

Nepal Balancing Elections and Economic Downturn

Photo by Yuji Kurokuma from Nikkei Asia



Election Date:
13 May 2022



Estimated Voters:
17 million



Total Number
of Local Units: **753**



Total Number of
Representatives: **35,221**



Mayor and
Deputy Mayor: **1506**



Ward Chairs:
6743

The total estimated budget for local elections is NPR 39 billion- 12 billion for the election commission and the rest is for security forces. However, the government has only allocated NPR 10 billion for the local elections in the budget of the fiscal year 2077/78. The Ministry of Finance has said that it will cut the budget from emergency funds and other overheads where the expenses have not been met.

However, with all the reports around the economic slowdown surfacing, it is worth considering the skyrocketing costs of elections. No doubt, elections are a lifeline for living democracy, but it is also equally important to align it with the economic status of the country. For free, fair, and inclusive elections, we need efficiency in election management, security mobilization, and public campaigning.

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Governance Issues of the Week

1. Nepal federal parliament failed to pass the six different ordinances such as regulation on acids attacks, sexual violence, social security schemes, etc. Those ordinances will be automatically inactive from 14 February 2022 after failing to be tabled in the parliament. The parliament has not run efficiently since September 2021 due to political tensions shadowing the hearings.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)
2. The Surkhet High Court refused to issue an interim order against the writ filed regarding the formation of the Council of Ministers of the Karnali Province. The Karnali province has appointed 8 ministers without any representation from women and Dalit. This is against Article 168(9) of the constitution and ideas of inclusive democracy.
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
3. The government has failed to implement 87% of the recommendations made by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). In the 21 years of the establishment of the NHRC, only 14% of the recommendations have been redressed by the government.
Read more: [Ekagaj](#)
4. The agreement signed with the Chinese government to conduct petroleum research at Padukasthan, Dailekh, in February 2019 is coming to an end without any progress. The project was to be completed in three phases within three years, but only the first phase has been completed until now.
Read more: [Setopati](#)
5. As per the report of the first six months of the fiscal year 2077/78 published by Nepal Rastra Bank, the total trade deficit of Nepal has increased by 46.6%, with inflation increased to 5.65%, and remittances decreased by 5.5%. The gross foreign reserve has decreased by 16.7%. The report depicts the gloomy picture of Nepal's economy.
Read more: [Khabar Hub](#)
6. The Ministry of Education has proposed a new bill with a 55-point plan to transform the education system in Nepal. The bills include adding about 18,000 quotas for teachers with regard to a balanced student-teacher ratio. The bills on federal education, university, and technical education are also ready to be tabled in the parliament.
Read more: [Himalayan Times](#)

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