


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Reading

A Journey Back in Time!

Before you read

- What are the children doing in the picture?
- What do you love doing in your free time?



Now read the following text about one of the ways of escaping our monotonous daily routine: a visit to a beautiful place and do the given tasks.

Just fed up with the hectic pace of life in the Kathmandu metropolis, a few of us old classmates got together and decided to go on a little trip to a little town called Bandipur. A friend of ours, a native of the place, had told us so much about the place that at last after much delaying we set out for the weekend to discover the place where none of us had been before - a place where old Nepal lives on. Bandipur! The very name for us seemed to spell magic! We were soon to learn that there is a great deal of truth in the belief that time stops in the town of Bandipur. That a tiny piece of Old Nepal still lives on in that cool, cobbled Newar settlement.

Our journey uphill to Bandipur, our destination branched off the Prithvi Rajmarg about two kilometres west of Dumre and which we reached by catching the local bus service. In less than an hour, we reached the medieval town. If we felt like a bit of adventure, we could have done the two plus hour steep climb up from Dumre. But with not much time on our hands, we decided otherwise and in about a three hour bus ride from noisy Kathmandu, we suddenly found ourselves almost a century back in time. We were in the medieval town of Bandipur!

History has it that Bandipur was part of the Magar kingdom of Tanahun ruled from nearby Palpa, Tansen the Headquarters. But Newar traders flooded in from Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Patan after the conquest of Kathmandu Valley by Prithvi Narayan Shah. The town in those days was an important stop on the Nepal-Tibet trade route until it was bypassed by the Prithvi Rajmarg below in the 1960s. Bandipur, like several other hill towns, faced several problems during the Maoist insurgency but things gradually

reverted to normal, and peace and quiet pervades the place once more.

The town derives its name from BAN meaning forest, DI that means water in the Magar language and PUR meaning a place. So originally Bandipur must have been a forest area with plenty of water. The town, which is built along a high ridge above Dumre, occupies a vantage point and from the Tundikhel below one can view the most stunning panorama of Himalayan peaks from Dhaulagiri, Machhapuchhre, Langtang, Lirung, Manaslu, right down to Ganesh Himal.

The place was just as our friend told us. With its ancient cobbled streets and the medieval ambience displayed by old houses that exhibit glorious 18th century architecture, Bandipur continues to retain the timeless magic of the centuries. Later in the course of our short stay, we discovered that at the northeast end of the bazaar, was the main shopping strip. Nearby stands the ornate two-tiered Bindabasini Temple dedicated to Durga, the guardian deity of the town. Needless to say, we spent the weekend just lazing around and loitering around the town or making short trips to nearby temples, viewpoints and some mysterious caves.

Bandipur is probably the only example of a town that is truly a living museum of Newar culture. Its winding lanes are lined with tall Newar houses and people here seem to live, as they must have done years before. It is somewhat hard to believe that a town tucked away somewhere up in the hills and barely three hours away from Kathmandu has by default managed to escape the ravages of modern day development. Thanks to the help from Himalayan Encounters and enterprising locals, dilapidated buildings have been given a face-lift and now come alive once more transformed as cafes and lodges. Some notable ones are Bandipur Guest House, Old Bandipur Inn,



Bandipur Mountain Resort, Piya Lodge, Raksha Hotel and Lodge, Pradhan Family Guest House etc. Ancient temples and civic buildings almost in ruins now throb with new life and vitality and currently buzz with human activity.

These timely and thoughtful measures have enabled life in Bandipur to go on as ever clean and pollution free. While we were there we saw no sign whatsoever of two or four wheelers in the main town area. A living community, the locals are seen doing their daily chores, the tinkling of bells as women do their early temple rounds, noisy school children and campus students thronging the main thoroughfare of the town and villagers, farmers and traders going about their business.



Today the form of business in Bandipur has changed from the traditional variety. It is a tourism related business today. Those locals that migrated down to Dumre, Narayanghat and to Kathmandu in search of greener pastures still come back to the place once in a while to get away from it all. As our friend from Bandipur put it, “Yes I still have my house in Bandipur and will not sell it as long as I live. My children can do what they like with it

after I am gone but as long as I am around I will in no way put an end to the umbilical cord that binds me to the place of my birth.”

“Though I have a thriving business in Kathmandu,” he continued, “I still go there to our old ancestral house with my family to celebrate Dashain, Tihar and other festivals. My younger brother runs a lodge there and is doing well too and has maintained the place very well. I don’t know how to put it but when I am up there in Bandipur, after a couple of months in this Kathmandu hellhole, an indescribable feeling of happiness overcomes my being and I am completely at peace. When I am there I realize how much I miss the place. It is my life, my very identity.”

