

ISSUE
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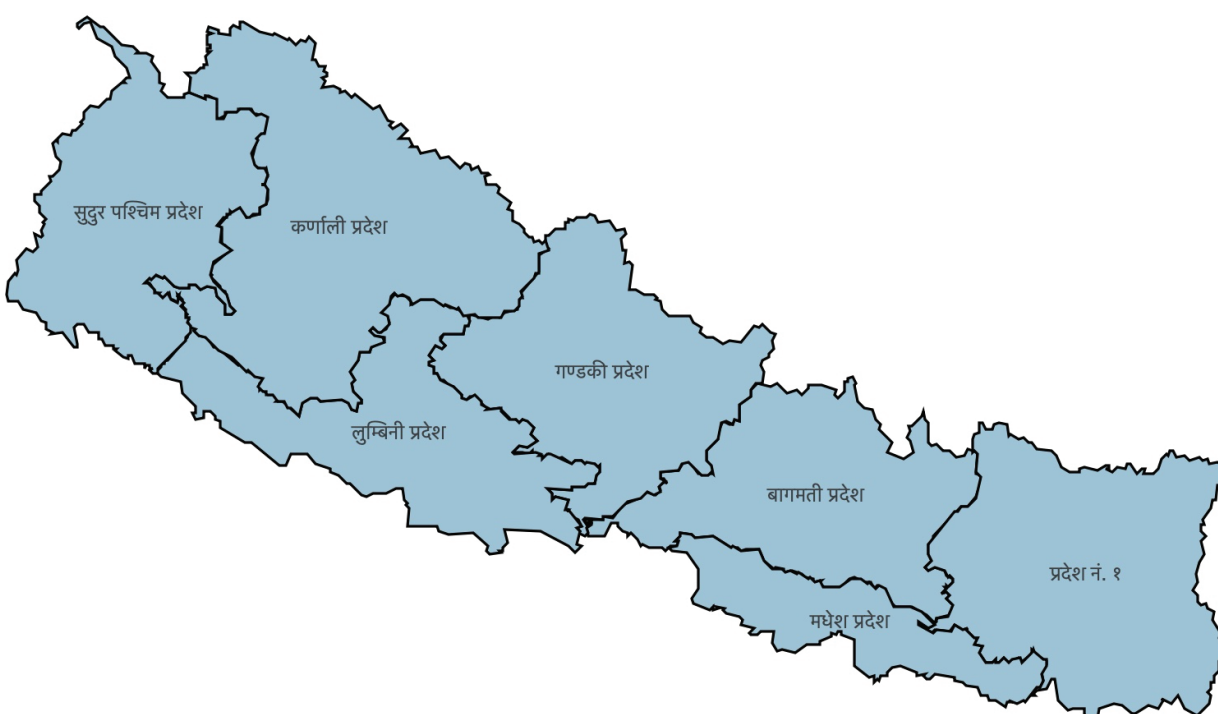
17.05.2022



An old woman going to the Trinagar Polling Station in Dhangadhi to cast her vote.

Photo by: [Ganga Bhandari](#)

स्थानीय तह २०७९
मतगणना प्रगतिको विवरण



The results of local level elections 2022 from different locations are being announced. There is a general understanding that the vote counting has been delayed due to a lack of proper management.

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IN THIS ISSUE

The news about the Election Commission only seeking clarification from many political parties and candidates for violating the code of conduct is getting published.

There is no basis to take immediate action against those violating the code of conduct due to a lack of clear policy.

It is said that it could take a month to announce the results in places where there are a huge number of voters.

In areas with slow vote counting, the Election Commission has requested to deploy both Federal and Provincial staff to prioritize the counting.

I get enthusiastic in each election hoping for change.

I am confident that the active participation of the youth in the current election will bring change in the country.

