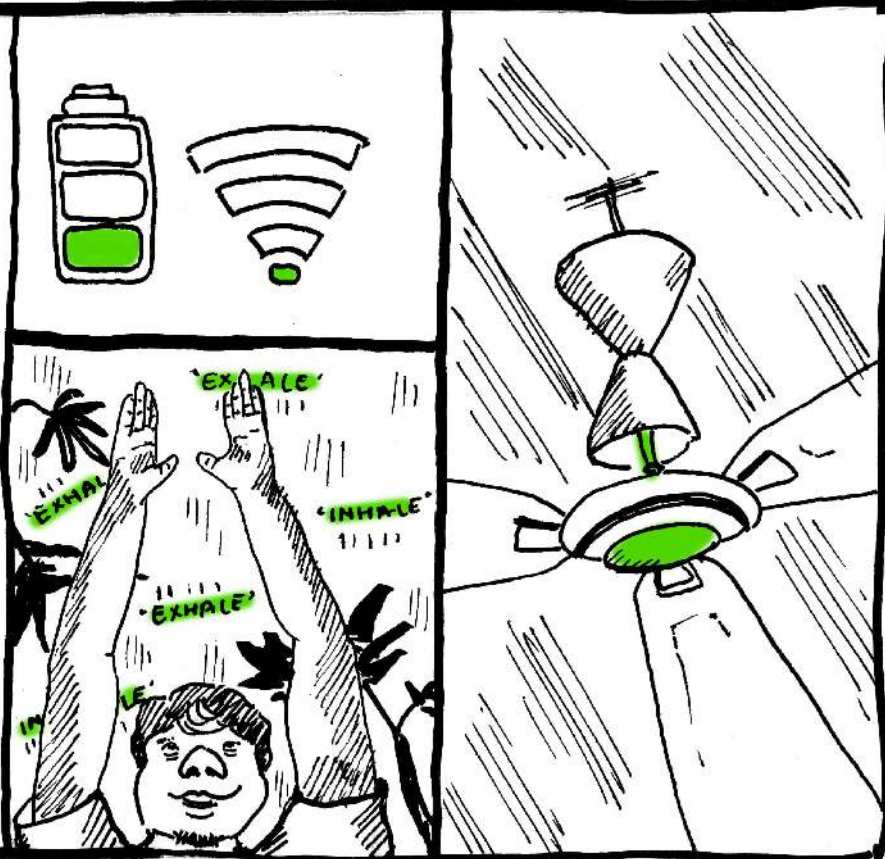
\*\*FUTURE GENERATIONS, YOU CAN THANK ME LATER, QUITE LITERALLY\*\*

NO WASTING "ELECTRICITY"

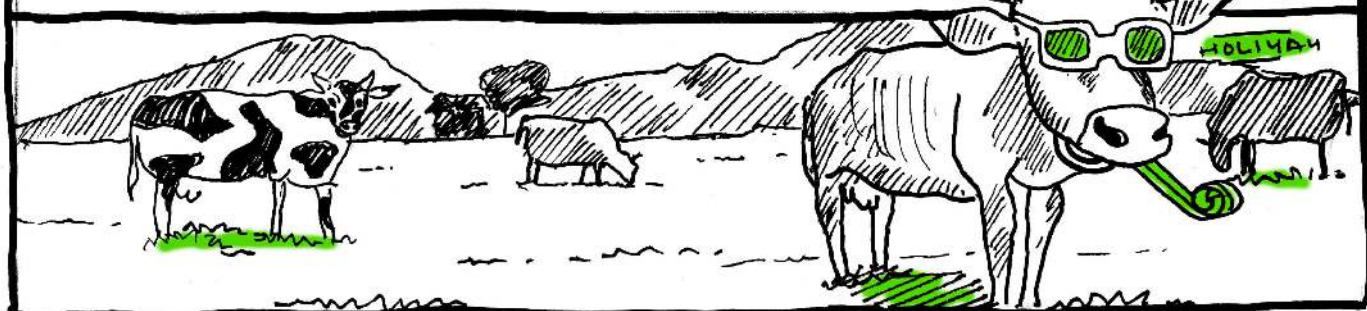
6 HOURS AVERAGE  
ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION.

