Election Commission puts Special Focus on Brining Down Election Expenditure

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

Goverance 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. Kathmandu Metropolitan City has started to remove hoarding boards placed illegally within the city, 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: Nagarik News

3. 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.

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