FACT SHEET

Election Commission's Disappointing Investment in Voter Education

Local level elections, 2017



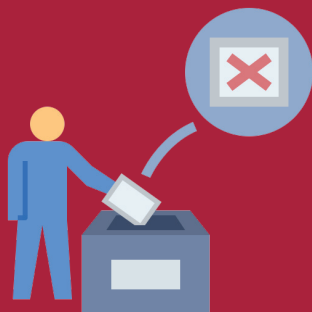
Budget allocated by the Election Commission:

NRs. 8.14 billion



Budget allocated for voter education:

NRs. 806 million



Invalid votes:

2.18%

Local level elections, 2022



Budget allocated by the Election Commission:

NRs. 8.95 billion



Budget allocated for voter education:

NRs. 241.7million



Invalid votes:

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The Election Commission had demanded an additional NRs. 800 million budget from the government this local level elections compared to the local level elections, 2017 pointing out reasons like inflation, increase in staff salaries, the need to increase the number of human resources in regards to increase in voters. However, the amount allocated by the Election Commission for voter education this election is three times less than the local level election 2017. The invalid voter turnout in the previous elections itself was 3.18%. The invalid vote of the citizen is a serious problem in the process of citizen participation in the democratic process. This is why the Election Commission's disregard for voter education is a violation of citizens' right to vote.

Source: <https://election.gov.np/admin/public//storage>

RUMORS & FACTS

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The news about the Election Commission only seeking clarification from many political parties and candidates for violating the code of conduct is getting published. Why is there no news about the punishment?

According to the Election Commission, the explanation has been sought only to alert those who violate the election code of conduct. Due to lack of a clear policy, there is no basis to take immediate action against those violating the code of conduct. For example: the polling official can take immediate action against those who take a picture with the ballot box, but it isn't clear what action should be taken.

Source: <https://cutt.ly/4HndfJH>

The counting of votes is done only by the election officer or the staff assigned by him. When counting the votes, it should be shown to the candidate or his/her representative. But, under no circumstances, the candidates or representatives should be allowed to touch or hold the ballots. For this purpose, arrangements should be made for the candidates or their representatives to sit at a distance from where the ballot paper can be seen.

Source: <https://cutt.ly/HHbVQD1>

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It is said that the representatives of all the candidates participate during the vote counting. Doesn't this increase the possibility of irregularity?

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It is said that it could take a month to announce the results in places where there are a huge number of voters.

The Election Commission has stated that the vote counting has been very slow due to the large number of candidates and limited manpower. The Election Commission had earlier planned to complete the vote counting by May 18, but that doesn't seem possible given the current situation. Considering the grievances of the public, the commission has requested to deploy both Federal and Provincial staff to prioritize the counting to deploy staff for voting counting in areas where the counting has been slow.

Source: <https://cutt.ly/OHntgUh>

GROUND NARRATIVES

I get enthusiastic about every election, hoping for change

I was born in 2004 in Nepalgunj. I participated in the election for the first time at the age of 24. I have voted in more than 11 elections in life so far. The role of a common citizen is to make a transparent and development oriented candidate win, but I haven't been able to experience that since the first election in which I participated. When I participated in the election first, there were no political parties. Economically prosperous and senior members of the society used to be independent candidates. The candidacy of an ordinary person was seldom seen. Even if someone filled the candidacy, there would be an attempt to suppress it.

Even until the Panchayat Period, the participation of common man in the election was only to complete the procedure. Only those with some ties with the monarchy would be candidates. Elections are about putting good people in office with the participation of the common man, but it hasn't happened in the past and it doesn't seem likely now. Elections are for change, it is very important to ensure the freedom of ordinary people through elections.

In the absence of the people's representatives for nearly two decades, the citizens had to face various hardships. The elections were held in the country with the advent of democracy. There have been progress in some areas but it is very limited.

The development was observed in areas with more access to party affiliation, it showcased the dominance of party power.



A citizen could neither live freely yesterday nor today. Elections after the establishment of democracy had raised a kind of hope in ordinary people, but it couldn't be realized as expected. The number of neutral voters in the election can be counted on one hand. Here the party is ahead of the country. The expected change hasn't taken place as the voters also prioritize the party rather than choosing a good candidate.

Gradually, the youth are also becoming aware of politics. There is a great hope of change from this generation. Probably due to the passion for change, the election always makes me excited. I am confident that the active participation of the youth in the current election will bring more changes in the country than the election in 2017.

Sanat Regmi
Littérateur

FAIR FACTS

is a product of:



FAIR FACTS is an open platform that connects citizens, leaders and institutions; and exchanges authentic information to tackle misinformation and popular myths around elections in Nepal. The ongoing elections demand quick, scientific, and fair information around the electoral process, participation, and candidacy. With FAIR FACTS we build an ecosystem of changemakers and use the power of real stories and voices from all corners of the country for an election mechanism that is fair and equitable. An election is not just about voting but also about participation and liberty of all - a basic human right that celebrates democracy at its core. To help defend democracy in Nepal, we track facts, share helpful information, and build unlikely networks.

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