When we were up there we fully understood that feeling of belongingness to the place. No doubt, Bandipur does have that magnetic pull. It is indeed a magical town and we were attracted to it immediately. The place is something out of this world. It was like travelling back in time back to old Nepal of a century ago. Since tourism is now the mainstay of Bandipur, almost every house is either a café, a pub or a hotel. As our friend had told us earlier, the local school children speak good English as it is necessary for family business purposes and moreover, to interact with tourists.”

To our surprise, even small, clean, humble Magar HOMESTAY dwellings with just two rooms and four clean beds do good business. Exploring the place one morning, we entered one such place near the town area and out of sheer curiosity, asked to make us some breakfast. Not knowing what to order we asked the Magar lady to make us what

she made best. Meanwhile we looked around the spotlessly clean place and saw a little refrigerator in a corner, a shelf stacked with biscuits, instant noodles, trekker’s food, cornflakes, different types of beer, varieties of canned food, tea, coffee etc.

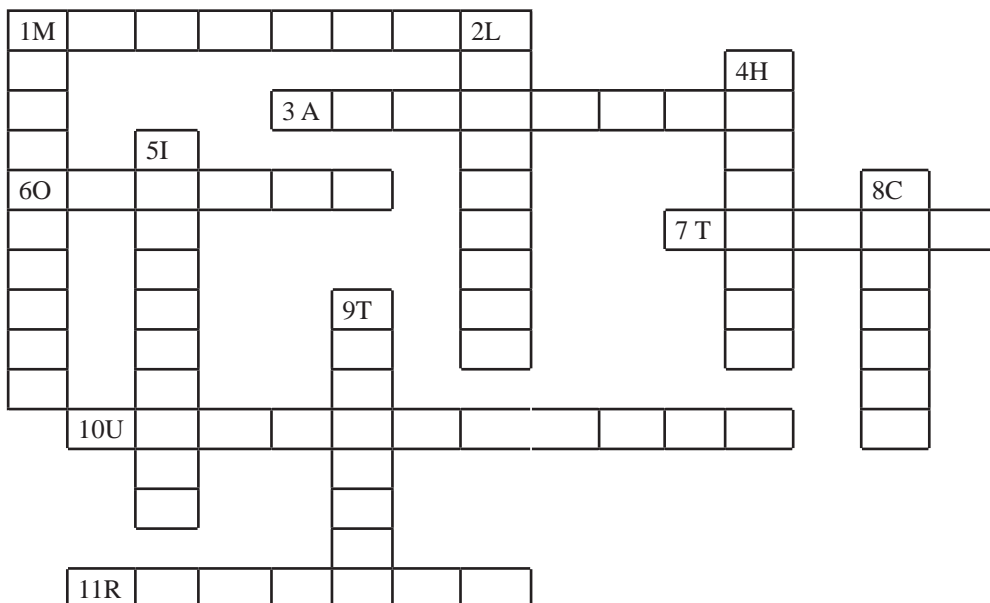
Within minutes the lady of the house put before us cheese omelettes, two slices of bread each and finger chips. Later we washed it down with glasses of excellent milk coffee. It was perfect and far beyond our expectations. The next morning we visited the place again. The lady greeted us with a knowing smile and this time without our saying made us pancakes with Bandipur honey and again milk coffee to go with it. We unanimously agreed that it tasted absolutely divine! Maybe the local spices and extra ingredients of love and affection that went into it made it all the more memorable.

The next evening we unwillingly caught the bus to dusty, dirty, crowded, polluted and impersonal - 21st century Kathmandu to face life once more. The teeming metropolis soon made us realize what we had been missing. The hangover of Bandipur, however, has remained so strong that we have decided on another trip to Bandipur in the near future. But this time, on a longer and weeklong trip to the place!

- Anand P. Shrestha

Working with words

A. The words in the crossword puzzle are from the text. Find them from the text to solve the puzzle based on the clues given below.



Across

1. outdated, of or relating to the Middle Ages
3. the character and atmosphere of a place

6. highly decorated
7. beat with a strong, regular rhythm; survive
10. with the agreement of all people involved
11. the destructive effects of something

Down

1. a large city
2. wandering from place to place without any purpose
4. an unpleasant place; a place of extreme misery
5. an active revolt or uprising
8. paved with cobbles
9. prosperous and growing; flourishing

B. Look up the meanings of the following words in your dictionary.

amenities, exquisite, etiquette, accommodation, mainstay, antique

C. Underline the content words in the following sentences.

Example: A brown fox jumps over the lazy dog quickly.

- a. The cat sat lazily on the dirty mat.
- b. She gives performances on the stage beautifully.
- c. Don't count your chickens before they are hatched.
- d. I came I saw I conquered.
- e. It is my life, my very identity.

Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

- a. Why did the author and his classmates decide to visit Bandipur?
- b. What is special about Bandipur?
- c. How has the business changed in Bandipur today?
- d. Why do the local people who have migrated to Kathmandu visit Bandipur time and again?
- e. How do the local people learn to speak English in Bandipur?
- f. What does the author mean when he says that 'time stops in the town of Bandipur'?

Critical thinking

- a. The writer seems to believe that rural life is better than urban life. Do you agree with him?
- b. Is the writer's way of looking at Bandipur just a gaze of an urban tourist? Why? Why not?

Writing

Write a letter to a business organization overseas describing the prospects of the tourism industry in your local place. Consider the following points in the letter.

- Propose to venture in tourism business.
- Persuade the organization head to visit the place once.
- Clearly dig out the specialties and potentialities of the place.
- Explain its archaeological and historical importance.

Grammar

Miscellaneous agreements

A. Tick the correct one.

- He has obtained full mark/marks.
- More than two boys were/was absent.
- One of the boy/boys was not found there.
- His wonder knew no bounds/bound.
- I give you my words/word.
- He gave me much/many good advice/advices.
- He gave wrong information/informations.
- Give me two dozens/dozen eggs.
- Six miles is/are a long distance.
- The clock has struck four hours/hour.
- Would you lend me a ten rupees/rupee note?
- Nepal government makes five year/years development plan.
- They went to Singapore on a four days/day trip.

B. Which of the sentence is correct in each pair? Rewrite the correct one.

- My all books are lost. All my books are lost.
- His both brothers are ill. Both his brothers are ill.
- Give me a hundred rupee. Give a hundred rupees.
- Everybody except me was absent. Everybody except I was absent.
- He was died of fever. He died of fever.
- It is raining for a week. It has been raining for a week.
- I have seen my friend long ago. I saw my friend long ago.
- My friend has gone out before I arrived. My friend had gone out before I arrived.
- He said he has never seen him before. He said he had never seen him before.
- He assured he will come. He assured he would come.

Listening

A. Answer these questions.

- a. Have you ever planned for a holiday?
- b. What sort of place do you like to visit on a holiday?



B. Listen to the audio and write whether the following statements are *True* or *False*.

- a. The speakers are planning to take a holiday in spring.
- b. They are planning to take a holiday in Greece.
- c. They are planning to stay there for two weeks.
- d. They are planning to go on holiday in May.
- e. The girl prefers staying in cottages to staying in hotels.
- f. They plan to travel around by bus.
- g. The palace apartment does not have enough bedrooms.
- i. The second cottage is not near the town.
- j. The town house is spacious, but doesn't have a garden.

C. Have you ever visited any famous place? Tell your likes and dislikes about the place you visited.

Speaking

Expressing indifference

A. Study the following expressions of indifference.

So what?
Who cares!
I don't care!
I'm easy.
I don't mind./ I don't mind whatever you do.
Do as you like.
It's all the same to me.
It doesn't matter to me.
I have no preference.
I suppose so.

It doesn't matter what you think.
What difference does it make?
I couldn't care less. Whatever you do?
It's your decision.
Who knows!
Why should I care?
It makes no difference to me.
The whole thing bores me to death.

B. Read the conversation and mark the expressions of indifference.

Two students are talking in the cafeteria.

A: Hey, Sudhir! Are you OK?

B: Fine, Rajendra. What's up?

A: I suppose you are going to join the protest march this afternoon. Is it true?

B: Oh, why bother? Nothing's going to change from it.

A: You never know. The administration might listen to us this time....

B: It doesn't matter to me. I don't mind what you do, but exclude me.

C. Work in pairs. Have conversations in the following situations. Use the expressions of indifference.

- a. You have no particular interest in something and your friend is still talking about it.
- b. You are in a restaurant and you ordered some appetizers and then there's just the last piece of the spring roll in front of you. Your friend asks if he could have it.
- c. You are waiting outside a mall for someone and then there's someone who's smoking around you. He asks if it's OK for you.
- d. You are going to a party and you are confused about selecting a good dress. You ask your friend about it and he is indifferent to any dress you choose.
- e. Two teachers are talking about their promotion. One of them is indifferent to it.
- f. Two women are talking about the development progress in Nepal.
- g. A student can't do well in English exam. He is neither taking interest in English lessons nor he is doing any of the work.
- h. You are queuing in to pay for your electricity bill and one man jumps the queue. You let him do it.

Project work

Work in a group of three and decide a destination to travel to in winter/summer vacation. Collect various information about accessibility, transportation, accommodation and other facilities you need. Prepare a short informative report to present to your class.