In 2005, the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) reached an agreement with the local residents of Sisdole to use its land to dump the garbage collected from the Kathmandu Valley for the next three years. But fast forward 17 years, the garbage of the valley is still being dumped at the Sisdole landfill. In the beginning, only 15-10 trucks of garbage were dumped at the landfill daily, but it increased to 150 trucks over time. The valley generates 1,200 tonnes of waste every day. The Sisdole landfill site has turned into a garbage hill, and human settlements around are facing numerous health hazards including severe impacts on human health, loss of agricultural productivity, etc. The authorities had promised the local communities to build a 50-bed hospital, free ambulance service, free health insurance, support to disease in their livestock, etc. But none have been fulfilled. Now with protests from locals and experts claiming Sisdole landfill to be in an alarming stage, KMC has requested everyone to adopt solid waste management measures to minimize the volume of waste generated from each household. But that alone wouldn't be enough. The issue should receive equal attention from other authorities as well. Instead of using coercive measures upon the locals in affected areas, the government should think of scientific and better ways of managing waste production and disposal; including proper and risk-free management of landfill sites.

Governance Issues of the Week

1. In the last nine years, the government has disbursed a total of NRs. 2.15 billion for the construction of Nijgadh International Airport. Out of the total amount, the project office claims to have spent NRs. 861.3 million. The program will focus on the political, cultural, and economic reintegration of migrant workers and will work with a range of stakeholders including CSOs and the private sector.

2. Nepal and Switzerland have signed an agreement to implement the “Reintegration of Returnee Migrants (Remi)” Program across Nepal and Switzerland. The program will also provide assistance to the private sector.

3. The Tribhuvan University has issued a question paper with the same question as the Economics paper of the 1st semester of Political Science. This is the second time in a row the university is said to have been investigating the matter.

4. The Election Commission is set to begin the work of compiling voter lists, seeking details of the polling stations in different places, and amending the election code of conduct and procedures from 15 June. The commission has suggested the government conduct the parliament and provincial elections in a single phase before 8 December 2022.

5. The Naubise-Nagdhunga tunnel has completed 53 percent of the project work so far. The tunnel, listed under the national pride project, is built by Kathmandu Metropolitan City utilizing NRs. 881.3 million. The project, has completed the construction work of 2,598 meters of the total 5,499 meters. The project was built with a loan of NRs. 17 billion loans from JICA for 0.01 percent loan for 40 years. The project office claims to have spent NRs. 2.15 billion for the construction of Nijgadh International Airport. Out of the total amount, the project office claims to have spent NRs. 861.3 million.

6. The government has withdrawn its decision of mandatory embossed number plates in all vehicles before 17 November, the vehicles transferred in another name after 13 February, and the vehicles in process of registration purchased after 17 November, the vehicles transferred in another name after 13 February, and the vehicles in process of registration purchased after 17 November. The Supreme Court issued a verdict against the construction of the airport on 26 May 2022. The government is all set to dispose of its garbage in a new landfill site in Banchare Danda, which is 1.9 km west of Sisdole. Instead of using coercive measures upon the locals in affected areas, the government should think of scientific and better ways of managing waste production and disposal; including proper and risk-free management of landfill sites.