

## Kathmandu: The city of possibilities

### Riga Sharma and Minerva Chuni Ongmu Karki

Kasthamandap and Kantipur are the same Kathmandu we now live in. Though many things are changed over time, it still carries its unique history. Many researchers and excavators believe that events like the rise of the Himalayas and natural draining of Kathmandu from its southern end made it habitable. On the contrary, there is a religious belief that Manjushree (a Buddhist saint who personifies wisdom and carries a sword of wisdom) saw a lotus flower in the middle of the lake. Then, he decided to cut a gorge at Chobar to allow the lake to drain to make the place habitable. The place where the lotus flower was settled is the site of the Swayambhunath stupa. This information was published in a book of 'Daniel Wright'<sup>1</sup> as well.

Kathmandu was successful in attracting about 1.7 million people on 2018<sup>2</sup> (data from Wikipedia) and that was before the outbreak of Corona. We believe this is all thanks to the monuments and structures built in the Lichchhavi period and Malla period. These periods are known as the Golden Age of Sculptures in the history of Kathmandu. Tourists are mainly attracted to Kathmandu by the beauty of its nature and heritage sites. Hence, we have included the conservation of our natural heritages in our Dream Kathmandu. Our plans and ideas are to make Kathmandu a way better place to live without the danger of harming our environment. We also plan to keep it lively by not letting its old beauty vanish. We dream of a magnificent Kathmandu with lots of facilities. The ideal Kathmandu designed and planned by us will be an epitome of technological advancement with regards to environmental factors. Our plan involves everything from great architectural feats to green spaces all around.

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<sup>1</sup> History of Nepal by Daniel Wright, produced by Asian Educational Services, 1877

<sup>2</sup> Nepal Tourism Board , 2018.



An eco-friendly House

Source: depositphotos.com

Firstly, all the 50 plus years old houses made up of cement will be demolished, but not the traditional styled houses. The traditional ones will be preserved and modified. It will be strong and earthquake resistant. They will be with facilities like proper cable and internet facilities and will remain of its old style. We ought to preserve the style we are known for. When people read about the history of Nepalese architecture and about architects like great Araniko, we will be able to live up to the tales and creations of our

ancestors and invoke a certain pride for our architecture.

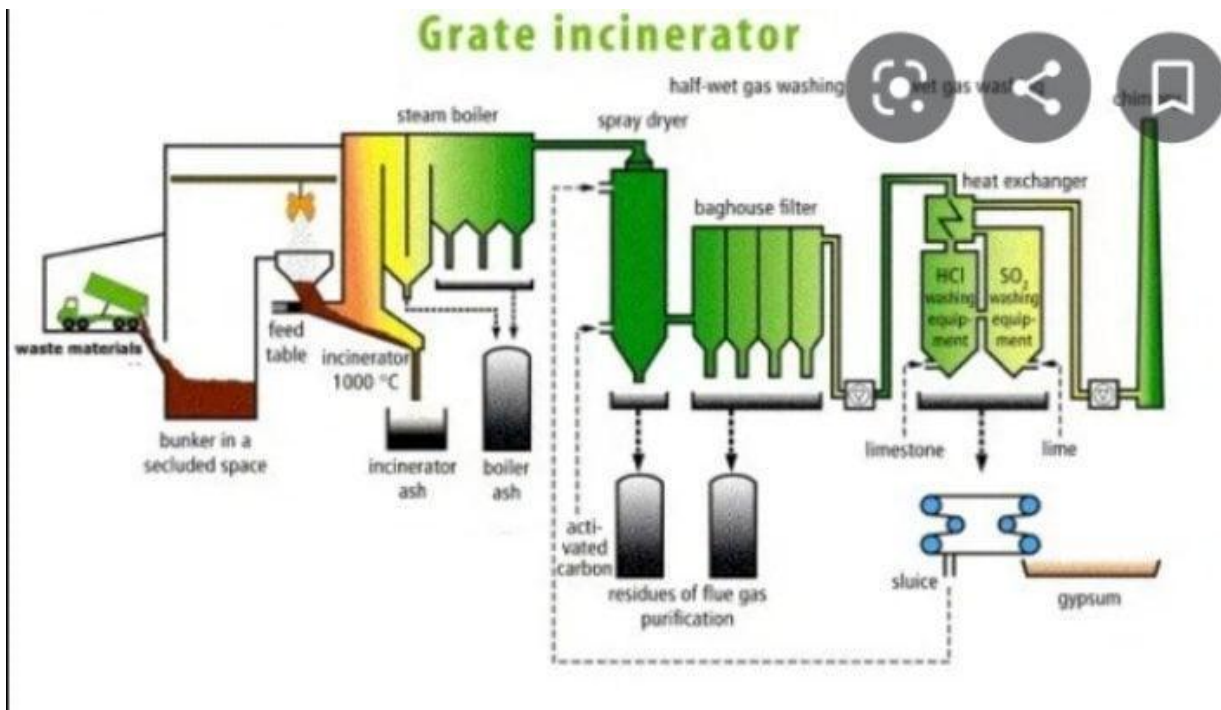


Traditional styled houses we plan to modify

Source: [myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com](http://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com)

