

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

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Urban Poors - The Victims of New Policies

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Photo from Nabin Babu Gurung / Setopati

The Kathmandu Metropolitan City issued a strict notice announcing a complete ban on street vendors on 10 January 2023. The metropolis has stated that anyone operating a street business will receive severe punishment, and the goods will be confiscated. Although the government's intention to ban street vendors is to open up the streets for pedestrians and vehicles, the decision has received immense backlash for not finding proper alternatives that don't completely deprive the poor of earning their livings.

According to the Street Vendors Trade Union, there are more than 15,000 street vendors in Kathmandu affiliated with them. Besides, there are an estimated 30,000 vendors, including those who aren't affiliated with the union. This shows that a huge number of people, considering the vendors' families, rely on income from street vendors. Similarly, as per the rough data, more than 55 percent of the street vendors are women who are single, victims of conflict, and affected by the pandemic. These women may lack the skill sets to relocate to other professions immediately.

The metropolis earned NRs. 3.6 million in the last year auctioning the confiscated goods from street vendors. Yet, they seem to have made no effort to support these poor people who do not have alternative means of earning. There are rising voices from civil societies and the public that the metropolis can allocate specified places and time for such businesses or come up with other plans for their income.

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

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Chief Ministers have been appointed in all 7 provinces of Nepal. The CPN UML is leading the government in Province 1, Gandaki Province, Lumbini Province, and Sudurpaschim Province, CPN(Maoist Center) is leading in Bagmati Province and Karnali Province, and Janata Samajwadi Party is leading in Madhesh Province. 6 of the ministers are Khas Arya male while 1 is Madhesi male, exposing the challenges to inclusive participation.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

2. A group with a majority of women from Nepalgunj has been protesting since December 29 at Maitighar Kathmandu to find the truth behind the disappearance of Nirmala Kurmi for 12 years. Kurmi was a widow with a property currently worth Rs.40 million whose two sons also died a suspicious death in 2009. The earlier investigation had shown very convenient results of her re-marriage and death.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

3. The Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) has stated that three Nepali and four foreign players could be involved in the spot-fixing in the Nepal T20 League organized by the Cricket Association of Nepal. The organization's preliminary investigation also hints at the involvement of Seven3Sports in the spot-fixing.

Read more: [Online Khabar](#)

4. The government has incorporated peace process and transitional justice as one among the 21 focus areas in the government's policy priorities and minimum programs for the upcoming fiscal year 2022-23. The government has promised to expedite the remaining tasks of the peace process as per the national and international guidelines. However, the tenure of the two commissions created in 2015 to ensure justice for the victims expired in 2022.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

5. The convenient on-arrival visa and lack of monitoring otherwise have increased the criminal activities associated with tourists in Nepal. As per the data of the last 6 years, 3028 foreigners involved in criminal activities have been expelled from Nepal, while 558 have been deported in 2022 alone. The government issued a "Foreign Citizens Monitoring Guideline" in 2018 to monitor such cases, but it hasn't been properly implemented.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

6. The World Bank has projected Nepal's economy to grow at 5.1 percent in the next fiscal year. Meanwhile, the global report estimates the world economic growth to be 1.7 percent, which dropped down from the estimated 3 percent 6 months earlier. This hints towards a prolonged economic recession worldwide in 2023.

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

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