

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

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Has Remittance Overshadowed the Social Cost of Foreign Labor Migration?

Photo from Setopati

In the social and political sphere of Nepal, the topic of foreign labor migration is always attached to the economic benefit it offers in the form of remittance. Remittance has undoubtedly been a backbone of the Nepali economy contributing to nearly 25% of the total GDP. The reports also suggest that the rate of remittance inflow in Nepal is increasing each year. In the last five years, the rate of remittance increased from NRs. 7.5 trillion in the fiscal year 2016-17 until mid-July to NRs. 9.8 trillion in 2021-22.

But there is also a huge social cost that comes with foreign labor migration that is seldom discussed. According to the data from the Department of Foreign Employment, 5.833 million Nepali youth have migrated to foreign lands in search of work in the last fourteen years. Out of which, 10,932 died during foreign employment and 2,125 have become disabled. Beyond this, it is also estimated that a huge number of returnee migrants are coping with psychological or physical difficulties due to the extreme working and weather conditions they face there. Thus, it is equally important for the government authorities to think beyond remittance and weigh the social cost foreign labor migration possesses while drafting policies and programs.

Read more: [Setopati](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The government has requested the victims of loan sharks from across the country to register their complaints at their respective district administration offices by 21 August 2022. The government has also formed a six-member committee to investigate the matter and understand the victims' situation.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

2. A meeting of the House of Representatives passed the amendment bill on the Citizenship Act as earlier, without addressing the issues raised by the President. The President had suggested taking into account the historical background of citizenship law, resolving issues around citizenship in the name of mothers, addressing concerns on territorial integrity and sovereignty, etc.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

3. A meeting of the House of Representatives has recently endorsed the Public Debt Management Bill, which allows the government to mobilize foreign debt only up to one-third of the total GDP. In the last FY 2021-22, out of the total foreign aid agreements worth NRs. 238 billion reached with different donors, Nepal secured 60.78 percent of the amount as loans.

Read more: [Nayapatrika](#), [Onlinekhabar](#)

4. The Election Commission has sought clarification from the 123,783 elected candidates of the Local Level Elections 2022 who have failed to submit their election expenses. The candidates are mandated to submit their election expenses to the relevant district or province election office within 30 days of the announcement of the election results.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

5. The Election Commission is preparing to limit the election campaign to 15 days in the upcoming provincial and parliamentary elections taking place on 20 November 2022. The commission had provided 39 days for the campaign in the recent local-level elections. So far, 84 political parties have applied to the Election Commission to participate in the upcoming general elections.

Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#), [Republica](#)

6. The ruling coalition has promised to revise the amendment bill to the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act 2014 before endorsing it in the parliament. The bill, which was registered on 15 July, has received widespread criticism over a few provisions that could provide amnesty to the perpetrators.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

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