

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

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Election Commission puts Special Focus on Bringing Down Election Expenditure

Source: Election Commission Nepal

The Election Commission's Code of Conduct for the upcoming federal and provincial elections has been receiving mixed responses from the media and the public. The commission seems to have made a serious consideration on bringing down the election spending and creating an even environment for all candidates.

The Code of Conduct allows the political parties to begin their election campaigns only 17 days prior to the election date on 20th November. However, this provision is being viewed with some skepticism as the commission plans to finalize the list of candidates by 20th October, and there will be 2 whole weeks left before those candidates are allowed to begin their campaigns. It's not certain that the candidates will wait the 2 weeks required by the code of conduct.

With the same goal of maintaining election transparency, the commission has made it mandatory for the candidates under the first-past-the-post system to submit their property details, expected expenditure, and sources, along with their application for candidacy. The candidates are mandated to provide the expenditure details of any mass meetings within seven days after the meetings, limit the people in door-to-door campaigns to 25 and carry out all the transactions through the banking system designating a specific person.

Read More: [Election Commission](#), [The Himalayan Times](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The concessional loan agreement worth NRs 12.7 billion signed between Nepal and World Bank (WB) for the Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development (GRID) Initiative has received widespread criticism from experts and activists. The critics argue that Nepal should receive grants instead of loans to cope with the impacts of climate change, considering its negligible contribution to the problem.
Read more: [Republica](#)
2. The impeachment recommendation committee of the House of Representatives has begun to take the statement of suspended Chief Justice, Cholendera Shumsher JB Rana. The committee, which was supposed to prepare the report by 3 September, has decided to continue the question-and-answer with Rana on 4 September, as enough information couldn't be gathered from the two days of discussion.
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
3. Kathmandu Metropolitan City has started to remove hoarding boards placed illegally within Kathmandu, continuing its effort to demolish the illegal structures. The traffic police had been showing concerns over the digital hoarding boards for a long time as it increases the chances of accidents.
Read more: [NagarikNews](#)
4. A recent report tracking the progress on Sustainable Development Goals suggests that only 17 percent of the Nepali population is covered by at least one social protection benefit. The high percentage of people employed in informal sectors, (25.8 percent approx) which is unmonitored and untaxed could be a contributing factor.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
5. According to the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division, Dengue, which was observed in Kathmandu Valley from the second week of June, has spread across 72 districts. So far, 3,300 cases of the dengue infection have been confirmed across the country.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
6. Nepal is being evaluated in the matter of money laundering by The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and its regional organization Asia Pacific Group (APG). The evaluation began in June 2022 and is likely to take 18 months. The failure of Nepal to bring undisclosed assets into the legal system and monitor such events could result in Nepal being blacklisted for money laundering.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)

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