

NEPAL

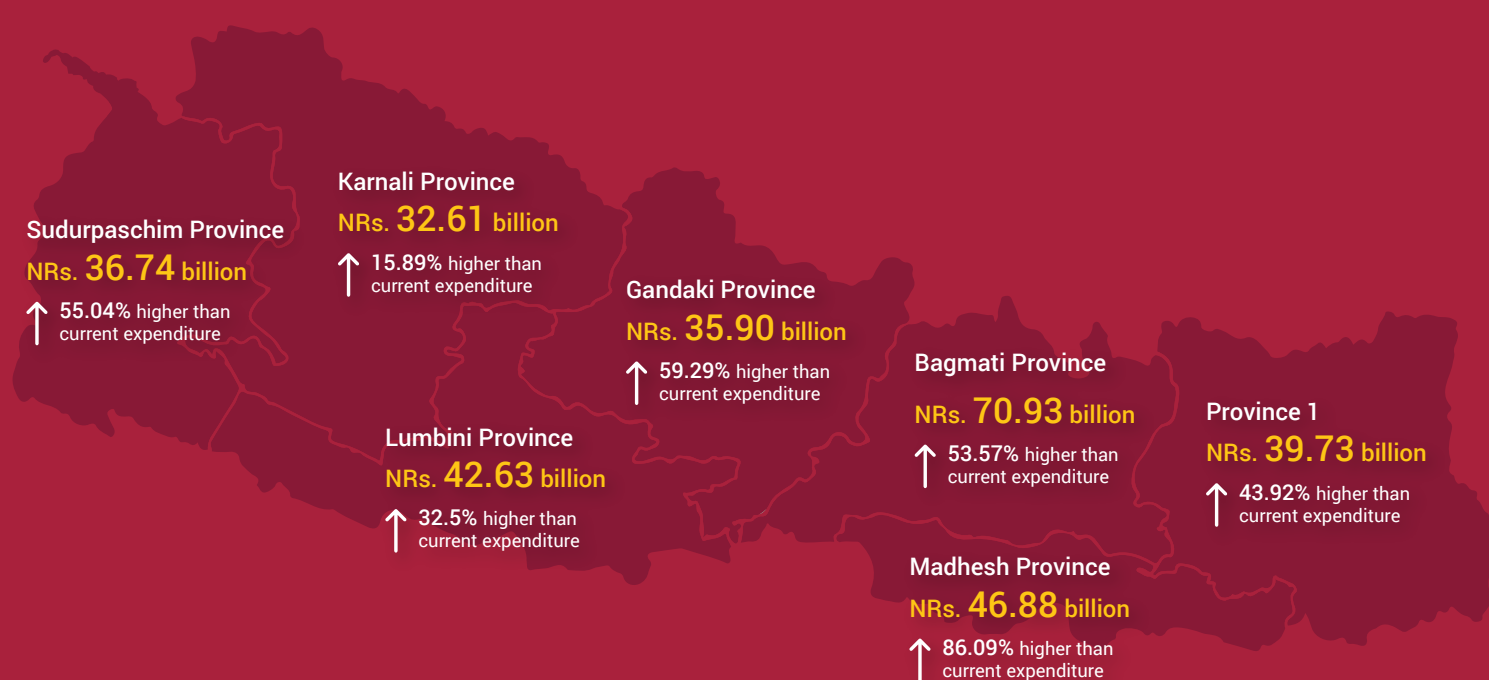
GOVERNANCE

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Provincial Governments Fail to Bring Realistic Budgets for the Upcoming Fiscal Year Again

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Photo from kathmandupost.com



All seven provinces have presented their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year 2022-23. The combined budget of all seven provinces is NRs. 305.46 billion, which is nearly 17 percent higher than the allocated budget and a whopping 48.49 percent higher than the projected expenditure of the current fiscal year.

The ambitious budget allocation demonstrates the provincial government's lack of assessment of its own capacity. The provincial government still hasn't built the resources and skills required to effectively execute its plans and policies. The current focus of the provincial budgets on boosting the economy through agriculture and expanding social safety nets is essential, but it is also important, if not more, for the provinces to prioritize building the capacity of human resources and institutions to ensure effective budget spending. Moreover, the top-down approach to budget formulation also serves unrealistic budget-making. The provincial budgets should be formed based on the expectations and limitations of the local governments once they formulate the budget. Similarly, the federal budget should be drafted based on the aspirations and scope of provincial budgets. Only by taking a bottom-up approach can our 3 tiers of government produce a realistic budget that doesn't end up being unspent at the end of the fiscal year.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#), [The Kathmandu Post](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The families of the foreign migrant workers including Nepali migrants will also be included in the social security program in Malaysia. The migrant workers are now required to submit the details of their nearest family members including their citizenship during the medical examination (biomedical) for the visa process.
Read more: [Ekantipur](#)
2. The government has started preparations to revise the 20-year master plan on Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation. The President of the Chure-Terai Madhesh Development Committee has signed an agreement with the National Nature Conservation Fund (NTNC) for it. The revision will look into resolving unorganized settlement, forest encroachment, open grazing, exploitation of riverine resources, uncontrolled construction of infrastructures, etc.
Read more: [Ekantipur](#)
3. A rape survivor from Mahottari, Niharika Rajput who was on hunger strike for the last 7 days demanding justice has finally broken her strike after a five-point deal with the government was made. The Home Affairs has agreed to take legal steps for the DNA test of her son with the accused, make safe arrangements for her shelter and provide financial support.
Read more: [The Rising Nepal](#)
4. Against the backdrop of the Nepal Army refusing the claims of Nepal being a part of the United States's State Partnership Program, a Nepali Army letter to the former US Ambassador to Nepal requesting to establish the National Guard Partnership Program has been leaked. The letter dates back to October 2015.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
5. The Ministry of Forest and Environment has reached an agreement with JICA Nepal for a technical project focusing on climate change adaptation through sustainable forest management. Similarly, the government has made a decision to accept a grant of NRs. 366.2 million from the Japanese government for capacity building of human resources in Nepal.
Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#), [Republica](#)
6. The municipal offices, ward offices, community schools, health institutions, and health centers in 74 districts outside the Kathmandu Valley will receive free internet services for two years from a project operated through the Rural Telecommunications Development Fund of Nepal Telecommunications Authority.
Read more: [Ekagaj](#)

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.

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