There will be construction of eco- friendly and big community houses for the homeless and orphans. Colonies will be made in residential areas which we have planned in Maitidevi, Putalisadak, Naxal, Sitapaila, Jorpati, Kapan and Saankhu. These places will only be residential areas with small local marts, cinema halls and hospitals while other places like Durbarmarg, Thamel, Sorrakhutte, Maharajgunj, Tripureshwor will have very less habitants and many restaurants and entertainment houses. Each and every house in our Kathmandu will have open space (back or front yard) of at least 3feet, an eco-friendly kitchen and a vegetable garden.

The underground drainage and sewage system will be very developed. Pipelines will reach to Rani Ban (rani forest) where most liquid and solid wastes will be recycled ♻️ and others are incinerated in order to produce energy. There will be a cable car in Rani Ban for people who would like to visit and see the process of recycling. Purified and safe drinking water will be circulated throughout Kathmandu from Sundarijal's water reservoir and also from Bagmati River.



The process of incineration

Source: Report of Rachel Dew (Bio energy consult)

The matter of social security will not be taken lightly. All the old aged, widowed, differently abled and underprivileged will be provided with facilities of social security. There will be proper provision of old age homes, nursing homes and orphanages. Everyone will have the feeling of belongingness. There will be not even a sight of back warded and prejudicial social culture. People shall have a new, broad and progressive mindset. The main highlight of Kathmandu will be as the city governed by

equality and equity. The patriarchal society will become extinct just like poverty in our Kathmandu.

Education will be a major priority in our Kathmandu. No child shall be deprived of proper education. Practical knowledge will be given more importance but theoretical learning will also be provided. We will do various amendments in our current education system. Children will be prepared to face the real world. Homeschooling and online education will be developed. In our Kathmandu, there will be specialized schools for students with hearing loss, speech impairment and for students who are visually impaired or disabled. Education will be free of cost for all till +2 levels and equal, affordable cost for further studies. 89.6%<sup>3</sup> is the literacy rate in the current Kathmandu. There will be a 100% literacy rate in our Kathmandu. More organizations like CTEVT will be established. Kids will be taught sign language as a necessary means of communication. Counseling and therapy will be provided free of cost giving priority to mental health. Also, the stigma surrounding therapy will be erased. Schools will be built in residential areas.

More focus will be given in the field of science. Sectors of science, technology, environment, arts and management will be vastly improved. Brain drain will be controlled to a large extent. Practice of satellite cities will be there which will greatly control the migration rate. We have planned to establish lab and research centers in an open space in Thankot. Organizations like Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) will be established and necessary systematic reforms will be brought forth in existing organizations. Youths will be encouraged to take part in programs relating to science and advancement of technology. Those involved in such fields will be given a respectful social standing.

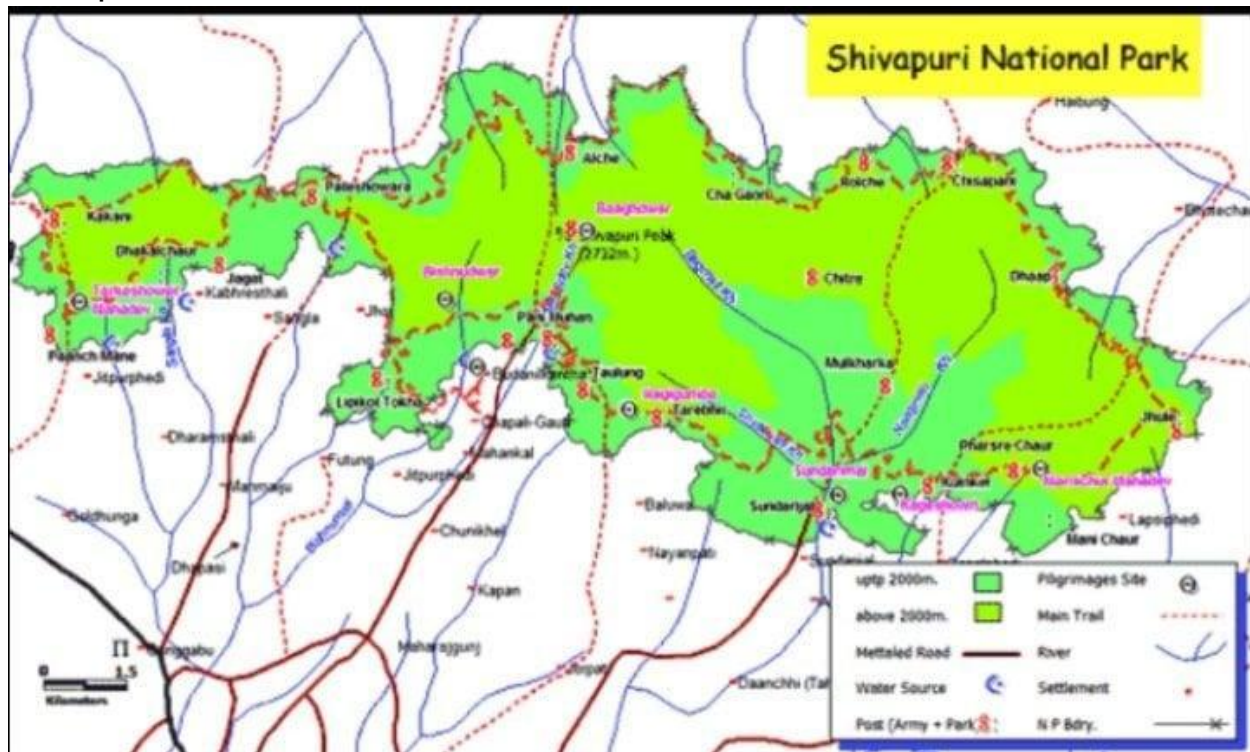
The Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park occupies the area of 159km<sup>2</sup> and Budanilkantha of Kathmandu occupies a total of 34.8 km<sup>2</sup> in Kathmandu. We have planned to extend Shivapuri National park all along Budanilkantha making it's area in Kathmandu the total of 197.4km<sup>2</sup>. Current map of

