

NEPAL

# GOVERNANCE

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## Where does government accountability lie during the current monsoon hazards?

WEEKLY

Photo by Sanjog Manandhar from TKP

The untimely monsoon this year has instigated fear and uncertainty among people living in the disaster prone areas. Because of the rapidly increasing climate crisis and lack of ample infrastructures, the destruction caused by natural calamities such as floods, landslides and others has significantly escalated in recent years in Nepal. In 2021, 490 people lost their lives to monsoon disasters. The number of deaths was even higher at 591 in 2020. Last year, the settlements in Helambu and Melamchi were swept by floods causing unprecedented and enormous damage to human and animal lives and properties.

The projections of Disaster Management experts on monsoon-related damage this year are equally worrying. Rainfall is expected to be higher than average between June and September this year. The government's Monsoon Response Plan estimates that more than 1.7 million people will be affected by natural disasters. But as the monsoon has already approached, the government is running late to design and implement effective response plans. Such delays raise questions on the government's accountability towards the citizens who are forced to live in fear of the disasters every year. It is extremely important to ensure effective coordination between three levels of government to smoothen the timely flow of information between authorities and locals and to raise awareness on precautionary measures and relief supplies to minimize the damage of the disaster.

Read more: [Shilapatra](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Nepal Electricity Authority has begun to sell surplus electricity to India from 1 June 2022. In the first phase, the authority will sell 24MW electricity generated through Trishuli power plant and 15 MW from Devighat plant. India and Nepal had reached an agreement on Nepal supplying additional 326 MW of electricity in April 2022.  
Read more: [Setopati](#)
2. The Land Use Regulation recently approved by the Council of Ministers has a provision that a fine of one lakh will be imposed to those who keep the cultivable land barren for three consecutive years. As per the regulation, the government will classify lands based on 10 areas including agriculture, residential, and industrial based on their potential and suitability.  
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
3. The government has included the plans of taking forward the construction of Nijgadh International Airport in the budget for FY 2022/23 against the verdict of Supreme Court on 26 May 2022 that directed to find suitable alternatives to the Nijgadh Airport. The government has mentioned that it will create an investment structure and take forward the project through Investment Board Nepal.  
Read more: [Republica](#)
4. 40 people with disabilities have been elected as local representatives in Local Elections 2022. As per the National Federation of Persons with Disabilities Nepal, 1 candidate with disability has been elected as mayor of the local unit, 4 candidates have elected as deputy mayor, 20 as ward chair, and 15 as ward members. Earlier, 124 people with disabilities had filed candidacies for different positions in the elections.  
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
5. The Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) has launched a campaign to eliminate the use of single-use plastics from hotels by 2024. The campaign promotes the use of eco-friendly products and encourages the hotels to replace the single-use plastics with reusable alternatives.  
Read more: [Republica](#)
6. The Election Commission (EC) is making internal preparations to complete Parliament and Province Assembly elections before 26 November, as the tenure of the existing house of representatives and province assembly members expire on 15 December 2022.  
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)

Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs on local elections based on media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various governance issues from the perspective of accountability.

Presented by



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Our return e-mailing address is:  
[suvechchha@accountabilitylab.org](mailto:suvechchha@accountabilitylab.org)