NO WIFI NO FANS NO  
IRON NO TRIMMERS AND  
MOVING FROM NO GYM  
EQUIPMENTS TO  
YOGAAHH...

\*OOHHMMM\*



LESS ENERGY CONSUMPTION. 50% LESS NON VEGETARIAN FOOD INTAKE, THENCE SAVING 150%, 3  
TIMES MORE ENERGY. BOOYAH! NO MILK, SAVING COWS FROM BARBARIC VIOLENCE AND PAIN \*I  
REALIZE I WAS UNCONSCIOUSLY BRUTAL. BUT IT'S HARD. I LOUVE CHICKEN AND SHEEP



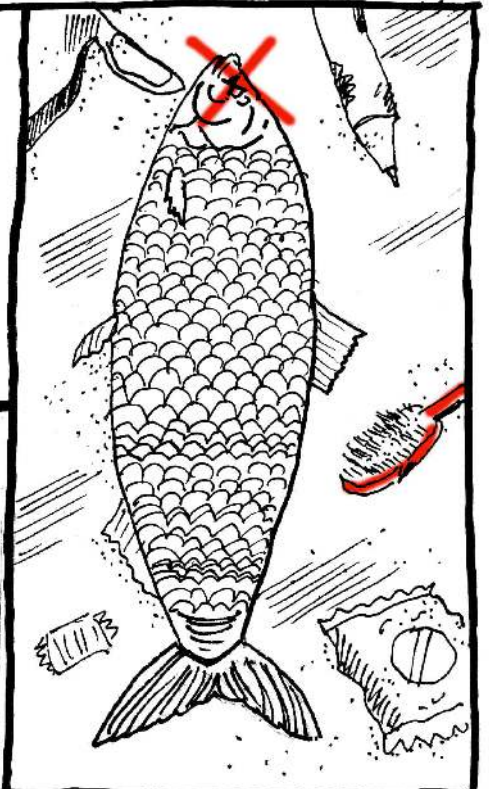
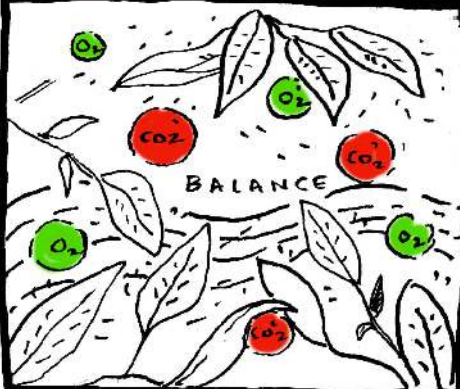


### LESS PLASTICS

AS MESS MANAGER, I REDUCED PLASTIC USAGE 3 TIMES. JUST, BY CARRYING BAGS FOR VEGETABLES AND ACCEPTING NO POLYTHENES

INCINERATING MY PLASTIC WASTE. INSTEAD OF ENDING IN RIVER BEDS AND KILLING FISHES. CO<sub>2</sub> EMMITED WILL DISSEMINATE WITH THE HELP OF ABUNDANT VEGETATION.

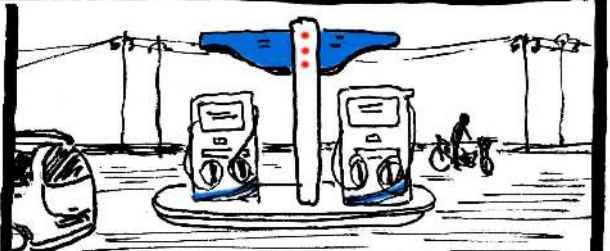
(SMART RIGHT! \*WINK-WINK\*)



### NO WASTING "PETROL AND LPG"

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION PER MONTH, WHEN I LIVED IN BHOPAL WAS 12 L AND NOW REDUCED TO 2L. (SADLY NO FAR AWAY FRIENDS TO VISIT TOO.)

AND SAVING LPG BY COOKING OVER FIRE WOOD. (THIS WOOD CONSISTS OF FALLEN STICKS, BAMBOO AND TRUNKS. WHILE BAMBOO GROWS QUICKLY, ORGANIZATION PLANTS TREES AND ORCHIDS TOO.)







# Explore culture