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<sup>3</sup> Data from UNESCO



## Shivapuri:



Current map of Shivapuri National Park

Source: adventuresnepal.com

There will be no over exploitation of flora and fauna. Afforestation will be a mandatory duty of all habitants. Research on forestry, carrying capacity of the earth and availability of natural resources will be done with more focus to researching about medicinal herbs found in Kathmandu like *Asparagus racemosus*, *Astilbe rivularis*, *Bergenia ciliata* etc. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be performed in all development activities as well as research surrounding our environmental footprint will be done. According to researchers, agriculture and poultry farming will be done. Poultry farming is suitable in places like Naikap according to the research. Conservation of soil, air and watersheds along with the preservation of their quality and quantity will be done and pollution level will be examined weekly. The ecosystem and food chain will be balanced.

With the motive of saving the environment, use of plastics shall be banned in our Kathmandu and the use of fossil fuels will be very limited. Eco-friendly appliances will be used in all places and electric cars will be seen running on the highways of our Kathmandu. Principles of Sustainable

development will be practiced. We have planned to plant wind turbines in the heights of Kapan and Nagdaha. Industries will also be established alongside the wind mills and work with wind energy. Monitoring our activities and effects on the environment and research on ways to lessen them will also be done.



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Sustainable Development Goals  
Source: The United Nations

The government always plays a vital role in developing a place. Therefore, the plans and policies made in our Kathmandu will be inclusive and promotive of positive discrimination, equality and equity. There will be proper allocation of budget and proper economic planning. Tax will not be the same for all in our Kathmandu. It will be according to the net worth of an individual or a family. Also, there will be an updated prison system in our Kathmandu.

Kathmandu is the city of heritage sites. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) listed heritage sites like Baudhanath stupa, Swayambhunath stupa, Kathmandu durbar square and Pashupatinath will be preserved. Swayambhunath's crematory site will be a more advanced one and more meditation centres will be established there. Some areas in Pashupati will be turned into an advanced zoo. Local temples like Sankata, Mahankal, Bhadrakali, Naxal Bhadrakali, Budanilkantha, Kopan gumba and others will be preserved and renovated. These heritage sites bring in tourists. Such tourists are beneficial for the

cottage industry, eco-tourism and government revenue. Eco-tourism and sustainable development go hand in hand.



Swayambhunath Stupa  
Source: Pinterest

There is an obvious requirement of recreational spots in our Kathmandu. Durbar marg, Thamel and Jorpati area will be filled with restaurants and they will be promoting our national cuisine. Sinamangal will be filled with hotels as it will be near our International Airport. We plan to provide top-class hospitality to tourists visiting our Kathmandu. Brikuti mandap will be converted into a botanical garden. Amusement parks will be constructed in places like Gothatar, Mulpani and Chobar. Gokarna will be a hiking site. We have planned to make New Road and Asan as commercial areas. Balwatar will be a place for Embassies. All construction of infrastructure will be eco-friendly.

Moreover, to prevent the spread of endemic and pandemic like coronavirus, our Kathmandu will be on high alert and if any suspicious or new diseases are found, Kathmandu will enter the state of emergency. In that period of time, no one will go out of Kathmandu until the situation becomes completely normal. Kathmandu's habitants will have no problem at all because inside the borders of Kathmandu, everything will be available.



Therefore, our Kathmandu will be an economically strong Kathmandu with security of all habitants residing in it. A place where ecological diversity will be preserved and people will follow sustainable development goals and principles. Sustainable development will be a key practice and natural heritages will be conserved with great pride in our Kathmandu.

Reference-

- Ancient and Medieval Nepal, Rishikesh Shah, Antiquated Book Publishers
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