

NEPAL

# GOVERNANCE

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## Provincial Governments Nowhere Near Accomplishing their Plans

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Nepalis had high hopes when introducing federalism in 2015. The decentralized power between federal, provincial, and local levels, was trusted to bring revolutionary reforms. But, the provincial governments have failed to make any visible impact. In the last four years, provinces have struggled to decide their names and capitals, failed to bring effective laws and policies, execute planned projects, and spend a small portion of their allocated budgets. While there have been some positive steps like establishing COVID hospitals, providing financial/employment opportunities to marginalized communities, and limited development outcomes, the provincial governments are nowhere near accomplishing the promises or plans they had made in the beginning. The provincial governments were expected to act as a bridge between local and federal levels to connect local problems with policies, but there hasn't been much progress on it.

As most of the provincial governments have stated their work was affected by the tension in politics and the COVID pandemic, the same can't be said about local governments who stole the show with more effective pandemic response and much better public services. Thus, there is a larger debate among the public about what the provincial government does or if there really is a need for the provincial level.

Read More: [Naya Patrika](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. Similar to last fiscal year, the budget allocated for the construction of Bir Hospital in Duwakot, Bhaktapur is expected to be frozen this year. Even after seven months since the government allocated NRs. 500 million for DPR (Detailed Project Report), the Ministry of Health, and the National Academy of Health Sciences have paid no attention to the construction.  
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
2. Discussions are finally underway to resume the constitutional bench of the supreme court after a five months break, which shadowed the hearings of important issues. The full meeting of the supreme court and judicial service commission has recently been held with the appointment of the new acting Chief Justice.  
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
3. One of the National Pride Projects, the Koshi Corridor 220 KV Transmission Line Project, has started cutting down 25,000 trees in the site where the transmission lines are to be set up. For this loss, the builder will have to plant 25 saplings for each cut-down tree in an open area allocated by the forest office. This is an important step towards the debate between development versus environmental preservation.  
Read more: [Kathmandu Post](#)
4. The Kathmandu Metropolitan City halted waste collection for 12 days and finally resumed from 24th February after locals obstructed the road to the Sisdol Landfill site, demanding the dilapidated road be constructed. The roadside waste and smell had increased visibly in Kathmandu valley due to the situation.  
Read more: [Himalayan Times](#)
5. The haphazard limestone extraction in areas of Lumbini province has caused the drying up of water resources and exposed the settlements to natural disasters like landslides and floods. There is a huge risk of a water crisis in the area if the extraction goes unchecked.  
Read more: [Kathmandu Post](#)
6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken the side of Ukraine, as the Russian forces have invaded the country. The Ministry has stated that the member states should respect the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity enshrined in the UN Charter.  
Read more: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

Presented by



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